

From Shropshire to the Weald

Kettles and their kin in Kent and Sussex

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Acknowledgments and Disclaimers

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I have done my best to verify information gleaned from a variety of sources by checking original documents where possible, but I am sure that, despite my best efforts I have probably added some errors of my own. Many of the families who feature in this account spelled their names in a variety of ways and even individuals were inconsistent. The index uses the most common spelling, and women are entered under their maiden name where this is known.

Abbreviations

BL	The British Library
CCA	Canterbury Cathedral Archives
CCL	Croydon Central Library
CKS	Centre for Kentish Studies*
ESRO	East Sussex Record Office
HRO	Hereford Record Office
LRO	Lichfield Record Office
SA	Shropshire Archives
SAS	Sussex Archaeological Society
TNA	The National Archives

*Now the Kent Library and History Centre

Introduction

When I was a child, we had one of those kettles which whistled when it came to the boil. When it sounded, my mother would call out:

All right, kettle, I'm coming,

before - tongue in cheek - excusing herself on the grounds that she was talking to her ancestors.

So it was that I grew up with stories about Uncle Dan with the Dan eye – a squint, I believe; Uncle Willy who married the housekeeper to the fury of the rest of the family; Aunt Minna (said housekeeper), whose wig which moved when she scratched her head; Auntie Mary, who spoiled her son Leonard, and great-grandmother Helen Kettle, whose Victorian dressing box I delighted in unpacking and repacking on wet days.

Except Minna, these had all died before my mother was born, but she passed on stories heard from her own mother. Most of what I know about these people has already been told in *The Findlays of Leith and London* and *Fullers, Poultens, Dodds and Whitmells*, but although the life of Helen's mother (Sarah Findlay) has been explored, her father, Daniel Kettle only received a passing mention. Here then, is the story of the Kettles, several generations of whom I have traced in Kent and Shropshire, and the Richardsons and their kin, Kentish yeoman families whose roots and connections spread across many of the parishes of the Weald of Kent and Sussex, and who turned out to have some of the most interesting connections I have discovered in my search for my roots.

Daniel Kettle – Lewisham, Croydon, London and Stockton-on-Tees



St. Mary Lewisham 1834

Great-grandmother Helen's father was Daniel Kettle, baptised on 15th November 1815 at St. Mary Lewisham, Kent. His parents were recorded as John and Sarah Kettle, and his father described himself as a horse dealer. He was the eighth child of fourteen, but only his brother Francis Barber – named for an uncle – was also baptised at Lewisham, almost exactly two years before Daniel. It was a long time before I pieced the rest of the family together and found that Mary Ann and Sarah had been born in Horsmonden in Kent, John Thomas and Diana at Camberwell, and then another Diana, along with Charlotte, James, William, Thomas Dodge and Sarah Anne in Croydon. There was definitely a peripatetic feel to this branch of the family, reinforced later by census returns which showed that the father had been born in Shropshire.

Apart from the fact that he must have moved around a fair bit, little is known of Daniel's early life. In fact, the next time he shows up in any record is in the 1841 census¹. By this time he was around 25 (although his age was given as 30) and he was living at 26, Bridge St, St. Anne's, Blackfriars, a grocer's shop run by 45 year old John Cordery, and presumably a large one, as, along with Cordery's family and servants, the household included 15 shopmen, including Daniel.

When he married Sarah Findlay at St. Mary the Virgin, Hayes on 25th February 1845, he had moved west from Blackfriars, into the large parish of St. Andrew Holborn, as the certificate gives:

Daniel Kettle, 29, bachelor, gentleman, St. Andrew's Holborn;
John Kettle, dealer;
Sarah Findlay, 27, spinster;
Alexander Findlay, engraver.
In the presence of A G Findlay, C Kettle

All parties signed, and the witnesses were Sarah's brother Alexander George, the hydrographer, and presumably Daniel's sister Charlotte. It is interesting that Daniel described himself as a gentleman, a term that could either mean a particular social status, or that the person was not currently employed. It seems unlikely that he was without an income at the time of his marriage, but the status of gentleman doesn't seem quite to fit his occupation as grocer. Nevertheless, his employer in 1841 was part of a partnership which had made those involved very wealthy; John Cordery had been sufficiently rich to invest £1,000² in the London and Blackwall Railway. It's also highly unlikely that Alexander Findlay, founder member of the Royal Geographical Society, would have allowed his only daughter to marry someone not in a position to support her. Maybe Daniel was trying to impress his new in-laws; maybe, as a merchant, he really could live up to the title.

In 1851³, the couple were living in Islington, at 1a, Albion Terrace. There were three children by now: Sarah F, Ellen [more properly Helen] and Dan^l W. Daniel

¹ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1841 census, Blackfriars, HO107/719/16

² <http://books.google.co.uk/>, Parliamentary Papers, House of Commons and Command, Volume 48

³ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1851 census, Finsbury, HO 107/1502

senior gave his occupation as Mercantile Clerk. Sarah Findlay, the eldest child, had been born in Holborn on 6th January 1846 and was baptised at her mother Sarah's home church of St. Mary the Virgin in Hayes on 25th February. Helen was born in Islington nearly two years later, on 1st November 1847, and baptised on 9th January the following year at Hayes, while Daniel Walter was born on 11th September 1849 in Islington and baptised – at Hayes of course – on 28th October. Two further children were born in Islington – Henry Alexander, on 9th January 1852 and William Richardson five years later on 9th June 1857. Both were baptised at Hayes, Alex on 15th February 1852 and William on 26th July 1857.

At some point after William's birth, Daniel decided to uproot his family and move north. The reason isn't clear, maybe it was simply that the opportunity to run his own business cropped up in Stockton-on-Tees in County Durham. At any rate, when the 1861⁴ census was taken, Daniel and Sarah were living at 40, High Street Stockton, where he was enumerated as a master grocer employing one man and two youths. Presumably the latter were the two locally born apprentices living in the household, James Stonehouse and Matthew Burns. A final daughter, Mary Morton, was born at Stockton on 21st January 1860, but made the journey south to Hayes for her christening on 29th July, when her uncle, Rev. William Benjamin Findlay, officiated. She and her 15 year old sister Sarah were at home on census night, and there was also a servant, Mary Ann Brown, but the other children were not there. Helen and William were with their grandparents Alexander and Sarah Findlay at Hayes⁵, and there was no sign of Daniel Walter and Henry Alexander, who were perhaps away at school.

It is possible that only the eldest and youngest children were at home because Daniel was ill. He died the following year on 4th August 1862, of scirrhus of the rectum, a slow-growing, malignant cancer. He was only 47. The local newspaper⁶ reported his death:

At Stockton, on 4th inst., aged 47, Mr Daniel Kettle, Grocer

His will, dated 29th July, was very brief, so maybe the end when it came was quite sudden:

I Daniel Kettle of Stockton on Tees, by this my last will and testament, give and bequeath all the property and effects of which I am possessed to my dear wife Sarah Kettle and I hereby appoint her the sole executrix of this my will.

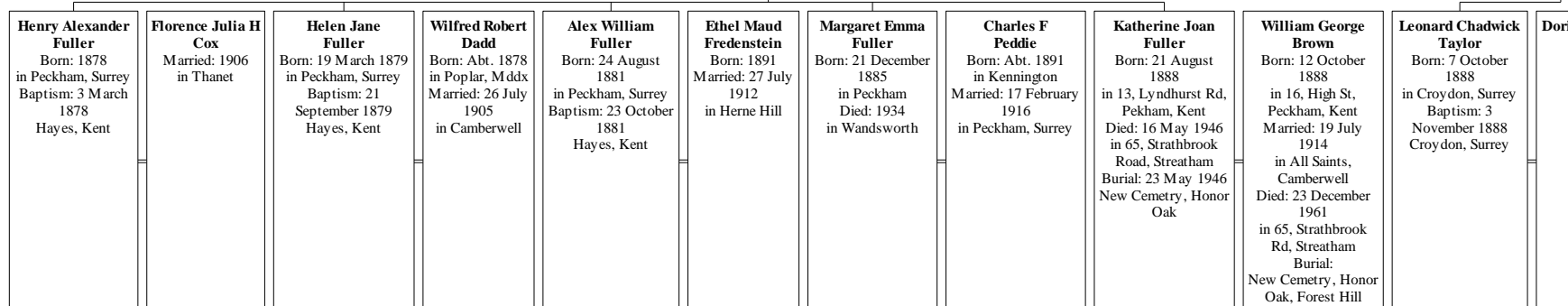
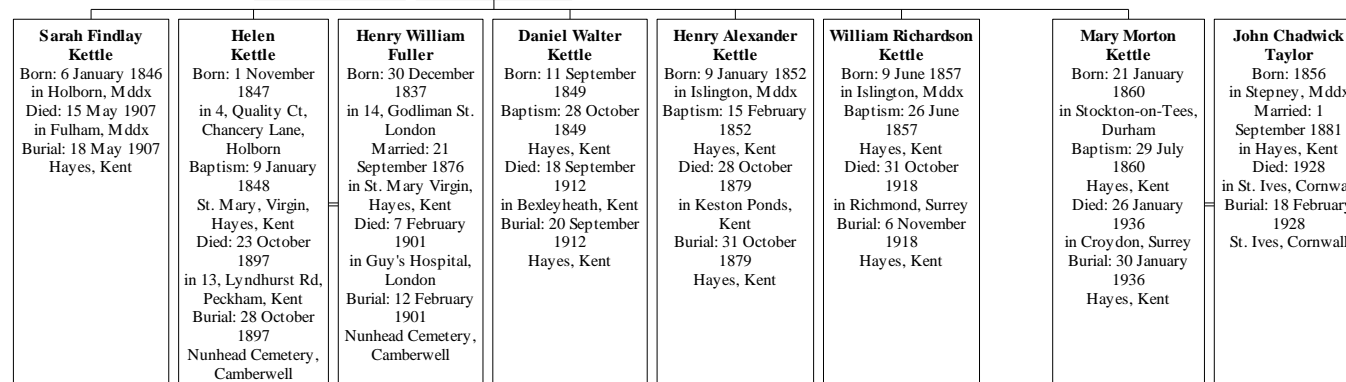
Francis James, the local vicar, and Daniel's brother-in-law William Benjamin Findlay were witnesses and his wife Sarah was granted probate on 10th December, with effects noted at under £2,000.

