

The Holliday Family Tree Newsletter

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It's nearly time for me to return to work and the girls back to school—why do the summer holidays have to fly by so quickly...!!!! Although we didn't go away on holiday during August in the end, we seem to have packed quite a bit into the last few weeks —days out shopping, ice-skating, catching up with family and friends and we have lost count of the number of sleepovers our daughters have had between them.

The newsletter this time is mainly about the descendants of the relationship between Joseph Lousley and Sarah Grimshaw after Joseph's wife Mary Bosley died. Joseph and Sarah only had one son, but it was this one son Joseph whose children emigrated far and wide. I have pulled on help from relations across the water—so a big thanks to all of them for helping me verify names and dates. I hope you like the photo on page 15—although it shows the family of Jane Gammon who married Henry Caudwell in 1858, I thought it was so unusual to have a photo of that age that was so informal and not taken in a photographic

studio, that I had to include it. On pages 13-14 you can read Jean Holliday's story about her father, Flying Officer Douglas Aubrey Hamilton and how sadly she never knew him as he died in 1938 when she was just a small baby. It's the kind of story I have heard and read about so many times whilst searching for information about my mum's biological father who she also never knew as she was adopted in 1941 when she was just a couple of weeks old. The Second World War was responsible in so many different ways for vast numbers of children being left fatherless and it was an incredible price for families to have to pay during and after the War. If, when you have read Jean's story, any of you would like me to help you in any way with tracing your family histories or giving you some tips on how to start, especially those of you who have married into the family and therefore have surnames that I may not necessarily be researching for the Holliday Family Tree Newsletter, then please let me know — I always love a new challenge.....!!!!

THE VILLAGE OF BLEWBURY

The village of Blewbury which is just a stone's throw away from Hagbourne has been mentioned several times in my newsletters. Blewbury has a number of beautiful thatched cottages and every year a number of houses open up their gardens to the public. Many writers have lived in Blewbury, including Kenneth Grahame, author of *'Wind in the Willows'* and the ex-jockey and thriller writer, Dick Francis.



VILLAGE OF BLEWBURY, OXFORDSHIRE

The pretty village of Blewbury in Oxfordshire features quite heavily in our family history and was also the home of the Rev. Morgan Jones I wrote about in an earlier newsletter—he was the '*Miser of Blewbury*'.

The village, at the very least, dates back to the Domesday Book when the population was about 400. The area around the village is all farm land, with a very prestigious racehorse stud farm now situated at the edge of the village.

A small lake, which is fed by a number of springs, is known as the Watercress Beds, for the not surprising reason that watercress used to be cultivated from here. My dad told me a funny story last year when we stopped at these Watercress Beds. Apparently, when he and his brother, my Uncle John used to attend Helmwick Infant School in Blewbury in the 1940s, and it was their turn to get rid of the slops left over from the school lunch, instead of travelling further down the road, like they were supposed to, they used to dispose of everything in these beds—perhaps that's why the watercress grew so well....!!

The Blueberry Inn, once the New Inn, the King William and then its current name, stands at the western end of the village. During coaching days, several guests mysteriously disappeared here after spending the night. Legend dictates that they were murdered and buried in the back garden and a fruit tree was placed on each independent grave. Nothing, however, was ever proven against the landlord of the Blueberry Inn and yet strangely it is neither he nor any of his unfortunate victims that supposedly haunt the premises. Instead it is a far more recent owner of the Inn who died in the 1950s.



Village of Blewbury

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BLEWBURY



The English poet John Betjeman described St Michael's as "*one of the most attractive medieval buildings in Oxfordshire, textured by time and easy for prayer, stately and friendly.*"

When Mick and I visited Blewbury last year with my mum and dad we found a number of Lousley and Caudwell gravestones in the churchyard.

St Michael's and All Angels Church is the parish church of the village of Blewbury and is the larger of the two medieval churches and is over 900 years old. It still has many of its original features, including Norman arch windows, flint-building work and a full ring of eight bells.



JOSEPH GRIMSHAW LOUSLEY (1812-1883)

Joseph Grimshaw Lousley was born on 1st January 1812 in the village of Hagbourne and was baptised on 22nd February in the parish of Blewbury. His parents were Joseph Lousley and Sarah Grimshaw and he was the only child born to this relationship. As explained in my last newsletter, Joseph's father also called Joseph had been married to Mary Bosley previously and it is from this marriage that the majority of us descend today. However, as I have made a number of contacts worldwide with descendants of Joseph and Sarah's son, I thought I would tell you about this side of the family as well.

