

The Holliday Family Tree Newsletter

N I C K Y S T E P N E Y

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- This first issue will illustrate how we all fit into the Holliday family tree.
- The Holliday family are directly related to the Lousley, Loder and Caudwell surnames. However, these are just a few names and these and many more will be covered in detail in future newsletters.

As many of you know, I have been interested in the Holliday family ancestry for many years now.

I remember the very first time I discovered what a family tree was. It was the summer of 1976, when I was 11 years old and John and Vera Holliday had invited the family to their house in Derby for a Holliday family reunion. I recall crowding around a bound book that John had opened out on the dining room table, whilst everyone updated it with names and dates of new family members. I wrote to John a few days later asking if I could have photo-copies of the family trees, which he sent me and I have been hooked on this hobby ever since!

It has taken me 30 years, in between having our children, to gather together all the information, documents, letters, and photos that I have acquired and I thought it was time that I shared it with the descendants of the family that I have been researching.



Rachel and Megan Stepney, our two daughters

There is so much to cover, that I decided some time ago to produce this newsletter, which will include family trees, biographical notes on family members and information

about their lives and the villages they grew up in, along with numerous photos.

I have used many sources to obtain this data, searching at the Berkshire Record Office, visiting villages and churches that were prominent in our ancestors' lives, visiting libraries and trawling through websites, and through this latter resource, I am now in contact with people who we all share common ancestors with; these people live as near as Berkshire and London, but also from Canada, United States and New Zealand. By Nicky Stepney (nee Holliday)

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THE VILLAGE OF EAST HAGBOURNE



These are the words of a traveller visiting East Hagbourne in the early part of the last century:

"The beauty of this sequestered village as you come down into it is almost bewildering... Out of the houses clustering round you might almost expect to see folk in ancient costume issue forth, move up and down the little street, and form themselves into picturesque groups, because it is more like a village on the stage than anything else..."

EAST HAGBOURNE VILLAGE

The village of East Hagbourne, now in the County of Oxfordshire, but prior to local government reorganisation in 1974 fell within Berkshire, is really where it all began for the Holliday family. The earliest Holliday, as yet, that I can record as being born in the village was a Richard Holliday, born about 1720. According to an old family document, his grandson Thomas, when sitting in the chair one night, remarked that his

grandfather's nose was "all on one side", to which Richard replied "Go to bed boy, that will be alright in the morning". The next morning, he was found dead in his chair. Richard Holliday died in about 1770. The Holliday family remained in the village for nearly 200 years continuing to farm and to be very well respected members of the community. The name of the village derives from Hacca, a chief of one of the West Saxon

tribes who settled in Britain following the departure of the Romans. He settled in this area beside a stream that still bears his name Hacca's Brook or Hacca's Burn. The stream is mentioned in a 9th Century charter as Hacceburna, which later became Hagburne/Hagbourne. The stream still flows in a moat around the Manor House, through several domestic gardens before disappearing underground.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



St Andrew's is a church with a fascinating history. There is a large perpendicular window, which fills the entire east wall of the chancel.

There are also perpendicular roofs to the chancel, carved with shields and devices believed to represent the various degrees of men: a double eagle for an emperor, mitre and crozier for a bishop and abbot,

callipers for a mason, square for a carpenter, a pruned tree for a gardener etc.

The medieval pulpit is regarded as one of the finest in the area. The medieval font features beautiful carvings of donors' coats of arms, some of whose brasses can also be seen in the church.

UPPER AND LOWER CROSSES

It is thought that there were three crosses marking an area of refuge within the village.

The Upper Cross stands at one end of the village close to St Andrew's church. The original cross was probably destroyed in the time of Cromwell's rule of England as Lord Protector.

The replacement square capital has three sundials

(the fourth side has an inscription, now much faded) and was used as a meeting place and for worship. There is a slot on the side facing the church, which may have held the Communion Host on Palm Sunday services.

There is another alcove on the ten foot shaft of the Cross, which is reputed to have contained vinegar to disinfect coins during times of plague.

At the other end of the

village, at the start of the Blewbury Road is the Lower Cross (now a stump) and now a War Memorial. There is also another stump of a cross at Coscote on the road to West Hagbourne. (photo on back page)

Both crosses were damaged during the Civil War. The door knocker on the north door of St Andrew's is the final sanctuary marker in the triangle.