⁴ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, Stockton-on-Tees, RG 9/3692

⁵ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, Hayes, RG 9 462

⁶ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury*, 9.8.1862

Tree 1 - Descendants of Daniel Kettle



Perhaps unsurprisingly, Daniel's widow Sarah took him home to Hayes for burial. The register there records:

Daniel Kettle, Stockton-on-Tees, 9th August 1862, age 47 years, G.V. Reed,
Rector (South West 20)

Their shared gravestone reads as follows:

Daniel Kettle
died August 4th 1862
age 47 years
also
Sarah his wife
who died April 9th 1881
aged 64 years
in loving remembrance

The rest of Sarah's life, and that of her children, is followed in my account *The Findlays of Leith and London*.

Kettle, Harris and Barber – Shropshire roots

My grandfather once gave me a bag of miscellaneous coins, some old and English, others old and foreign. Amongst this haul was a Coalbrookdale Ironbridge Token which both fascinated and puzzled me. These tokens showed a Severn trow sailing under Abraham Derby's iron bridge over the River Severn at Coalbrookdale, on one side, with the caption:

Erected anno 1779. Span 100 feet

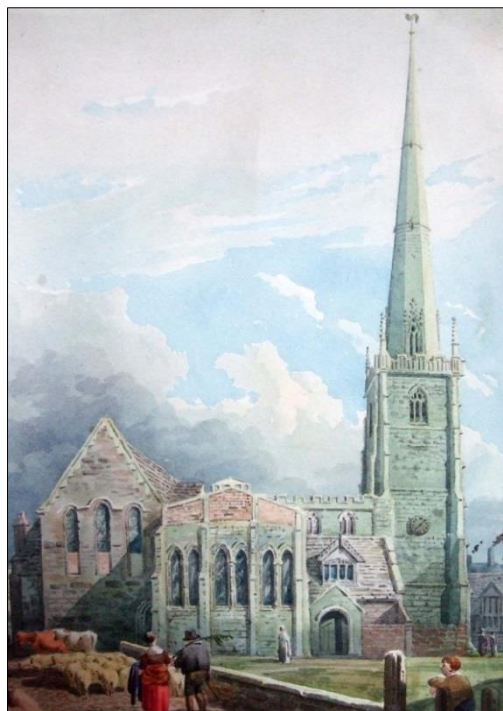
and the inclined plane at Ketley of 1789 on the other, and were issued by the Coalbrookdale Company to pay their workers. Mine was dated 1792.



The first Abraham Derby founded the Coalbrookdale Company in 1709, in the very earliest years of what would eventually become the Industrial Revolution.

With coal and iron deposits nearby, and river access to move finished goods, this part of Shropshire was an obvious place for blast furnaces to develop. By the latter part of the 18th century, Abraham Derby III had made a reputation for creating all kinds of cast iron goods, especially bridges. The government of the day minted few small denomination coins, so industrialists like Derby frequently created their own, showcasing their own achievements at the same time. So why would someone whose family had no apparent connections to Shropshire have one of these tokens? It was only when I discovered that Daniel Kettle's father John was born at Madeley in Shropshire, within spitting distance of Coalbrookdale, that the penny, or rather token dropped.

In an area where many of the surnames have a Welsh flavour, Kettle is not an obviously Shropshire name. In fact, its origins are supposedly Viking, and the name is well distributed though not common throughout the United Kingdom. However, this branch of the Kettle family seems to have been living in Shropshire for some time before decamping to the South-east. There were small enclaves of Kettles in Prees, Ellesmere, Whitchurch and Wem, all within around 20 miles of Shrewsbury, but although some of them may be related to this family, proof is lacking, and I suspect that John¹ Kettle was born in an entirely different county.

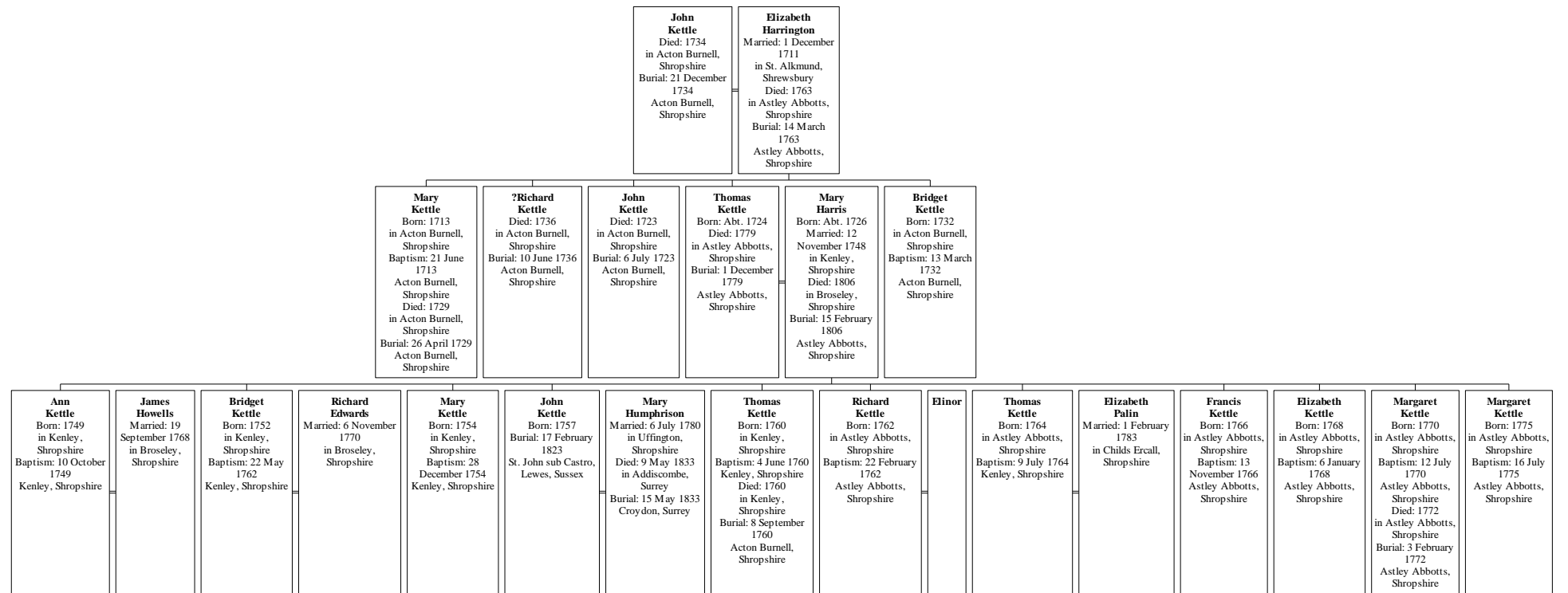


Old St. Alkmund, Shrewsbury

The earliest reference I've found to my Kettle ancestors appears at St. Alkmund, a large parish whose church is situated in the centre of Shrewsbury, on 1st December 1711, when John¹ Kettell and Elizabeth Harrington:

both of Acton Burnell parish

Tree 2 - Descendants of John Kettle and Elizabeth Harrington



married there. This was about 18 months before the birth of their first child. The Acton Burnell register shows John Kettle - servant to Sir Edward Smith (or Smythe) - and his wife Elizabeth, baptising a daughter named Mary on 21st June 1713. Nearly twenty years later, on 13th March 1732, Bridget Kettle daughter of John and Elizabeth was baptised. The register shows no further baptisms – although Mary's burial, as daughter of John and Eliza: Kettle, was recorded on 26th April 1729. Sir Edward Smythe, first baronet, was created as such by Charles I in recognition of his royalist loyalties during the Civil War. He married Mary Lee, heiress to Acton Burnell Castle, which became his principle seat, although he had property of his own elsewhere. He died in 1714. Presumably John¹ Kettle was in service at Acton Burnell Castle and maybe that is how he met his wife, whose family lived in the parish. If John was working for nobility, he may well have moved around the country with his employer, which may explain why there are so few baptisms for the couple in Acton Burnell.



St. Mary, Acton Burnell - with the castle behind

The Bishops' Transcripts for the parish do turn up a few more entries: John son of John and Elizabeth Kettle of Acton Burnell was buried on 6th July 1723 – presumably Mary's brother. Another entry reads:

Richard Kettle single man of this parish was buried on 10th June 1736.