Joseph married a local girl, Hannah Norris on 14th May 1833 at St Andrew's Church in East Hagbourne, the village in which they had both been born. In 1841 Joseph was living at West Hagbourne Farm with his wife Hannah. Between the years 1834 and 1848 Joseph and Hannah had 10 children and you will read about them throughout this newsletter.

It seemed to take me forever to find the family on the 1851 census as they had been mistakenly transcribed as the Lonsley family! The family were still living in West Hagbourne with Joseph listed as a farmer and sheep dealer and employing 12 labourers. In the 1861 census Joseph was farming 800 acres and employing 18 men and 14 boys. Joseph's status as a farmer was obviously increasing as by 1871 he was a landowner and sheep dealer, farming 890 acres, employing 14 men and 16 boys. In 1881, two years before his death, Joseph was owner of and living at Ivy Cottage in West Hagbourne where Sarah Grimshaw, his mother had lived before she died in 1848.

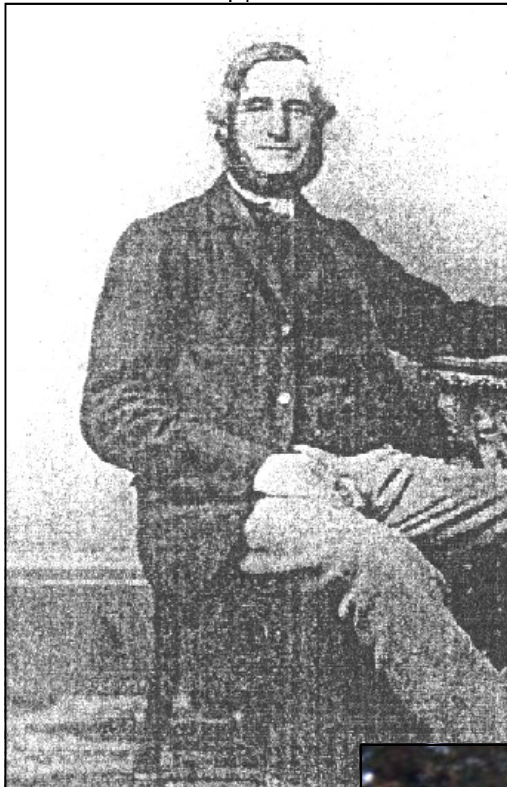
Ivy Farm was a small holding of two and a half acres with a farm house, in the heart of West Hagbourne and approximately 28 acres off the road which led to Chilton. Joseph and Hannah moved from Manor Farm to Ivy Farm about 1881. In 1895, after Hannah's death, the farm was bought by Thomas Keep.

Joseph died on 23rd January 1883 and was buried four days later in the churchyard at East Hagbourne. Joseph left a personal estate of £13,564.

Joseph's Will was underwritten by Messrs. Hedges, Son & Marshall of Wallingford and was dated 1875. According to his Will, Joseph left all his property and effects to his wife Hannah Lousley. He gave his youngest son Simeon Lousley £1,000 (although in fact Simeon had died a year after the Will had been written) and £500 was left to grandchildren George and Maria (children of his son Ezra). Joseph appointed his wife Hannah, and sons James and Josiah as Executors. However, a codicil attached to the Will later revoked the legacy

to his grandchildren and transferred it to Sarah Leach his daughter, and added her husband Benjamin Leach as an additional Executor.

Many of Joseph and Hannah's children emigrated to either USA, Canada or NZ. A family story according to Dorothy Wilson (wife of Ted Lousley - the banker and botanist) wrote "We were told by one of the descendants of Joseph, who was the son of Sarah Grimshaw, that Joseph and old Joseph became very narrow and over religious and strict in later life, which potentially could have caused many of the children to emigrate"



Gravestone of Joseph and Hannah Lousley

& HANNAH NORRIS (1807-1895)

Hannah Norris was born on 24th August 1807 in East Hagbourne and was baptised in the same village on 2nd September of the same year. Hannah's parents were Thomas and Ann Norris.

As indicated on page 3, Hannah married Joseph Grimshaw Lousley in 1833 and they had 10 children; Ezra, Silas, Ann, Josiah, Sarah, Caleb, James, Philip, Joseph and Simeon.

After Joseph's death, Hannah continued to live in West Hagbourne and on the 1891 census she is living 'on her own means' with her niece Elizabeth Norris and a Housekeeper called Jane Hobbs, also a widow.

Hannah died at West Hagbourne on 23rd January 1895 and was buried on 26th January in St Andrew's Churchyard at East Hagbourne.

Hannah's Last Will and Testament was drawn up on 17th January 1895 and proven on 26th June 1895.

The Executor to Hannah's Will was James Dunsdon of Drayton with power reserved for her son James Lousley of West Hagbourne and her daughter Sarah Leach (wife of Benjamin) of Streatley.