Upper Cross

FRANCIS HOLLIDAY (1862-1937) AND MARY LOUSLEY (1859-1929)

Francis Holliday and Mary Lousley were our common ancestors, in other words, we all directly descend from this couple (see family tree on pages 4-5)

Francis Holliday was born in 1862 in East Hagbourne, to parents John Holliday and Elizabeth Caudwell. In 1871 Francis was living at home at the age of 8 with his parents in Main Street, East Hagbourne and he was attending school. In 1881 the family

were still living on The Street and Francis was now 19 and helping his father with the farm. His father John was farming 580 acres, employing 16 men, 6 boys and 4 women. On 6 February 1883, Francis married Mary Lousley at Hampstead Norreys and by the 1891 census they were living in Didcot with their children John Warner, Florence, Leslie, Bertram and Constance Vera. Francis's occupation was given as a farmer and implement agent, so he would have been running a farm and

buying and selling agricultural equipment. By the 1901 census, Francis and Mary were living with their family at New Farm in Arborfield. Francis died in Southampton in 1937 at the age of 77.

“Francis and Mary married in 1883 and had five children, John Warner, Florence, Leslie, Bertram and Constance Vera”



Francis as a boy of 8 years



Francis as a young man



New Farm, Arborfield

Mary Lousley was born on 9 December 1859 in the village of Hampstead Norreys, to parents Jethro Lousley and Mary Mathews.

On the 1861 census, Mary was 2 years old and living with her parents and siblings at Townsend Farm in Hampstead Norreys. Jethro her father was farming 512 acres of land and employed 19 men and 6 boys. As a young girl Mary was educated at Downshire House

in St Mary's parish, Reading and was a boarder there, along with her elder sister Margaret.

In 1881, Mary was back home with her parents now living at 'West End' in Hampstead Norreys.

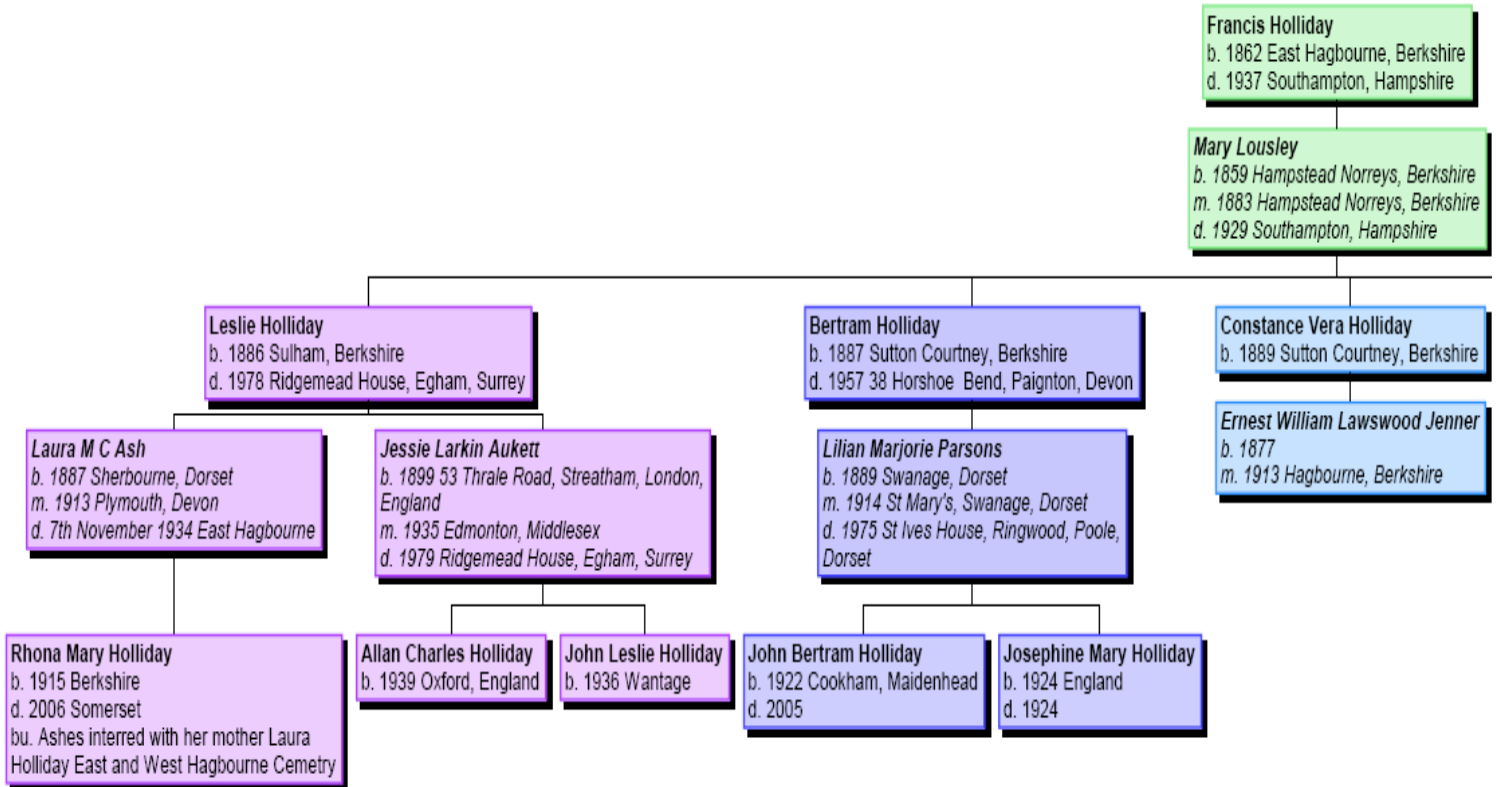
As we know above, Mary married Francis a couple of years later in 1883.