Again, it seems noteworthy that Thomas named one of his own children Richard, so maybe this was another of John's sons. John¹ himself, recorded as John Kettle of Acton Burnell, was buried on 21st June 1734. Elizabeth Kettle applied for letters of administration⁷ for her husband's estate in 1735, as:

Widow Relict and Administratrix of all and singular the Goods Chattels
and credits of John Kettle late of the parish of Acton Burnhill

⁷ LRO, B/C/11, 1735, Administration of John Kettle, Acton Burnell

Elizabeth swore that the estate was:

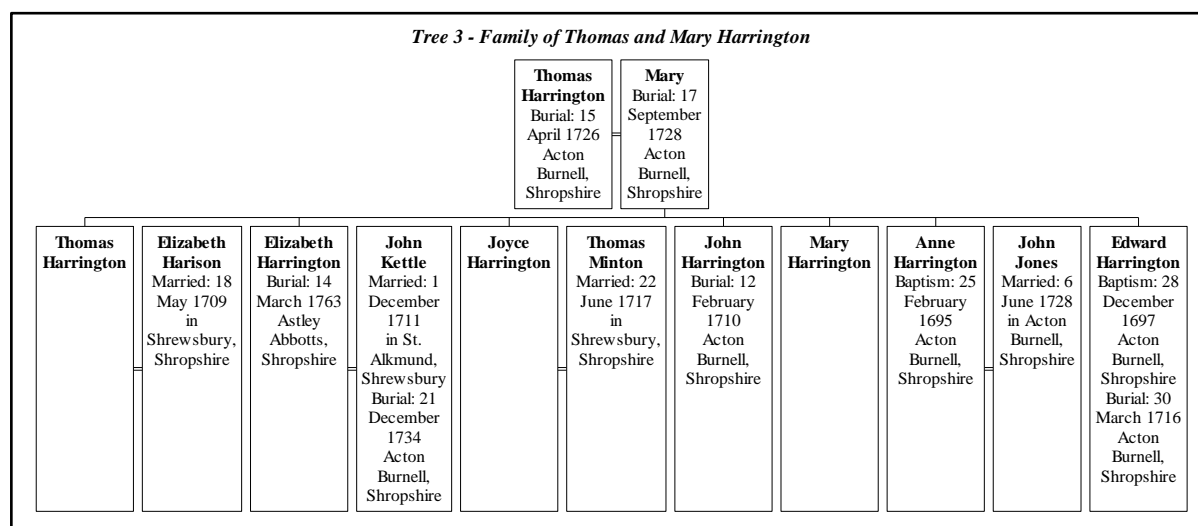
Not worth the clear sum of £40

after debts had been paid.

Given that there is no burial for Elizabeth at Acton Burnell (or come to that anywhere else in Shropshire apart from the one below) but that a widow named Elizabeth Kettle was buried at Astley Abbots (or Abbotts) shortly after Thomas Kettle (of whom later) moved his family there:

Elizabeth Kettle widow affd rec'd buried 14th March 1763

it seems reasonable to conclude that Thomas was the son of John¹ and Elizabeth Kettle of Acton Burnell, and that he was looking after his aged mother in her final years. Thomas had earlier buried one of his own children in Acton Burnell, which clinches family ties with the area.



Before looking at the life of Thomas Kettle, the Harrington family must be recorded. As so often seems the case, the direct ancestor's baptism is missing as Elizabeth Harrington's christening doesn't appear to have taken place at Acton Burnell. Only two of the children of Thomas and Mary Harrington were baptised there, Anne – on 25th February 1695, and Edward – on 28th December 1697. A third child, John, was buried there on 12th February 1710. Edward also died young, and was buried on 30th March 1716. The baptism of another daughter, Joyce, is also missing. Thomas Harrington, who was buried on 15th April 1726 as:

Thomas Harrington sen^r of Acton Burnell

left a will⁸. In it, having described himself as a yeoman, and made the usual pious openings, his first bequest was to:

⁸ LRO, B/C/11, Will of Thomas Harrington of Acton Burnell, 1726

my daughter Elizabeth Kettle the sum of five pounds

No-one else received such a sizeable monetary bequest. His daughter Mary [?]Cofie and son Thomas Harrington get 2/6 each, while his son-in-law, Thomas Minton (who married Joyce Harrington at St. Chad's in Shrewsbury in 1717) received only 1/-. The remainder of his estate went to:

my beloved wife Mary Harrington, and to my daughter Anne Harrington
to be equally divided between them

These two were also appointed executrixes, and were granted probate on 22nd April 1726. Thomas junior had married Ann Harison at St. Alkmund in 1709, so had maybe received his share earlier. Anne the executrix married John Jones in her home parish in 1728. Mary, Elizabeth's mother, survived her husband by two years, but was buried on 17th September 1728 as:

Mary Harrington wid: of Acton Burnell



St. John the Baptist, Kenley

Thomas Kettle was a yeoman – at least, that is how he described himself on his eldest daughter's marriage bond. His baptism has not been found – maybe his father was working at another of the Smythe properties at the time of his birth - but if the age given on his own marriage bond was accurate he was born around 1724. He spent most of his adult life in Kenley and Astley Abbots, both small villages situated between Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury. Kenley is right next-door to the village of Acton Burnell, but much smaller. A map⁹ of the village in 1747 shows only around 30 dwellings. Thomas Kettle married Mary Harris there on 12th November 1748. The parish register sports some delightfully idiosyncratic spelling. For example, an illegitimate child is recorded as a 'bace of spring', and Thomas and Mary's wedding appears as follows:

⁹ SA, EN69VF, Kenley Village 1747, redrawn from the original manor map by T.G.Hill, 2001

Thomas Ketell of this parish and Mary Harish of the parish of Conde
were married by Licances November ye 12

Fortunately, the Bishops Transcripts, more literately written, survive at Lichfield:

Thomas Kettle and Mary Harris of the parish of Cound were married by
licence

In addition, the marriage bond¹⁰ also survives:

Nov 4th 1748 Let a licence be granted to Thomas Kettle for solemnising
a marriage with Mary Harris security being first given before me
W Adams.

Know all men... that we Thomas Kettle of Kenley and John Vaughan of
the same are held and firmly bound... in the sum of one hundred pounds...

The condition of this obligation is ... that Thomas Kettle of the parish of
Kenley Batchl^r aged 24 years and Mary Harris of the parish of Cound
Spins^r aged 22 years may lawfully marry together... in the face of the
parish church of Kenley...

Signed Thomas Kettle, John Vaughan. Witnessed by W Adams.

This document helpfully reiterates the expected spellings.

Cound parish abuts onto both Acton Burnell and Kenley, which is described
by Wikipedia as a 'remote' village. It is close to the Wrekin, and picturesque, but
must have been isolated when John and Mary settled there. It was their home for
the next 12 years. Their first child was Ann, baptised on 10th October 1749. A
marriage licence¹¹ was granted on 19th September 1768 for her to marry James
Howells when they were both still minors:

Appeared personally James Howells butcher and alledged and made
oath that he is of the parish of Broseley in the county of Salop and
diocese of Hereford and a bachelor of the age of nineteen years and
upwards and intends to marry Anne Kettle of the parish aforesaid a
spinster aged 20 years and upwards by and with the consent of
Elizabeth Howells mother of the said James Howells and Thomas
Kettle father of the said Anne Kettle

Thomas Kettle evidently accompanied his future son-in-law, as the bond goes on to
say:

Appeared also personally Thomas Kettle and alledged and made oath
that he is the natural and lawful father of the said Anne Kettle and that
he is consenting to the marriage of the said James Howells with the
said Anne Kettle and he further made oath that Elizabeth Howells is
likewise consenting to the said marriage.

Thomas Kettle

¹⁰ LRO, B/C/6,7 Marriage Bond, Thomas Kettle, 1748

¹¹ LRO, B/C/6,7 Marriage Bond, James Howells, 1768

The marriage took place at Broseley on the same day, witnessed by Francis Barber, of whom more later. This couple would have 10 children in the next twenty years: Elizabeth, Mary, James, Margaret, Ann, Edward, Thomas, Hanna, Thomas Kettle and Richard.

Thomas and Mary's next child, Bridget, was baptised on 22nd May 1752. It is tempting to think that she was named after the Bridget Kettle born a generation earlier at Acton Burnell. She also married in Broseley, on 6th November 1770 by licence, and with her husband Richard Edwards baptised three daughters there, Mary, Elizabeth and Elizabeth. Her younger sister was Mary, baptised at Kenley on 28th December 1754. After that there is a gap in the register until the baptism of Thomas, on 4th June 1760. Into this gap must fit John², my direct ancestor, named in Francis Barber's will, and who – other records suggest – was born somewhere between 1753 and 1759. Whether the baptism wasn't written up, was omitted, or took place elsewhere is not known. Thomas junior didn't live long and was buried on 8th September 1760 at Acton Burnell:

Thomas son of Thomas and Mary Kettle of the parish of Kenley

thus resffirming the link between the Kettles in Acton Burnell and Thomas senior.