Hannah Norris (1807 — 1895)



West Hagbourne Farmhouse where the majority of Joseph and Hannah's children were born.

Hannah bequeathed all her wearing apparel, jewellery and watch to her daughter Sarah Leach. After payment of her funeral expenses the remainder of her personal estate was to be divided into eight equal parts; one part each for her children Silas, Sarah, Caleb, James, Philip and three remaining parts to be held in trust for the children of deceased sons Ezra, Josiah, and Joseph when their sons reached the age of 21 or their daughters the same or married.

The Will was signed by Hannah Lousley, with the witnesses being a W.A. Warner, farmer of West Hagbourne and Elizabeth Norris, spinster of West Hagbourne.

The sum total of Hannah's estate when she died was £842.10.9d.

DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH & HANNAH LOUSLEY

EZRA LOUSLEY (1834-1862)

Ezra was the first child born to Joseph and Hannah in 1834 in West Hagbourne. He was baptised on 6th April at St Andrew's church.

In 1841 Ezra was living at a residence in the High Street in Steventon, Berkshire with his younger brother Silas. It is unclear on the census what the establishment was, but I think it is likely to have been a boarding school. Ten years later in 1851 Ezra was living at home with his parents in West Hagbourne and he was listed as a farmer's son.

In September 1852, Ezra emigrated to Melbourne, Australia. He arrived in Australia on the British ship *'The Frances Henry'*.

On 18th July 1859 Ezra married an Irish girl called Maria Hannah Grogan in St Paul's Church, Geelong, Victoria, Australia. Shortly after this, Ezra moved to New Zealand, apparently as a result of his alcoholism. Ezra and Maria had three children, George Ezra (b 1860), Maria Sarah (b 1861) and Hannah (b 1861). In 1862 he was living in Dunedin and working as a carter (possibly later running one of the first buses in New Zealand). Ezra died on 13th August 1862 at Dunedin, New Zealand aged just 28 years.

SILAS LOUSLEY (1835-1904)

Silas was born in 1835 in West Hagbourne and was baptised on 6th September. Silas was only a year younger than his brother Ezra and I would imagine they would have been pretty close as they went to school together, farmed in West Hagbourne with their father in the late 1840s to early 1850s and then Silas followed Ezra by emigrating to Australia nearly two years after. Silas arrived in Melbourne, Australia in January 1854 on the British ship *'The Jeannette'*.

On 8th March 1859 Silas married Mary Annie Cook in Christ Church, Geelong, Victoria, Australia. Somewhere between 1860 and 1862 Silas and Mary moved to Oamaru in New Zealand, finally settling just a little way up the Waitaki Valley in a small place called Kurow.

From what I have been told by descendants of Silas and further research, it would appear that Silas had to deal with quite a few tragedies during his married life.

After their marriage Mary gave birth to 9 children between the years 1860 and 1877. When registering their births Mary was only able to sign her name by making a mark.

The first tragedy I discovered was that of Silas and Mary's eldest son Joseph Ezra who had been born in 1863. I came across a report in the North Otago Times, New Zealand dated 1874, of an inquest into the death of Joseph Ezra Lousley. Joseph aged just 10 years and 4 months had been killed whilst riding a horse at the local slaughter yard where he often used to visit. Joseph had apparently been unwell and had not been attending school for the last month. Evidence was taken by several members of the community, including Joseph's father Silas. It was clear that although Joseph was not encouraged to mount the horses, he was an experienced horse rider for his age.

The tragedy happened when Joseph's horse turned at the end of the yard and the witness said he saw Joseph fall on the near side of the horse who was cantering or galloping at the time. Joseph's foot got caught in the stirrup leather which had been too long for him. Unfortunately Joseph was dragged along about 120 yards with the horse going at full speed and plunging and kicking the whole time until Joseph's boot loosened and he fell to the ground—Joseph really didn't stand a chance and was dead by the time he fell. Once the jury of 12 had heard all the evidence and had a brief consultation, they returned a verdict of accidental death.

The second tragedy was surrounding the death of Silas's wife Mary. From a report in the Oamaru Mail dated 3rd September 1902 the harrowing story was unveiled. *"Mary Annie died in tragic circumstances in a cottage at the rear of a shop in Oamara and was found dead by a little girl who went to the house around 5.30 pm on Monday the 1st September 1902. Mary was last seen alive about 5 o'clock. The girl found her head in the fireplace terribly burned and disfigured. Her clothing was still alight. Silas, who was in Kurow at the time was telephoned by the police and came into town with two of his sons and two of his daughters the following morning"*.