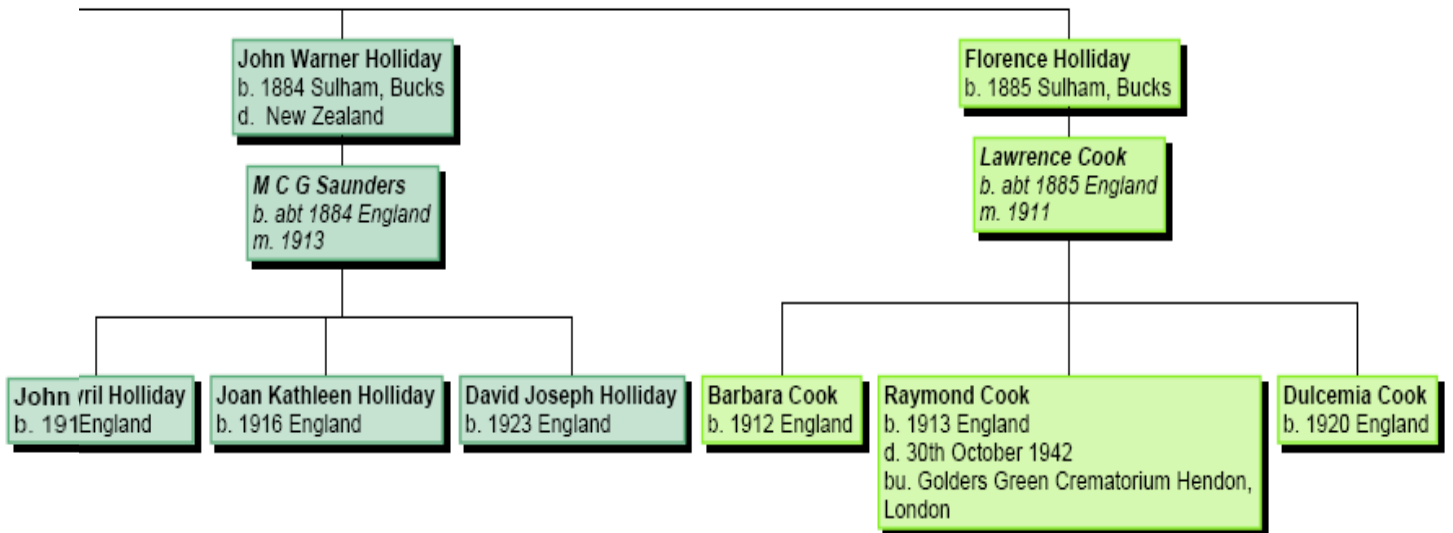
Mary died of pneumonia in Southampton on 27 June 1929.



Mary Lousley and inset as a young girl

DESCENDANTS OF FRANCIS HOLLIDAY AND MARY LOUSLEY





LESLIE HOLLIDAY (1886-1978)

Leslie Holliday was born on 8 May 1886 in Sulham, Berkshire. When he was 5, Leslie was living in Didcot with his parents and by the time he was 14 he was living in Arborfield at New Farm. By the time Leslie was a young man he was living in East Hagbourne, where he met Laura Ash. Laura had boarded as a pupil at St Michael's School in Wantage and was trained to be a teacher by the Wantage sisters. From the "Diary of a Village School 1873-2000", by Monica Lawson, it is apparent that on 17 September 1906, Laura was appointed as an assistant teacher at the school in East Hagbourne. Leslie and Laura married in 1913 in Plymouth Devon, where her family were living. Their daughter Rhona Mary was born on 9 May 1915 at East Hagbourne and married John Cockburn in 1948. By 1916 Leslie's two brothers, John Warner and Bertram had both gone to fight in the Great War.