St. Calixtus, Astley Abbots

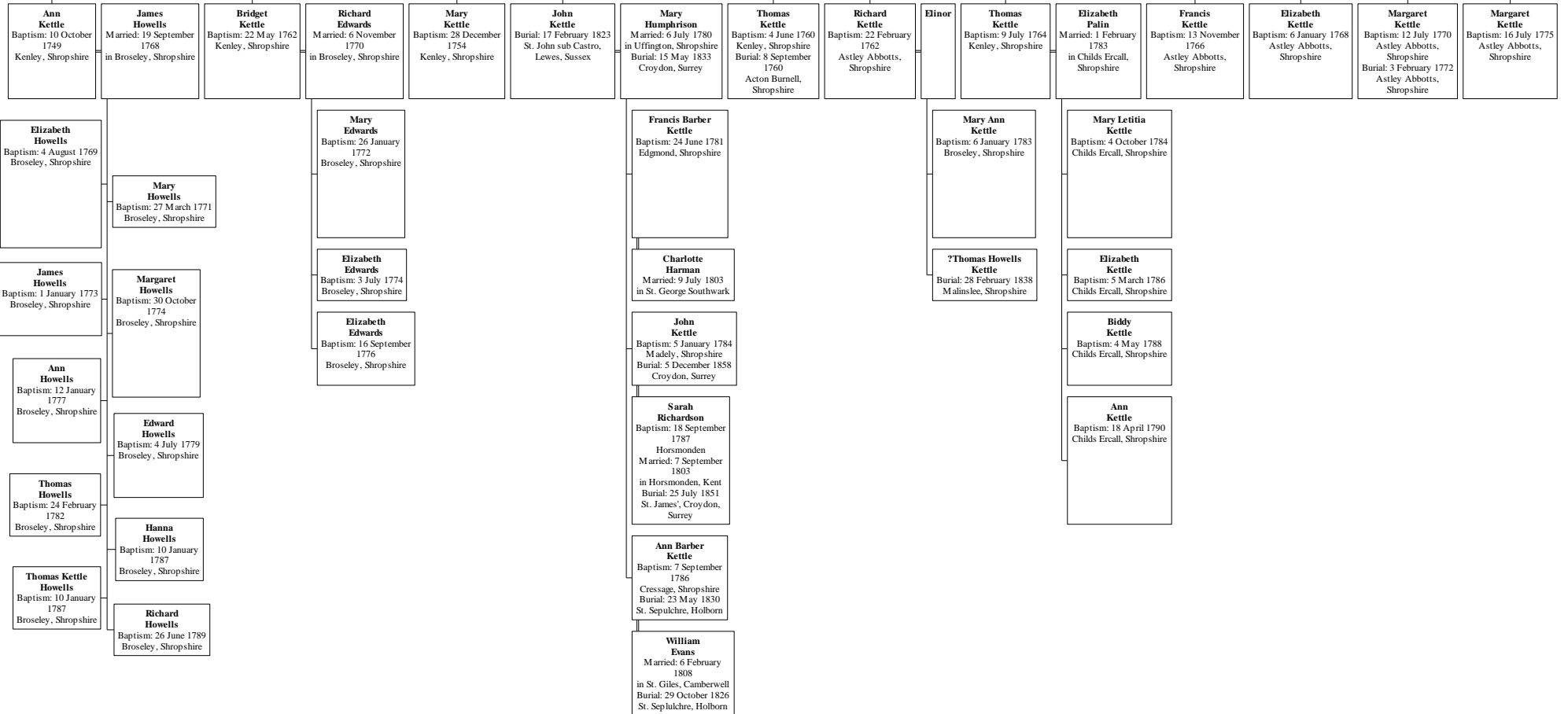
By the time of Richard's baptism, on 22nd February 1762, the family had moved to Astley Abbots, another small, rural village around 13 miles away. In adult life Richard and a wife named Eleanor baptised a daughter Mary Ann at Broseley in 1783, but they then disappear, though they may have had a son as well around 1787, as a Thomas Howells Kettle – who must have been connected – was buried at Malinslee near Madeley in 1838 aged 51.

A second Thomas was baptised on 9th August 1764 at Astley Abbots. He married Elizabeth Palin, with her father's consent as she was a minor, on 1st

Tree 4 - Descendants of Thomas Kettle and Mary Harris

Thomas Kettle
Burial: 1 December 1779
Astley Abbots,
Shropshire

Mary Harris
Married: 12 November 1748
in Kenley, Shropshire
Burial: 15 February 1806
Astley Abbots,
Shropshire



December 1783 at Childs Ercall. The marriage bond proclaims him to have been a butcher. He and his wife baptised their family in their new parish, starting in 1784 with Mary Letitia, then Elizabeth, Biddy (seemingly the third generation to use the relatively unusual name Bridget) and Ann.

Thomas and Mary's last four children were all baptised at Astley Abbots, but apart from the one who was also buried there, seem to have disappeared from the records. Francis, named maybe for his kinsman Francis Barber, was baptised on 13th November 176, and Elizabeth on 6th January 1768. One Margaret was baptised on 12th July 1770 and buried on 3rd February 1772; her namesake on 16th July 1775.

A little more is known about Thomas Kettle. He witnessed two weddings at Astley Abbots: at the first, between Thomas Rigg of Wolverhampton and Ann Podmore or Padmore by licence on 8th March 1769, he noted his position as churchwarden, a fact which is corroborated on a printed board in St. Calixtus' Church, where he appears on a list of churchwardens for the year 1769 along with one Thomas Pitt. The second was the marriage of John Whitehouse - also of Wolverhampton - and Martha Merrick on 6th July 1769.

THE CHURCHWARDENS OF ASTLEY ABBOTTS 1629 to 2006	
CHARLES I	
1629	RICHARD & ROLAND COLINGE
GEORGE II	
1728	JOHN HALL & JOHN ACTON
1729	MATTHEW DICKENS & EDWARD FARLOW
1751	FRANCIS COLINGE & RICHARD HAMMONDS
1754	THOMAS TEDSTILL & WILLIAM LEE
1755	RICHARD CORSER & THOMAS HUGHES
1756	RICHARD SMYTHEMAN & WILLIAM DAVIES
1757	RICHARD GEARY & THOMAS TEDSTILL
1758	RICHARD HAMMONDS & GEORGE PIGOTT
1759	THOMAS JEFFRIES & RICHARD NICHOLLS
GEORGE III	
1760	RICHARD FORD & WALTER NOCK
1761	RICHARD FORD & GEORGE ALLSOP
1762	THOMAS TEDSTILL & WILLIAM JEFFRIES
1763	THOMAS PITT & RICHARD CORSER
1764	CHRISTOPHER TEDSTILL & THOMAS HILL
1765	EDMUND FORD & RICHARD DAVIES
1767	RICHARD HAMMONDS & FRANCIS PIGOTT
1768	RICHARD DAVIES & RICHARD SMYTHEMAN
1769	THOMAS PITT & THOMAS KETTLE
1770	THOMAS BACHE & WILLIAM JONES

Astley Abbots Churchwardens

The Churchwardens Accounts Book¹² for Astley Abbots show only one page of entries for Thomas Kettle's period of tenure, and they appear to be in the hand of his co-churchwarden, Thomas Pitt, as Thomas Kettle's name at the top of the page bears no resemblance to his signature as it appears on his marriage bond. The page is headed:

1769 The acct. of Tho. Pitt & Thomas Kettle Churchwardens

and it would seem that the pair quickly tired of keeping detailed accounts - or perhaps most of their expenses did occur in the first three months:

¹² SA, P16/B/1/1, Astley Abbots Churchwardens' Accounts, 1752-1859

5 Sep ^r	pd for weeding Quick	0	0	6
24	pd the porritor* with a presentment	0	5	8
27	pd for a form of prayor	0	1	0
	pd for Repairing y ^e churchyard wall	0	1	4
30	pd for a lock for y ^e wicked	0	1	0
27 Oct.	pd with y ^e copy of y ^e Regester		2	6
	pd for weeding Quick		0	6
29	pd Roberts Bill		6	6
	pd for weeding Quick		0	6
3 Nov ^r	pd Mrs Hall Bill	1	10	0
	pd for Bread for y ^e year	0	1	8
	pd y ^e Clock Bill	2	0	10
	Visitation Expences	1	0	0
7 June	pd Mr Reynolds Bill	10	0	0
	For writing a Lune	0	1	0
	Disburst	15	12	6
	Rec ^d by Lune	15	10	6
	Balance due to Tho. Pitt		2	0
	Rec ^d of y ^e late ofesorsers		14	0 ½
	Balance due to y ^e parish		12	1 ½
	But p ^d with nine breefes	-	9	0
	Then due to the Porrish	0	3	1 ½

The spelling is idiosyncratic and requires explanation in places. The 'porritor' appears elsewhere as 'paritor' or 'apparitor' - an official sent out by a civil or, in this case more likely, ecclesiastical court. 'A lock for the wicked' is not a lock-up, but a lock for the church wicket gate, while 'lune' is a dialect word only used in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire for a church tax or rate. This word appears on a page dated 1765/6 which lists taxes received. The sum written in the left-hand column was presumably a rateable value, and that in the right the sum paid. If this is the case, Thomas was one of the better off parishioners. Only 7 of the 50 entries had higher sums entered. In addition, he is referred to as 'Mr Kettle' rather than just Thomas Kettle - an indication that he had some standing in the parish.

50 „ 0 „ „ Mr Kettle „ 6 3

A final reference to Thomas appears in the register on 1st December 1769, when it simply notes:

Thomas Kettle buried.

Nothing is known of Mary Harris' early life. She was not baptised at Cound - but must have been born around 1726 if her age on the marriage bond is accurate. At some time after her husband's death she moved to Broseley, as her burial at Astley Abbots on 15th February 1806 records her as:

Mary Kettle of Broseley

She had called one of her sons Francis, and both her son John and grandson John named one of their children Francis Barber, a fact which caused endless speculation until I happened on a will abstract¹³, which gave the following, tantalising clues:

Name of the legatees, distinguishing residuary legatees
Thomas and John Kettle
Mary Kettle ...
Degree of Kindred
Not mentioned
Account of the several legacies and annuities...
Said testator bequeaths to Thomas and John Kettle £20 apiece and
to Mary Kettle an annuity of £4 a year for life...