At the inquest held on the Wednesday the coroner W Grummit and a jury of 6 inquired into the circumstances of the death. They heard from

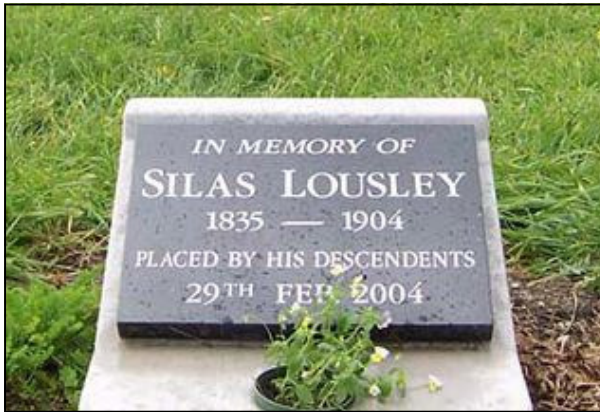
DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH & HANNAH LOUSLEY

Elizabeth McIndoe that she occupied part of the cottage with Mary and last saw her alive at 4.15 pm on the Monday. She noticed nothing unusual except Mary was complaining about a pain in her leg. There were no signs that she had consumed any alcohol. The witness said the next time she saw Mary was when she was being carried out of the house with her clothes on fire. A doctor diagnosed that the burns were the cause of her death. Silas also gave evidence. The verdict was that Annie met her death accidentally by falling into the fire.

Silas died in Kurow on 29th February 1904 just a couple of years after his wife's tragic death.

I first made contact with Deirdre Sisson a couple of years ago.

Deirdre is a direct descendant of Silas Lousley and he was her great, grand-father. She emailed me this photo after a number of descendants had arranged for this memorial stone to be placed 100 years after his death.



ANN LOUSLEY (1836-1845)

Ann was the eldest daughter of Joseph and Hannah and was born in 1836 in West Hagbourne. She was baptised at St Andrew's on 6th November 1836. On the 1841 census Ann was staying with her grandmother Sarah Grimshaw. Ann died on 23rd April 1845 at the age of 8 years and 6 months. She is buried in St Andrew's churchyard in East Hagbourne close to her parents' resting place.



Her gravestone reads: *"Jesus said suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven"*.

JOSIAH LOUSLEY (1838–1884)

Josiah was born in 1838 in West Hagbourne and baptised on 4th February. In 1841 Josiah was living at home with his parents Joseph and Hannah in West Hagbourne. By 1851 Josiah was 13 years old and attending school.

Josiah married Jane Bullock in 1858 in Wantage and by 1861 they were living in the parish of Rotherfield Peppard in Oxfordshire. Josiah was a farmer of 80 acres,

employing 3 men and 1 boy.

As well as their first two children in the house, Josiah and Jane employed 4 servants — a female house servant, farm carter, plough boy and a shepherd.

Also residing with them was Jane's unmarried sister Ann Bullock.



Josiah Lousley and Jane Bullock (inset)



By 1871 the family were living in Grove Street, Wantage and Josiah's occupation was a Fruiterer. Living with Josiah and Jane were four of their children; Oded, Lucy, Mercy and Arthur. Josiah and Jane had 8 children altogether. By 1875 Jane was dead and on 1st January 1880 Josiah married Emily Humfrey from Blewbury. In 1881 Josiah was listed as a Brick Manufacturer and was employing 7 men, still living at Grove Street. In the household were his new wife Emily with 3 children from his marriage to Jane. Later in 1881 Emily gave birth to a daughter Emily. On 20th April 1884 Josiah died and three years later on 25th October 1887 Emily had also died, leaving the youngest daughter Emily an orphan at 6 years old.

Josiah left a personal estate worth £303.16.4d.

DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH & HANNAH LOUSLEY

After Emily's parents died, six year old Emily went to live with her Uncle Byron Humfrey at Great Tree Farm in Blewbury. Also living with them were her Aunt Annie Lousley and her husband Dennis Lousley. Dennis was Emily's uncle by marriage and she later became his Ward and was present at his death in 1908.

The photo below was taken in the gardens of Great Tree Farm approximately 1885 and shows (from left to right) Emily (born 1839) with her 4 year old daughter Emily, Annie Lousley and her husband



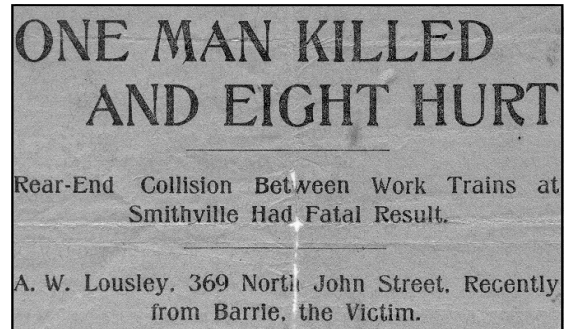
Dennis, Byron Humfrey holding his dog Bingo and a family friend at the back, Willie Kirk.