From top left, Leslie and Laura, Rhona, 'Hedgecrofts' and Leslie, Jessie with sons John and Allan

This must have been a difficult time as there was usually bad feeling towards those men who did not 'follow the colours'. Leslie could possibly, at times, have felt slighted because of this. In November 1934 Laura died and Leslie re-married on 31 August 1935 to Jessie Larkin Aukett. After living for a short time in Didcot with their two sons, John Leslie and Allan Charles, Leslie and Jessie returned to East Hagbourne and lived at the bungalow, 'Hedgecroft'. After their sons had moved away from home, Leslie and Jessie lived in various places, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth included, but they came back to live in Reading at Harvey's Nurseries in Emmer Green. When they were unable to manage on their own, they moved to Ridgemean House, a nursing home in Egham, Surrey. Leslie died on 18 November 1978 and Jessie died on 23 April 1979. Both died of conditions related to old age.

BERTRAM HOLLIDAY (1887-1957)

Bertram was born on 17 November 1887 at Sutton Courtney, Berkshire. He married Lilian Marjorie Parsons on 14 February 1914 at St Mary's Church, Swanage, Dorset. They had two children, John Bertram born 1922 and Josephine Mary born 1924. Unfortunately, Josephine died when she was only a baby. Bertram worked as an engineering manager at Bell's Asbestos and Engineering Ltd from which he retired on 31 December 1952. Bertram died on 9 September 1957 in Paignton, Devon. His wife Lilian died in 1975.

"The bride, who was given away by her father, was charmingly attired in a white cloth costume, with velvet hat and white plumes, and carried a lovely bouquet composed of lilies of the valley"

Of the wedding in 1914



Bertram and Lilian with son John Bertram



Parkside Avenue, Ipswich. Bertram and Lilian were living here in 1928

CONSTANCE VERA HOLLIDAY (1889-1987)



Portswood Mansions, Southampton. Constance lived in a flat here in 1929 when she took one up of her first headship posts



Constance Vera at Reading College

Constance Vera Holliday was born 18 December 1889 at Sutton Courtney. Constance Vera attended Reading College (now Reading University). She 'qualified', but in those days was not permitted to take the degree of B.A. that she had attained. Constance was living at East Hagbourne when she married Ernest William Lawwood Jenner on 21 April 1913. Ernest was an art dealer. Family story around Ernest is a little mysterious in that the family "didn't speak of him". Ernest was a conscientious objector during WW1 and for this he was sent to prison. He disappeared in the late 1920s/early 1930s and later was reported to have died about that time. Constance and Edward had no children. Constance died in Yeovil, Somerset in 1987, aged 97.

JOHN WARNER HOLLIDAY (1884-1972)

John Warner Holliday was the eldest child of Francis and Mary Holliday and was born at Sulham in 1884.

By the 1901 census, John Warner was 17 years old and living with his parents and siblings at New Farm, Arborfield. His occupation was given as Engineer's apprentice fitter (farmer).

In 1913 John Warner married Celia Saunders and they had three children, John Cyril born 1914, Joan Kathleen born 1916 and David Joseph born 1923. John Warner emigrated to New Zealand when his son David and his wife Pat moved there with their children. John Warner died on 6 April 1972 in the New Plymouth District of New Zealand. He was 88 years old.

House in Sulham where the Holliday family were living in the 1880s



FLORENCE HOLLIDAY (1885-1983)



Florence Holliday

Florence Holliday was born on 24 February 1885 in Sulham. Florence married Lawrence Cook in 1911 and they had 3 children, Barbara in 1912, Raymond in 1913 and Dulcemia in 1920. Raymond was an RAF pilot during WW2 and was killed in action in 1942. Florence, when widowed in the 1950s spent the next 30 years or so living in various houses and flats in Sanderstead, near Croydon, and in central London. Florence liked to paint and John Cockburn has several of her paintings. She was a clever lady and very strong willed and was much to be admired. Florence and her first cousin Rhona were very good friends. Florence died in Horsham, Sussex in 1983 aged 98.



'Oaklands', village of East Orchard, Shaftesbury where Florence lived in 1928

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

I plan to make this newsletter a regular occurrence, as I have gathered a great many details about many other members of our family tree over the years and would like to share this with those of you who are interested. The second newsletter will be sent to you in March 2008.

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.

Also, if there is anyone 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.

Acknowledgements and Sources:

John Cockburn for the photos and information he provided on the Lousley family

Pat Holliday for information and photos about Bertram Holliday

East Hagbourne Village website for information and photos of the village.

Census : 1861 to 1901

BMD website of births, deaths and marriages.

Ancestry.com

“Diary of a Village School 1873-2000” by Monica Lawson

Coming in Issue 2:

East Hagbourne—(1848) Song written about Thomas Holliday, Churchwarden

Hampstead Norreys—the Village

Jethro Lousley and Mary Mathews of Hampstead Norreys and their children

The Miser of Blewbury



Coscote, East Hagbourne (late 1940s)