Francis Barber's will¹⁴ shows him to have had an estate valued at under £600 and unmarried and without children of his own. It was written on 26th December 1800, and his first bequest was to Elizabeth, the wife of his nephew, Francis Barber Jones. This was of a house called in the will 'The Dung', but more properly The Dunge, described by British Listed Buildings¹⁵ as early 19th century, so unless it was rebuilt after Francis' death it must have been very new when he bequeathed it. After Elizabeth's death, it was to go to her husband. Francis' second-named nephew, Thomas Jones, was to receive the house then occupied by his uncle. Several other properties were shared out between these three legatees – obviously the bulk of his estate, though another nephew, John Jones, and his sons - John, Francis and William were also remembered. However, he then went on to bequeath:

to my relation Thomas Kettle £20 to my relation John Kettle £20 to their
mother Mary for her natural life four pounds a year to be paid yearly

Although this confirms that Thomas and John were both Mary's sons, frustratingly, as the abstract implied, the exact nature of the relationship to Francis is not mentioned, although Thomas Kettle is referred to twice more, firstly in the rather cryptic phrase:

my will is that Thomas Kettle's writings may be delivered up to him at my
decease

Nowhere is the nature of these writings specified; my best guess is that they were either deeds or about some kind of a loan. Possibly even more cryptic is the reference in a codicil dated 26th February 1802:

Thomas Kettle that big cooler is his

Francis Barber was a butcher, as was Thomas Kettle, so maybe this was some tool of the trade which had been loaned.

¹³ TNA, IR/26/348, Abstract of the will of Francis Barber of Broseley, 1804

¹⁴ SA, 5366/1, Will of Francis Barber of Broseley, 1804

¹⁵ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-254579-the-dunge-broseley->

Between them, this will and that of Francis' father John Barber¹⁶ - who died in 1760 - suggest that Francis had only one sister, Mary, who married William Jones and had children John, Francis, Mary, Thomas and possibly Samuel. Unless Mary Harris was in reality a widowed Mary Jones junior when she married Thomas Kettle, which is highly unlikely given her age, the relationship has to be further back. It is possible that John Barber's wife Margaret was a Harris, which would maybe make Mary a second cousin to Francis. No marriage has been found, but it is interesting that Mary twice chose the name Margaret for one of her daughters; maybe it was a family name. There is one other bequest in Francis Barber's will which may be significant, although again, no relationship is given and the Welsh Marches area has numerous Harris families:

I give and devise unto John Harris Taylor my messuage or tenement situate over or near the Delf in Broseley late in the occupation of ... Aston to hold to the same John Harris during his natural life and after his decease then I devise the same to his son Richard Harris his heirs and assigns for ever



Broseley - The Delf area

*Salopia Antiqua*¹⁷ defines the Delf in Broseley as:

A pit; the name of a piece of stagnant water in the centre of Broseley; it has probably been a spot from whence minerals were formerly obtained

While this doesn't sound the most desirable of locations, a whole house seems a lot to devise to a mere acquaintance. Could John Harris, father of Richard, be related to Mary Kettle née Harris?

One final thing needs to be said about Francis Barber and his circle. He was a butcher, taking two apprentices¹⁸ in 1770 to teach them the trade. One of these, John

¹⁶ HRO, Will of John Barber of Broseley, 1760

¹⁷ <http://books.google.co.uk/books>, *Salopia Antiqua or an Inquiry from Personal Survey...* Charles Henry Hartshorne, London, John W. Parker, 1841

¹⁸ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Register of Duties paid for Apprentices' Indentures

Jones, was presumably his nephew; the other was James Howells, who had recently married John and Mary Kettle's daughter Ann, with Francis as witness. Both Thomas and John Kettle were butchers, at least for part of their working lives, and it seems again as if Francis was doing what he could to improve opportunities for his extended family. James Howells' working relationship with him was presumably a long one, as he was one of the people called on to attest that the final codicil of his will was indeed in the testator's handwriting:

Appeared personally Edward Harper of Madeley in the County of Salop gent and James Howells of Broseley in the same county Butcher and being severally sworn on the Holy Evangelists deposed that they these deponents knew and were acquainted with Francis Barber late of the parish of Broseley in the County of Salop and diocese of Hereford deceased and with his manner and character of hand writing having frequently seen him write and subscribe his name and having now seen and perused a codicil hereunto annexed to be added to and taken as part of the last will and testament of the said deceased beginning this February 26, 1802. "I Francis Barber give to Thomas Jones" and ending that is "witness my one hand and thus subscribed" Francis Barber – do verily believe that the whole body series and content of the said codicil and the name Frances Barber thereto set and subscribed to be all of the proper handwriting of the said Francis Barber deceased.

John² Kettle: Shropshire, Southwark and Lewes



Uffington village - The Malthouse

In the absence of a baptism, the first concrete information I have found about John² Kettle, son of Thomas and Mary, concerns his marriage, which took place on 6th July 1780 in Uffington, Shropshire, about 4 miles north-east of Shrewsbury, and on land held by the Corbett family:

John Kettle of Rodington and Mary Humphrison of the extra-parochial demesne of Haughmond, by licence. Witnesses: David Harris, Elizabeth Gorsuch

Both John² and Mary signed the register, though his is a more confident hand, and she writes Mary Humfris, the first instance of confusion over this surname. Haughmond was considered extra-parochial because it was originally served by the monastery of the Augustine canons at Haughmond Abbey. By Mary's time, it was pretty much a small portion of Uffington¹⁹, itself a parish of 139 inhabitants in 1824.



Corbett Arms Uffington²⁰

However, although Mary's baptism has not come to light, there is a marriage bond, and as she was a minor, it names her father, Robert⁴ Humphrison, also of the extra-parochial demesne of Haughmond. He made his mark on the document, so it is still not certain what form of the surname the family used, though Humphrison would seem to be the more common. The marriage bond²¹, dated 3rd July at Shrewsbury, is informative, and the only document that shows John¹ to have been a butcher at one point in his life:

appeared personally John Kettle of the parish of Rodington butcher
and ... made oath... that he is upwards of twenty-one and a bachelor
and intends to marry Mary Humphrison of the extra-parochial demesne of
Haughmond ... spinster aged twenty

The 'twenty' of Mary's age is faint, almost as if someone has tried to rub it out, but she was clearly under 21 as there is a hand-written paragraph at the bottom of the document stating:

¹⁹http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=5e8HAAAAQAAI&dq=extra-parochial+haughmond,+uffington&source=gbs_navlinks_s, *Shropshire Gazetteer*, 1824

²⁰ Copyright P L Chadwick - licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence

²¹ TNA, Family Record Centre film no: 459863

At the same time appeared Robert Humphrison of the extra-parochial demesne aforesaid and made oath that he was the natural and lawful father of the said Mary Humphrison and that he was assenting to the granting of a licence for the marriage intended as aforesaid

Robert⁴ Humphrison appeared as supporter to his son-in-law to be in the matter of the bond for the licence, and it is this second document which described him as a farmer.

Each of John² and Mary Kettle's three children was baptised in a different parish, which may be symptomatic of the itchy feet which eventually led to his leaving his home county for pastures new, or it may be that after his marriage he changed his occupation and became the horse dealer he was for most of his adult life, and that this occasioned a more peripatetic life style. Although it is referring to a slightly earlier era, an account in *English Rural Society*²² gives a flavour of how John may have come to 'change horses' as it were:

Dealers came from a variety of backgrounds. Some were engaged as middlemen in other commodities and as they needed horses to move their goods, it was natural that many of them would also deal in horses. At Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Shrewsbury fairs the largest group of dealers from the Black Country consisted of men working in the metalware trades.... and butchers, often among the most energetic of local entrepreneurs, were also active participants.