Emily looks quite stooped over in this photo as apparently she was born with a spinal deformity.

Josiah's immediate family like that of his brother Silas, also experienced a tragic death. Josiah and Jane's son Arthur William Lousley was born in 1868 in Wantage but emigrated at some stage to Canada. He married Emily Donaldson in September 1903 and in July 1904 their daughter Janet Grace was born in Barrie, Ontario.

Arthur William Lousley was a labourer who worked on the railways repairing and maintaining railway lines but he died tragically on 17th February 1905 in Smithville, Ontario when his little girl was only 7 months old.

Extract taken from The Hamilton Spectator

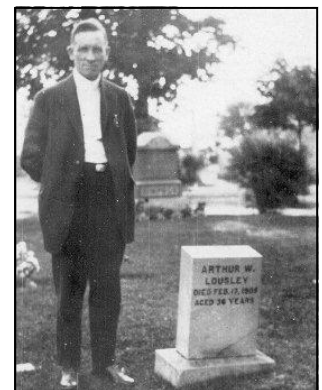


"A gang of labourers was engaged in clearing the track, and the way cars were standing near. The engineer of the approaching train saw the danger too late, and although he hurriedly applied the brakes, the crash came. With a splintering of wood and the hurling in all directions of debris, the engine struck the standing cars. Lousley, who was shovelling snow near the point of the collision, and he was struck, it is supposed, by a piece of debris and killed. The other men were working near by and were injured. Just how they were injured is not accurately known, but it is supposed that they were struck by pieces of the wreck. The standing cars were considerably wrecked, but the engine of the train from Hamilton was not damaged to any appreciable extent"

Emily was now a widow and she remarried but died later in childbirth, leaving her daughter Janet Grace an orphan. Janet was passed from one to the other but was eventually raised by Arthur's brother Ezra Grimshaw Lousley and his wife Mary. I have made contact with a descendant of Janet Grace called Donna Dolbear who lives in Canada and she kindly supplied me with this information and photos below.



Janet Grace Lousley & her husband Alex Petrie



Ezra Grimshaw Lousley—the man who raised Janet Grace when she was orphaned

DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH & HANNAH LOUSLEY

SARAH LOUSLEY (1840–1922)

Sarah was the last and sole surviving daughter born to Joseph and Hannah. She was born in West Hagbourne in 1840 and baptised on 7th June. Sarah remained at home with her parents in West Hagbourne until she started attending St Peter's

Boarding School in Wallingford. Sarah then married Benjamin Leach from Blewbury in Wantage in 1866.

On the 1871 census I found Sarah and Benjamin living at Seven Barrows Farm in Lambourne, Oxfordshire.

Benjamin was a Farm Bailiff and they had two children, Mary Hannah (born 1868) and Joseph (born 1870).

In 1881 the family had moved to Didcot, Wallingford and Benjamin was farming 180 acres and employing 4 men and 2 boys. Four more children had appeared and they were Simeon (born 1872), Lydia Ann (born 1874), Francis James (born 1877) and Martha Grimshaw (born 1880).

By 1891 the family had moved yet again, this time to Park Farm House in Upper Lambourne in Berkshire. Benjamin was once again a Farm Bailiff. Only 5 of the 6 children were living with them—Francis James had disappeared.

By 1901 Benjamin had died and left Sarah living on her own means with daughters Martha and Lydia at Bridge Farm in West Challow, Berkshire.

On the 1911 census (this census was released quite recently to the public) Sarah was living in Wantage, Oxfordshire aged 71. Her death was recorded in Wantage in 1922 aged 82.



CALEB LOUSLEY (1841–1922)

Caleb was born on 21st November 1841 in West Hagbourne and was baptised on 9th February 1842 at St Andrew's in East Hagbourne.

Caleb was raised in West Hagbourne alongside his siblings, but by the age of 22 he had sailed to Canada.

Caleb married Mary Ann Kemp, an Irish girl born in 1846. Caleb and Mary were married in Ontario, Canada in 1862.

Caleb ran a farm near Trafalgar in Ontario. He and Mary Ann had nine daughters and one son, Joseph. Three of his daughters lived to be over 100 years old.

Both Caleb and Mary were Methodists.

Caleb died on 28th December 1922, Canal St. Merriton, Ontario, Canada.

I have made contact with Jean Landon Wallace who was born in Illinois in the United States and is a descendant of Caleb. Jean grew up on the Landon family farm in Jersey County, Illinois, where her father raised prize Jersey cattle. She recalls her father's and brothers' summers were spent showing the cattle at various country and state fairs.

Jean now lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH & HANNAH LOUSLEY

JAMES LOUSLEY (1843-1927)

James was born in May 1843 in West Hagbourne.

James lived in West Hagbourne during his childhood and young adulthood, but by 1871 he was living in Ealing, London. He had married Mary Prior from Southall, London in 1866 and by 1871 they had three children, William, Annie and Ada. James' occupation given on the 1871 census was a Cattle Dealer.

Ten years later in 1881 the family had moved to 1 Kirchen Road, Ealing and James was listed as a Contractor. He was still married to Mary and living with them were their first three children and in addition there was Albert, Ernest and Sidney.

In 1891 James and Mary were living in Fulham, London and James was 'living on his own means', with no occupation listed. Five children were still living at home, William and Annie, both shop assistants, Ada who was a Milliner, Ernest who was an errand boy and 9 year old Simeon Fred who had been born since the last census was taken in 1881. James appeared to be living quite comfortably and it would appear as if it were just the children who were working, which is possibly backed-up by what I was told by a descendant of the family:

"James was known as 'Gee-up Lousley' because of his practice of entering a pub, slapping silver on the bar counter to buy drinks for all and sundry and shouting "Gee-Up". He once owned a prosperous grocery business in West Ealing, but spent most of the profits over the bar whilst the children were working all hours to make a go of the shop. If he was short of cash he would take anything he could lay his hands on even sides of bacon to sell so that he could buy drinks at the local. Things came to such a state that his children took away his trousers and locked him up in his bedroom to stop his drinking"

By 1901 James had returned to West Hagbourne on his own and was living in Scotland Lane next to the Manor House, and although it indicates that he was a married man, his wife Mary does not appear to be in the house on the night the census was taken.

James was an 'annuitant', living on the equivalent of a pension. Living with him were two lodgers, a Mr and Mrs Heley.

In fact, I found Mary, James' wife living at 34 Gowan Avenue, Fulham, London with her eldest son William and also Annie, Ada and youngest son Simeon Fred, all children still unmarried. It is possible that Mary was just staying over for a few days, but again ten years later on the 1911 census, I found James living on his own in Hagbourne aged 67 and Mary was still living with her eldest son William in Brentford, Middlesex.

Of the surviving sons of Joseph and Hannah, James was only the second son to remain in the UK and not emigrate as the others had done and he died in the Wallingford registration district in 1927 aged 83. His wife Mary died aged 74 in 1921 in Paddington, London.

Whether James and his wife and family were reunited at some stage, I don't know.



This is Ivy Farmhouse cottage in West Hagbourne where James' father Joseph was living prior to his death in 1883. Ownership of the cottage remained with the Lousley family until 1915 when the Napper family purchased it.

I inserted a photo of this house in the last newsletter, but this is a much more recent and clearer picture of the cottage that I have just found on the West Hagbourne Village Website.

DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH AND HANNAH LOUSLEY

PHILIP LOUSLEY (1844–1910)

Philip was born in West Hagbourne in 1844. Philip was 7 years old when the census of 1851 was taken and he was living at home with his parents and siblings in West Hagbourne.

On the 1861 census, Philip had already left home and was living with the King family in High Wycombe at 3 Oxford Road. The head of household a Joseph King was a grocer and tea dealer and Philip was his young grocer apprentice.

According to the book *"A Sketch of the Early Settlement and Subsequent Progress of the Town of Peterborough"* printed in 1867 we learn that *"Among the earliest settlers of this township were Caleb Lousley and Philip Lousley who found their way there in 1862. Mr D R Castidy and Mr Philip Lousley now keep store in Anstruther"*.

It would appear that Philip Lousley followed his brother out to Ontario, Canada or maybe they travelled together in 1862. Whilst Caleb settled in Trafalgar, Ontario, Philip settled in Anstruther, Peterborough, Ontario.

On 15th December 1868 Philip married Alexandria Sophia Ridley in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

Unfortunately, I can find no further records of Philip and Alexandria or children they may have had and I have certainly not managed to make contact with any living descendants as yet.

I only know that Alexandria died on 1st July 1909 and was buried the next day and Philip died the following year on 13th December 1910 and he too was buried the day after he died.

JOSEPH LOUSLEY (1846–1886)

Joseph was born in West Hagbourne in 1846. In 1861, like his brother Philip, Joseph had also moved away from home and was living with the Morrant family in Ryde, in the county of Hampshire at 53 Union Street. Joseph was also an apprentice to the head of household who was listed as a Grocer and Provision merchant.

Joseph emigrated to Canada around the same time as Philip and Caleb and on 1st July 1868 he married Lucinda McGowan at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Peterborough. Lucinda was born in Montreal.