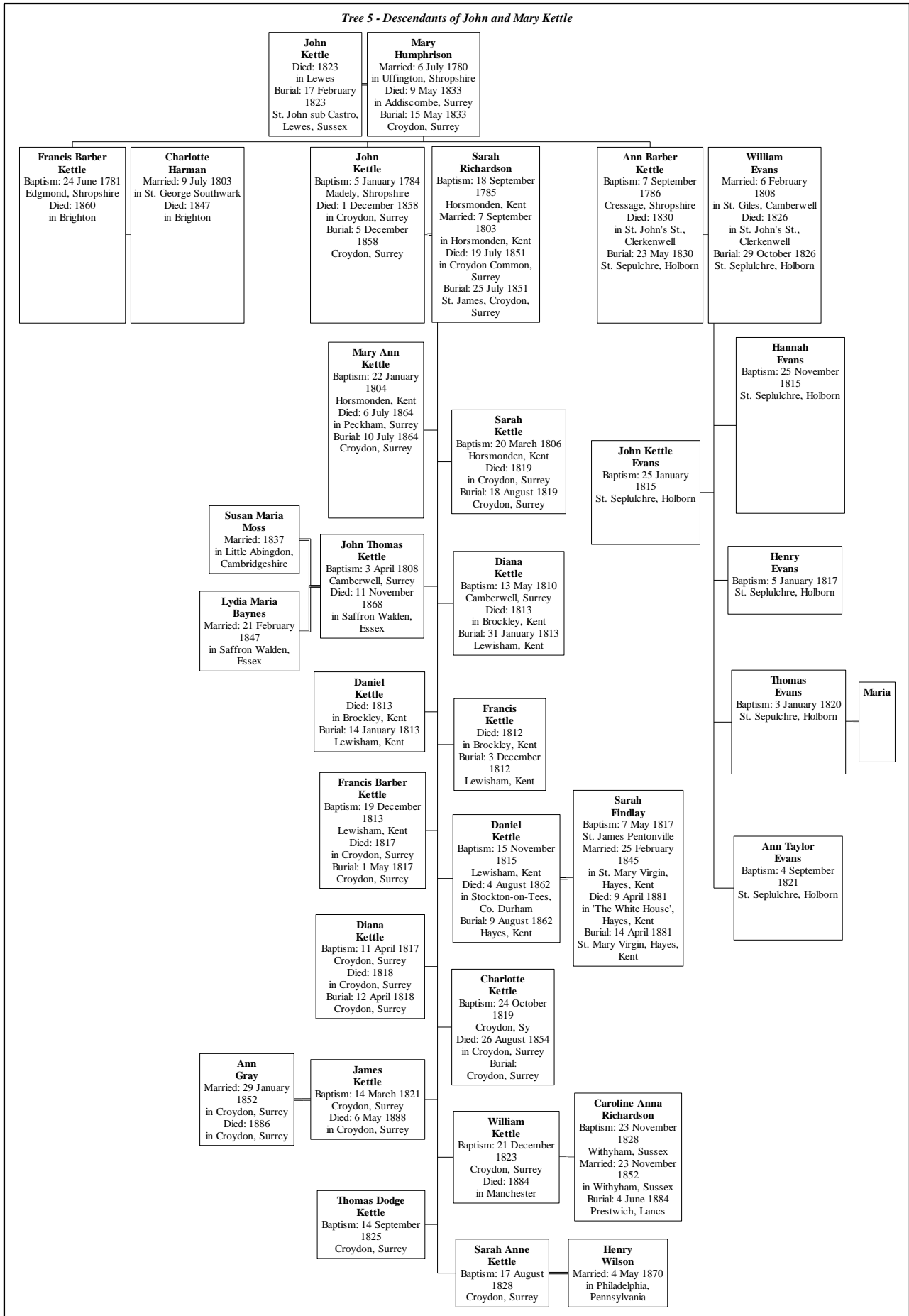
The first child, named Francis Barber after his mysterious kinsman, was born while they were living at Cherrington, in the western part of the large parish of Edmond, where Francis was baptised on 24th June 1781. By the time of John³'s birth in 1784, the family was presumably living across the River Severn from Broseley at Madeley, where the new baby was baptised on 5th January. Abraham Derby's famous iron bridge itself was built to link Madeley to Broseley, and both places were rapidly developing as centres for coal-mining and iron manufacture.

By the time John² and Mary's third child was born, the family had moved again. Ann Barber Kettle was baptised on 7th September 1786 at Cressage, a chapelry of the parish of Cound. While baptisms of the people of Cressage took place in their local church, marriages and burials apparently often took place at Cound, where two Kettle burials were recorded, that of Anne Kettle on 15th January 1792 and John Kettle on 24th June 1796. For a long time, I assumed these must have been John²'s parents, but this has proved to be wrong. Although no evidence has been found to show a connection, I suspect that one exists.

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https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=0oo8o8spo_UC&pg=PA228&lpg=PA228&dq=shrewsbury+horse+fair+history&source=bl&ots=4Q_wpM8CFk&sig=7ap6WcO9LfrKnJhkmHqbYJm9xgQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=tyyxVIL_NMmu7AaI24GABA&ved=0CD4Q6AEwBzgK#v=onepage&q=shrewsbury%20horse%20fair%20history&f=false *English Rural Society, 1500-1800: Essays in Honour of Joan Thirsk*, ed. John Chartres, David Hey

Tree 5 - Descendants of John and Mary Kettle



Sometime after Ann Barber Kettle's birth, the family moved yet again, but this time it was a more major event, involving a 150 mile trip to London. The next reference to the family comes from the bond and allegation for the licence for John³'s marriage in 1803, where his and his father's place of residence was given as St. Saviour Southwark.

Appeared personally before me the above-named John Kettle and alledged and made oath that he is the natural and lawful father of the above-named John Kettle and that he is consenting unto his marriage with the above-named Sarah Richardson

John Kettle

Francis Barber Kettle married five days after his brother John³, on 9th July 1803. His bride was Charlotte Harman and the wedding was solemnised at St. George Southwark, with Francis described as a bachelor 'of this parish'. His brother John³ and his new bride Sarah signed the register as witnesses.

Ann Barber Kettle married William Evans at St. Giles Camberwell on 6th February 1808, where she was described as 'of this parish'. This time it was Francis and his wife Charlotte who acted as witnesses. I have discovered nothing about their early years together, but by 1815 they were settled in St. John's Street, Clerkenwell in London, where William was a grocer – maybe another influence on their nephew Daniel's choice of career. There may have been children from the early years of the marriage, but I have only traced the five baptised at St. Sepulchre without Newgate: Hannah and John Kettle in 1815 – either twins or a late baptism for one of the children, Henry in 1817, Thomas in 1820 and Ann Taylor in 1821. In 1879, Thomas' younger son William Hugh Evans married his second cousin Charlotte Anna Kettle, daughter of William Kettle (another son of Ann's brother John³). William Evans died in 1826 aged 47 and Ann in 1830 aged 43; they were buried at St. Sepulchre on 29th October 1826 and 23rd May 1830 respectively.

Both Francis Barber and his brother John³ became horse dealers. John³'s marriage bond gives this as his occupation, and Francis advertised his business in the papers. Presumably all three men worked together at their trade in Southwark, though I have found no evidence of this, and the following article shows Francis to have been operating in East Grinstead in Sussex from around 1801. By 1813, though, he was ready to expand his business, and felt it was worth informing his clientele of his impending move to Lewes, the county town. *The Sussex Advertiser*²³ of Monday 20th December 1813 carried this statement, dated two days earlier:

FRANCIS BARBER KETTLE

HORSE DEALER

Most respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has moved his residence from East Grinstead to LEWES, no, 12, Mount Pleasant, near The Star Inn, where he intends carrying on his profession as well as at his Stables at East Grinstead. And he likewise being sensible of the encouragement he has met with for these twelve years past, takes the

²³ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Sussex Advertiser*, 20.12.1813

opportunity of returning his friends the most sincere thanks for their favours conferred upon him..... He will attend regularly at Steyning and Tonbridge markets with horses for sale.

During 1813, in preparation for the move, he had presumably been paying poor rate²⁴ on property in Lewes, although as no first name is given, it is possible that it was John² in residence at this time:

	Rents			L	s	d
27.2.1813	£4	Kettle	for stable	1	4	
27.3.1813	£3	Kettle	for stable and yard		18	
8.5.1813	£3	Kettle	for stable and yard	1	16	

However, later assessments give two road names, one for the stables and one for a house:

	Rents			L	s	d
18.9.1813	West St.	£3	for a stable and yard	1	16	
18.9.1813	Church St.	£1 10/-	(insert)Kettle Fisher late house	Empty		
4.1.1814	West St.	£3	for a stable and yard		18	
4.1.1814	Church St.	£1 10/-	Kettle for house		9	

which perhaps suggests this is Francis setting up. Between 1815 and 17 Francis' first name - or at least an initial - is given, clarifying things.

A certificate of the contract for the Redemption of Land Tax²⁵ registered on 22nd February 1814 makes reference to Charles Wille, owner of land in St. John sub Castro described as:

A row of tenements called Mount Pleasant (no 1), carpenter's shop, stable and small enclosed yard situate and being in Fisher St. (no 2). A riding school and stable and a small enclosed yard situate and being on the south side of West St. ... which, with the appurtenances separately do not exceed in the whole one fourth part of a statute acre.... and which premises stand charged in the assessment for the said parish of St. John under the Castle of Lewes for the year ending 25.3.1814 as follows: viz

<u>Name of Proprietor</u>	<u>Name of Occupier</u>	<u>Sums assessed</u>
3. Charles Wille	Kettle	-- 8 --

showing that this was who Francis was paying rent to. So far there have been references to Mount Pleasant, West Street, Church Street and Fisher Street, and it is not always clear whether these are alternative names or separate addresses. A Sussex Archaeological Society manuscript²⁶ offers the following about Fisher Street:

²⁴ ESRO, PAR 412/30/1/4, Poor Rate, St. John sub Castro, Lewes

²⁵ ESRO, ASS 5569/61, Certificate of the Contract for the Redemption of Land Tax, exonerated 25.12.1813

²⁶ SAS library, *Property and Land Ownership in Lewes*, John Houghton, 1989 (Ass no. 3818)

... known as Star Lane in 18th century. No clear burgage pattern. May be the oldest settled part of the town. A market, so an extra premium area. On the east side, going south – the Riding School nos 26 - 14.....This is a holding file for details of the above street from West St. to the High St, east side, including the Town Hall.