I have no other knowledge of Joseph's life with Lucinda, but hopefully someone reading this newsletter may be able to enlighten me.

SIMEON LOUSLEY (1848-1876)

Simeon was the last child born to Joseph and Hannah in 1848. He was baptised on 27th July 1848.

In 1851 Simeon was living at home with his family in West Hagbourne aged 2 years. I finally found Simeon in 1861 living in at a boarding school in Speen, Berkshire (as is common, his name had been mis-transcribed as Simion Sousley).

By 1871 Simeon had returned home to West Hagbourne and was living with his parents. He was listed as an unmarried farmer's son.

Simon did not reach a great age, however and he died aged only 28 years on 6th October 1876 and is buried in St Andrew's churchyard alongside his parents and sister Ann.

His headstone reads:

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" Proverbs chap 27 v.1

FAMILY ARTICLE BY JEAN HAMILTON ON HER FATHER, FLYING OFFICER DOUGLAS AUBREY HAMILTON

Jean, wife of David Holliday (son of John Warner Holliday) kindly wrote to me back in March of this year to thank me for all the work I was doing on the Holliday family tree newsletter and at the same time she told me a bit about the Hamilton side of her family.

Jean told me that she was only a few weeks old when her father was tragically killed in 1938 when his plane was struck down over the English Channel during a thunder storm. She explained that he had been buried in Holland but that his grave had been bombed during the War and there was nothing left of it.

I wanted to try and find out more for Jean as I felt that she had a number of unanswered questions, so I used a very simple, but successful trick in family history research which is to 'google' the name you are looking for. I had two 'hits', both prompting me to take the link to an RAF Commands Website where a gentleman called Hans Nauta had posted a message in July 2008. Hans lives in North Holland and was trying to trace any living descendants of the crew on board the Harrow K6971 on the night of 5th/6th October 1938. Hans has a keen interest in air war events which had occurred in the province in which he lives and wanted to make the grave in the cemetery at Egmond-Binnen less 'anonymous'. Hans lives only 200 yards away from the cemetery and was able to confirm that although Douglas's grave stood on its own, it was very much still there.

I emailed Hans and explained why I was responding to his enquiry from 18 months earlier. I could only tell him so much at this stage, as I had not asked for Jean's permission. I wrote to Jean in New Zealand to ask if she wanted me to pursue this for her and I was delighted to receive a telephone call from her a short while after. Jean asked me to go ahead



Above—Douglas Aubrey Hamilton (Jean's father), 1938



Patricia Jean Holliday (nee Hamilton), 1939



Right—Elizabeth Helen Bates (Jean's mother), 1939

and make contact with Hans on her behalf, as she would appreciate knowing any further information he had about her father and what had happened on that night. Hans and the local historical society had wanted to pay their respects to the lone grave that sat in the graveyard and hoped that by tracing living descendants of Douglas Aubrey Hamilton they would be able to do this. Over the years, because of Hans' interest, he has carried out a vast amount of research and collected a number of primary documents, including newspaper articles, police reports, photos which he has now been able to pass on to Jean.

FLYING OFFICER DOUGLAS AUBREY HAMILTON

Jean had known that her father's body had been washed ashore at Egmond and that he had been discovered by two children walking along the beach. They had alerted the authorities and when the police realised that this was a man who had been a pilot with the Air Force they contacted the British Consulate to inform the family and to help arrange for a burial. The burial took place the following day on 4th November, and on 22nd December the laying of a wreath on the grave was carried out.

I have now put Hans and Jean directly in touch with each other and Hans is at present trying to identify from records who these children were and to trace them or their families. Jean also tells me that she hopes one day to visit her father's grave in Holland.

I would just like to say a big thank you to Hans and all the people past and present in Egmond, for all their help and for showing such great respect for other people's loved ones.

In her own words, Jean told me the following:

After graduating at Cambridge University, my father Douglas Aubrey Hamilton joined the RAF and it was while he was stationed at Driffild that he met my mother. Douglas was granted a short service commission as acting pilot officer on probation with effect from 30th April 1935 and confirmed in rank and graded as a pilot officer on 16th April 1936. During August 1938 my father was away for a briefing and on his return was posted to Honnington. Me, then being just a few weeks old went with my mother and father to Bury-St-Edmunds. From 27th September to 8th October 1938 a state of National Emergency was proclaimed in England as a result of the German occupation of parts of Czeck Slovakia. I was told that on the evening of 5th October 1938 I had not gone to sleep and so my father took me for a drive in his car to settle me down before leaving for a tactical exercise involving some Hagley Page Harrow aircraft. The crew ran into a thunder storm and the aircraft in which my father was an observer pilot lost radio contact off Dungeness at 01.32 hours. It was announced by the Air Ministry, that as investigations had failed to find the aircraft or occupants, that it was accepted with regret that all the crew, including my father must have lost their lives. My mother had a visit from the air base informing her of the news, but it was another month before anything more was heard.

On 3rd November 1938 my father's body was found on a beach in Holland by the receiver of wrecks and he was buried the next

day in Egmond-Binnen. Life had to go on..... My grandfather, Douglas's father Claude Hamilton, served as an air raid warden in London. My maternal grandfather was evacuated but returned at the request of the Dental Association to serve as a dentist until the end of the War, retiring at the age of 77. My mother nursed the troops in Surrey and later cooked for the Land Army Girls. I

remember attending nursery school and then primary school, complete with gas mask and brown baggage label. In numerous different ways, the War took its toll on thousands of families.



Laying of a wreath on 22nd December 1938 by various members of the local community in Egmond.



Douglas Hamilton's grave in the foreground

CAUDWELL/GAMMON ANCESTORS

Percy Gammon born 1880

William Gammon born 1873

Daniel Gammon born 1840

Harriet Diprose (nee Gammon)
born 1833 m George DiproseDaniel Gammon's wife, Harriet
born 1849Clara Diprose born 1866
(School Teacher)

A few months ago Mark Caudwell telephoned me to say that he had discovered the above photo in an old drawer and wondered what the connection could be with the Caudwell family as the surnames written on the photograph were Gammon and Diprose. The photograph had been taken in August 1893 in the Landslip, Shanklin, Isle of Wight by A H Gammon. The only connection I could think of was that Henry Caudwell, eldest son of William Caudwell and Hannah Lousley had married a Jane Gammon in 1858 and therefore the connection must be through Jane.

When the photo arrived, with the names on it, this was just enough for me to work on to build up a skeleton tree using the census and registration of births, deaths and marriages to work out how the people were related to each other in the photo. The man with the beard was Daniel, with his wife Harriet sitting in the middle. Percy and William were their two sons and A H Gammon who took the photograph was their other son, Arthur. The lady dressed in black was Harriet Gammon (Daniel's sister) and she had married a George Diprose and the lady sitting to the right of the photo was her daughter Clara. Percy, William, A H Gammon and Clara were therefore first cousins. The connection to Jane Gammon is that Daniel Gammon and Harriet Diprose in the photo were her second cousins, as both their fathers Daniel and William had been first cousins and had shared the same grandparents.

Daniel in 1871 had been a coffee house keeper and when I ordered Jane and Henry Caudwell's marriage certificate, Jane's father William Gammon gave his occupation as a coffee house keeper—just another little piece of information to confirm I had the correct family.

If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter about the Holliday family and their ancestors, and would like to know more about any of those mentioned, please contact me and I can send you further information about them.

If there is anyone else in the family you think would like a copy, please let me know—you can either drop me a line or send me an email and I can post one to them. Also, I would welcome any suggestions of items you might like included in future issues.

I am continually adding to the family tree, so if you have any photographs or information that you would like included I would love to hear from you. You can either post or email them to me. Many thanks.

The next newsletter will be published in December 2009. If you would like me to include something you have written can I please have it by mid November. Thank you.

Acknowledgements and Sources:

Website of the National Garden Scheme
Blewbury Village Website
Royal Berkshire History Website
East Hagbourne & Blewbury Parish Records
Ron Lousley for his notes on the Lousley family
UK Census
Ancestry.co.uk
West Hagbourne Village Website
North Otago Times Newspaper Report, 1874—NZ
Oamaru Mail Newspaper Report, 1902—NZ
Jean Landon Wallace—Nashville, Tennessee—US
Deirdre Sisson—New Zealand
Donna Dolbear— Canada
“A Sketch of the Early Settlement and Subsequent Progress of the Town of Peterborough” printed in 1867
Hans Nauta in North Holland
Jean Hamilton for her article and photos
Mark Caudwell for photo of the Gammon Family
John Holliday for the photo of Leslie Holliday

More Photos from the Holliday Album



My Uncle John Holliday found this photo recently. It is of Leslie Holliday, his father and my grandfather. Leslie was brother to John Warner, Florence, Bertram and Constance. The photo was taken in the orchard behind Leslie's bungalow 'Hedgecroft' in East Hagbourne in the late 1920s-1930s when he was married to his first wife Laura Ash.

Coming in the Next Issue:

- ◆ The Village of Long Wittenham
- ◆ James Holliday's siblings, George, Ann, Edward and Sophia & their descendants
- ◆ Family Article
- ◆ Further Caudwell Family Research plus lots more.....