Melton Mowbray Horse Fair – John E Ferneley²⁷

The East Sussex Record Office catalogue has the details of the deeds of 24, Fisher Street²⁸, which described the property in 1827 as:

a piece of land in Lewes St John sub Castro, with 2' 6" laid out for a footpath on its west;E (15' 4"): the rest of the land, now belonging to Francis Barber Kettle, separated by a wall owned by FBK; W: Fisher Street otherwise Star Lane; with half the party walls on the south and 2" of the walls on the north. On 24 and 25 April 1812 part of the site of a barn or building called the Riding House was conveyed by John Edwards Hargraves to Charles Wille the elder of Lewes, timber-merchant, and his trustee George Wille of the Cliffe, maltster (2).

At some date before 1827 Charles Wille sold part of the land, described as above, to John Ade of Lewes, coach-maker; the purchase-price was paid but no conveyance executed, and Ade sold the plot to John Hilton for £77 10s. On 2 and 3 October 1827 Charles Wille was joined by John Ade to convey part of the property, described as above, to John Hilton of Lewes, builder, and his trustee Henry Apsley Hilton of Lewes, builder. Francis Barber Kettle of Lewes, horse-dealer, the purchaser of the largest portion of the estate, covenanted to produce the deeds of 1812 to Hilton. The deed was witnessed by John Smith, clerk to [William] Cooper of Lewes, solicitor (1-2).

Hilton built a house on the site and on 15 September 1829 leased it for seven years from 29 September at £26 to Ebenezer Shaw of Lewes, grocer, and Abraham Shaw of Isfield. A stable then stood on Kettle's land to the east. The

²⁷ Courtesy of Leicester County Council Civic Collection

²⁸ ESRO, AMS 6628, Deeds of 24 Fisher St, Lewes

deed was witnessed by William Stone, clerk to King and Gell (3).

Colin Brent's book on Georgian Lewes²⁹ also mentions Francis' business:

Indeed in Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* loungers at the resort in the weeks before Waterloo could eat "jellies at Duttons", watch the lightning coach from London or inspect the horses bought at Lewes Fair. The Lewes St. dealer George Drowley c 1805-23 kept the spacious Market St. Mews while Francis Kettle managed the Sussex Mews opposite the Star besides leasing the Riding School in Fisher St. Their search for prime specimens took them to fairs at Lincoln, Pershore, Horncastle and Melton Mowbray

although it makes no reference to his father, maybe further evidence that at this time Francis was not working alongside his father John².

By 1818, though, John² was definitely in permanent residence as he appeared in the Poll Book for that year. Francis also voted in 1816, 1826 and 1830, as a horse dealer, residing in the High St, St John. His father was recorded for omitting to vote: At a poll taken in the borough of Lewes, 15th and 16th July 1818:

The following persons are rated in the Poor Books but did not tender their votes:

526 John Kettle Fisher St, Parish of St. John, Gentleman



Rouse's Lithograph of St. John sub Castro as it was in 1835³⁰

Listed as a gentleman, he had presumably retired from business, and it may have been age and infirmity which brought him to live close to his elder son. Five years later he died, and was buried at St. John sub Castro on 17th February 1823 as:

John Kettle 70 years

²⁹ *Georgian Lewes 1714 - 1830. The Heyday of a Country Town* - Colin Brent, Colin Brent Books, 1993

³⁰ SAS library

If this age is accurate, then he would have been born in 1753, but I suspect, as often happened with age, the years became slightly inflated towards the end of life.

John¹ Kettle wrote his will³¹ on 25th February 1820, describing himself as:

John Kettle of Lewes in the county of Sussex horse dealer

His first bequest was to his daughter Ann Barber, wife of William Evans of St. John Street West Smithfield in London (a dealer of some kind). He released the couple from all moneys owed to him apart from rents collected on his property in:

Kent Road near London

and then willed Ann:

all my government securities and bank stock for her own use absolutely, she my said daughter paying interest on the amount of the said sums so as aforesaid advanced by me to her and her said husband after the rate of £5 % per annum and the dividends of my said Government Securities and Bank Stock unto my wife Mary Kettle half yearly for the term of her natural life

Mary was also bequeathed:

the use of all my household furniture plate and plated articles linen china and books

with the proviso that this all be shared between the three children after her death. Francis and John were to receive:

all that my leasehold messuage or tenement with the appurtenances in the Kent Road near London and my leasehold messuage stable and yard in Lewes aforesaid which I hold by lease from Mr Charles Welle

The reference to property in Lewes rekindles the argument about who ran the stables in Lewes. Maybe Francis managed it for his father. The residue of the estate was split between the two sons, but with income from the properties going to Mary for life. Francis and John, as executors, proved the will on 30th July 1827.

It would appear that Mary Kettle née Humphrison went to live with her younger son in later life. She died on 9th May 1833 and was buried at St. James Church, Croydon, on 15th May as:

Mary Kettle, Addiscombe, aged 73

By this time, Mary's daughter Ann was dead. Francis was in financial difficulties, so John was presumably the safe haven.

³¹ TNA, Prob 11/1728, Will of John Kettle of Lewes, 1827

To complete the story of Francis Barber Kettle, things went downhill after his father died. At the end of that year, he dissolved a partnership in Lewes³²:

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership ...between....Francis Barber Kettle and William Burford, under the firm of Messrs Kettle and Burford, in the trade or business of a Horse Dealer at Lewes... was this day dissolved by mutual consent. Dated the 1st day of September 1823.

By 1832 he had moved to Brighton to farm, but in February a notice appeared in the *Sussex Advertiser*³³ to the effect that:

FRANCIS BARBER KETTLE of Brighton... Farmer and Horse Dealer, hath by deed bearing date the 26th day of January, 1832, conveyed and assigned all his Estate and Effects whatsoever to Chas Lee of Cowfold, ... Thomas Wood of Lewes ... and Edward Weston of the same place ...upon trust, for the benefit of all the creditors of the said Francis Barber Kettle

In April³⁴ the same year, his farm was advertised for sale:

On Tuesday 8th May...all that valuable farm with excellent Dwelling House and Premises called New England in Brighton, lying contiguous to the town.... all the LUXURIANT CROPS.... comprising 11 Acres of Wheat, 10 Acres of Oats, 7 Acres of Tares, 16 Acres of Clover, 2 ½ Acres of Lucerne, 3 Roods of Rye and 16 Acres of Meadow Grass

The household furniture also came under the hammer, including:

an elegant French bracket clock with glass cover, a music box, a superior eight day clock in Spanish mahogany case, secretaire, book case

along with linen, glass, china and fixtures and fittings. By November the trustees were paying off the creditors, and by May 1833 they were issuing a final dividend³⁵.

By 1841³⁶ he had apparently picked himself up and was living in Bond Street in Brighton, as a Horse Dealer, with wife Charlotte and a live-in servant. He was able to vote³⁷ again - in 1840 by right of a house on Church Street and in 1841 with a stables on Church Street. However, he was not out of the woods financially, as in 1846 he was declared bankrupt³⁸:

... a fiat of Bankruptcy bearing date 23rd July 1846 is awarded ...against Francis Barber Kettle, of Brighton... Horse Dealer, Dealer and Chapman,

³² <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>, *The London Gazette*, Issue 17958, 16.9.1823

³³ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Sussex Advertiser*, 27.2.1832

³⁴ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Sussex Advertiser*, 30.4.1832

³⁵ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Morning Chronicle* 6.5.1832

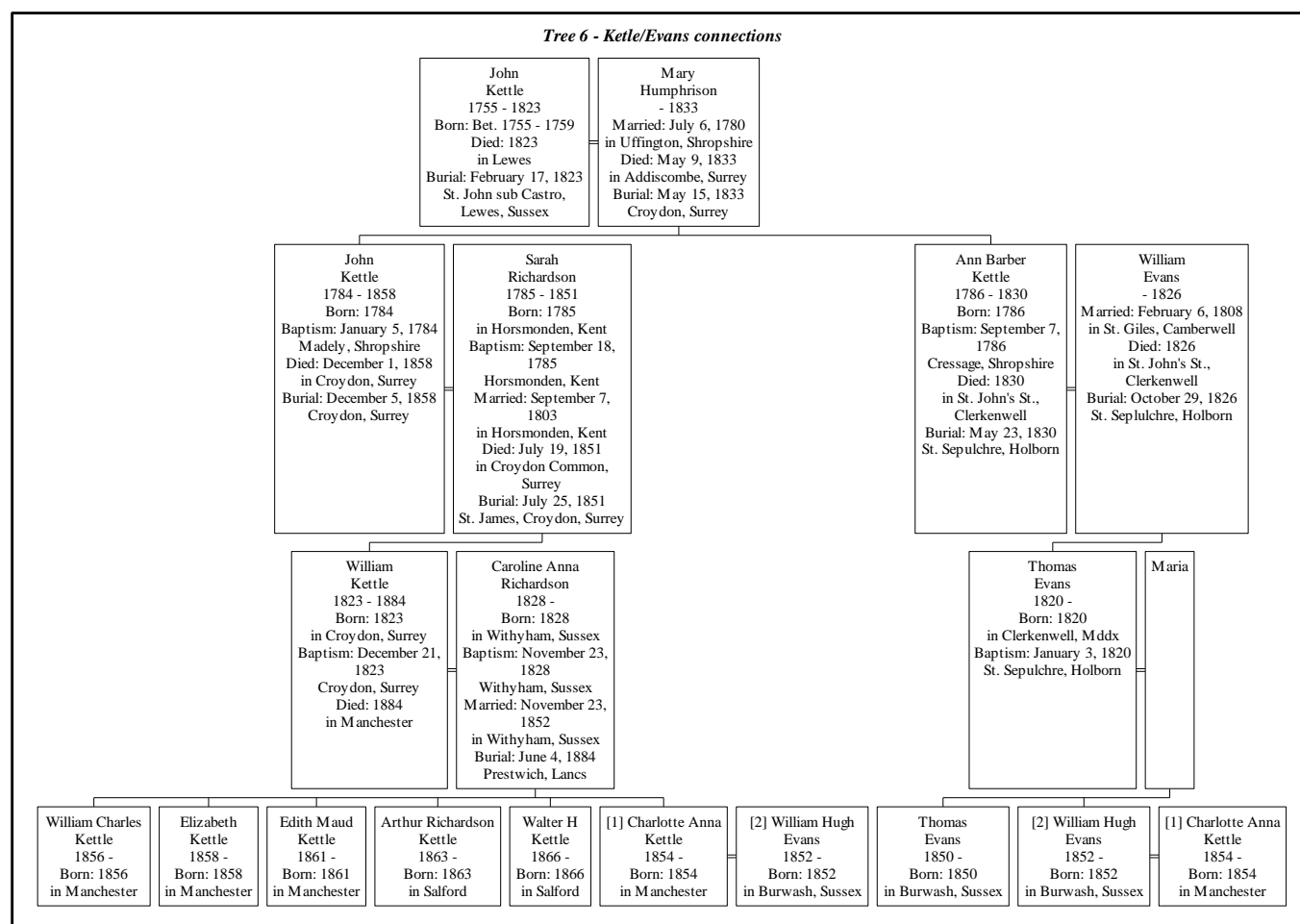
³⁶ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, 1841 census, Brighton, H0 107/1122/12

³⁷ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, UK Poll Books and Electoral Registers

³⁸ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>, *The London Gazette*, Issue 20626, 28.7.1846

and he being declared a bankrupt.... [is required to attend] ... on the 4th of August next, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall Street... London

The proceedings continued until December, and this time it seems that Francis did not bounce back. Charlotte died the following year, and the 1851 census³⁹ shows him living with his unmarried niece, Mary Ann Kettle, a Lodging House Keeper, in William Street in Brighton. He still called himself a horse dealer, but she was the head of the household. Francis Barber Kettle died in 1860, presumably still living in Brighton, where his death was registered.



Humphris or Humphrison: High Ercall, Uffington and Haughmond

Before exploring the life of my direct ancestor John² Kettle, it's time to review the family of Mary Humphrison. This has not been an easy task as the surname is both common in Shropshire and extremely unstable. Mary's surname was written as Humphrison in the marriage register, and yet she signed herself Mary Humphris. In the surname formation, the northern English method was to add son to a father's first name, as in Richardson, Johnson, etc. The Welsh and border counties added an

³⁹ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> , 1851 census, Brighton, H0 107/1645

“s”, or in Wales ‘ap’ as a patronymic, making surnames like Jones and Pritchard. My guess, therefore, was that Humphrison or Humfrison were northern forms of the name, while Humphris or Humfris had their origins in the Welsh tradition. Even amongst individual family members it was not uncommon to use both versions. I had put Mary’s marriage entry as Humphrison down to the prejudices of the vicar, but family members, neighbours and friends wavered between different forms.



Part of the ruins of Haughmond Abbey

No baptism has come to light for Mary Humphris or Humphrison; only the marriage licence confirms her as the daughter of Robert⁴ Humphrison of Haughmond. Consequently there is a degree of surmise in what follows, though I think that on balance, there is enough circumstantial evidence to create a reasoned argument. Both Mary and her father Robert⁴ gave the extra-parochial demesne of Haughmond as their place of residence, but being extra-parochial means there is no home church; baptisms, marriages and burials had to take place elsewhere. Haughmond Demesne sits north of Uffington, bounded on the east by High Ercall, and to the west by the Shrewsbury parishes. A narrow finger of Upton Magna butts onto the south-east corner. Phillimore’s map⁴⁰ subsumes Haughmond into Uffington, and this is where Mary married and I believe Robert⁴ was baptised.

A year after Mary married, (on 21st December 1781) another Robert Humpheys applied for a marriage licence. He stated himself to be 21 years and upwards, so born 1760 or earlier, and said that he was a yeoman, a bachelor and living in the extra-parochial demesne of Haughmond. Given the tiny size of Haughmond, his age, name and status, I am fairly sure that this man, wishing to marry Catherine Mackdonell at St. Alkmund’s, was Mary’s brother, probably a couple of years older than her.

Humphrison (and variants) was a common surname in the area, with a large concentration in Shrewsbury, but of nearly 300 entries at St. Mary’s, not one of the

⁴⁰ *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers*, Cecil R. Humphery-Smith, Phillimore, Chichester, 2003

Humphrison was named Robert. By contrast, on the other side of Haughmond, the Humphrison of High Ercall regularly used this Christian name. Mary was born around 1760, and her supposed brother probably some time earlier so a marriage licence granted at Shrewsbury, on 25th June 1753⁴¹ fits the profile:

...appeared personally Robert Humphrison of the parish of High Ercall a Batchelor aged 26 years and prayed a licence to be granted for the solemnisation of a marriage with Elizabeth Davis of the parish of St. Mary spinster aged 30 years in the church of St. Mary and the said Robert Humphrison being sworn the licence was decreed by me

Ben: Wingfield Surrogate

The condition of this obligation is ...that the said Robert Humphrison of the age of about twenty six and Elizabeth Davis of the parish of St. Mary in... Shrewsbury spinster aged about thirty may lawfully marry together... as witness our hand and seals and the mark of Robert X Humphrison
... Leonard Hotchkis, John Clarke, William Humphrison

The final witness may well have been Robert's older brother, born in 1722.



The 17th century Malthouse, Uffington

I have not found proof that this marriage ever took place – it is not recorded at St. Mary's. (Boyd's Marriage Index records this marriage as having taken place at St. Mary's in 1753 between Elizabeth Davis and Robert Humpherson – a spelling which does not appear on the bond; perhaps he accessed a source no longer extant.) To be 26 in 1753 would suggest a birth in 1726 or 7. A Robert Humphrison, son of William and Ann, was baptised at Uffington on 25th May 1726 – which would have made him just 27 when he applied for the licence, close enough to 'about 26', especially for someone who was apparently illiterate. Robert⁴ left no will, and made

⁴¹ SA, XP 257/W/18/624-5, Shrewsbury Marriage Licences

his mark on two marriage licences (his own and John Kettle's), so it is not possible to compare signatures to prove it is the same man. Unfortunately, the two crosses on John Kettle's bond are not identical, but the first matches very well with the one on his own bond. Furthermore, Haughmond was a tiny community; a population survey taken 50 years later⁴² showed only 20 households – 73 males and 68 females. Two Robert Humphrisons in a male population of 73 seems to be stretching credulity.

An earlier licence was granted to William Humphris of High Ercall, farmer, and Anne Adams of Hodnet on 22nd April 1717. This couple seem to have had six children; the first two were baptised at nearby Shawbury, Robert on 13th June 1720 and William on 4th June 1722. This first Robert was buried at Shawbury on 5th April 1721, and so the next son (Mary's father), baptised at Uffington on 23rd May 1726, was also named Robert. He was followed by two Johns – the first baptised on 1st April 1728 and the second on 25th December 1729. As far as I can tell, both died young, though I have not found their burials. There was also a daughter Elizabeth, probably born in the gap between William and Robert⁴. She and sons William and Robert⁴ were all named in the will of William Humphrison of the Home Barns⁴³. Much of the land around the Uffington area was in the ownership of the Corbett family and a rental of the estate of John Corbett esquire, taken in 1755-6, and relating to several manors and properties, including Haughmond, Uffington and Homebarnes contains an entry which gives a glimpse into William Humphrison's life:

Homebarnes:

	Total yearly rent	Received	Tax and other allowances	Present Arrears
William Humphrison	£42	£41 12/8	Land tax 7/4	-

Three others are listed under the heading Homebarns, suggesting a small community. In addition, these are assessed at £4, £16 and £2, showing William to have been the most substantial tenant. The document also records the total received as £63 12/8. William is the only one listed as paying land tax, which presumably exempted him from paying Corbett the full sum owed.

The burial register at Uffington only records one William Humphrison, buried on 5th March 1783 aged 64. This man would have been born around 1719, making him too young to be the father of Robert⁴ baptised in 1726, and he was not at Homebarns at the time of the rental in 1755. Further investigation suggests that this William was the son of our William's brother Robert³ Humpherson and his wife Elizabeth of Cold Hatton, High Ercall, baptised on 22nd May 1718. Fortunately, 'our' William's will survives, initially dated 12th September 1763, but with a codicil written on 29th July 1769, and a renouncement of executorship dated 1st January 1770, which fits nicely with a burial recorded in the 1769 at High Ercall:

⁴² SA, P286/A/8/15, Population of Haughmond Demesne, 1821

⁴³ LRO, Will of William Humpherson of Barns, 1770

William Humphreys of the Wom Barnes was buried November 4th

As William's will gives his abode as:

the Home Barns in the Chapelry of Haughmond and County of Salop

this must be the right person – despite the discrepancy in the surname - returning, as was his right - to the parish of his birth for burial. The only piece of this jigsaw which doesn't fit is the fact that William's will names his wife as Margaret, not Ann, as on Robert's baptism. However, in those uncertain times it was not unusual for a first wife to die and the husband to marry again.



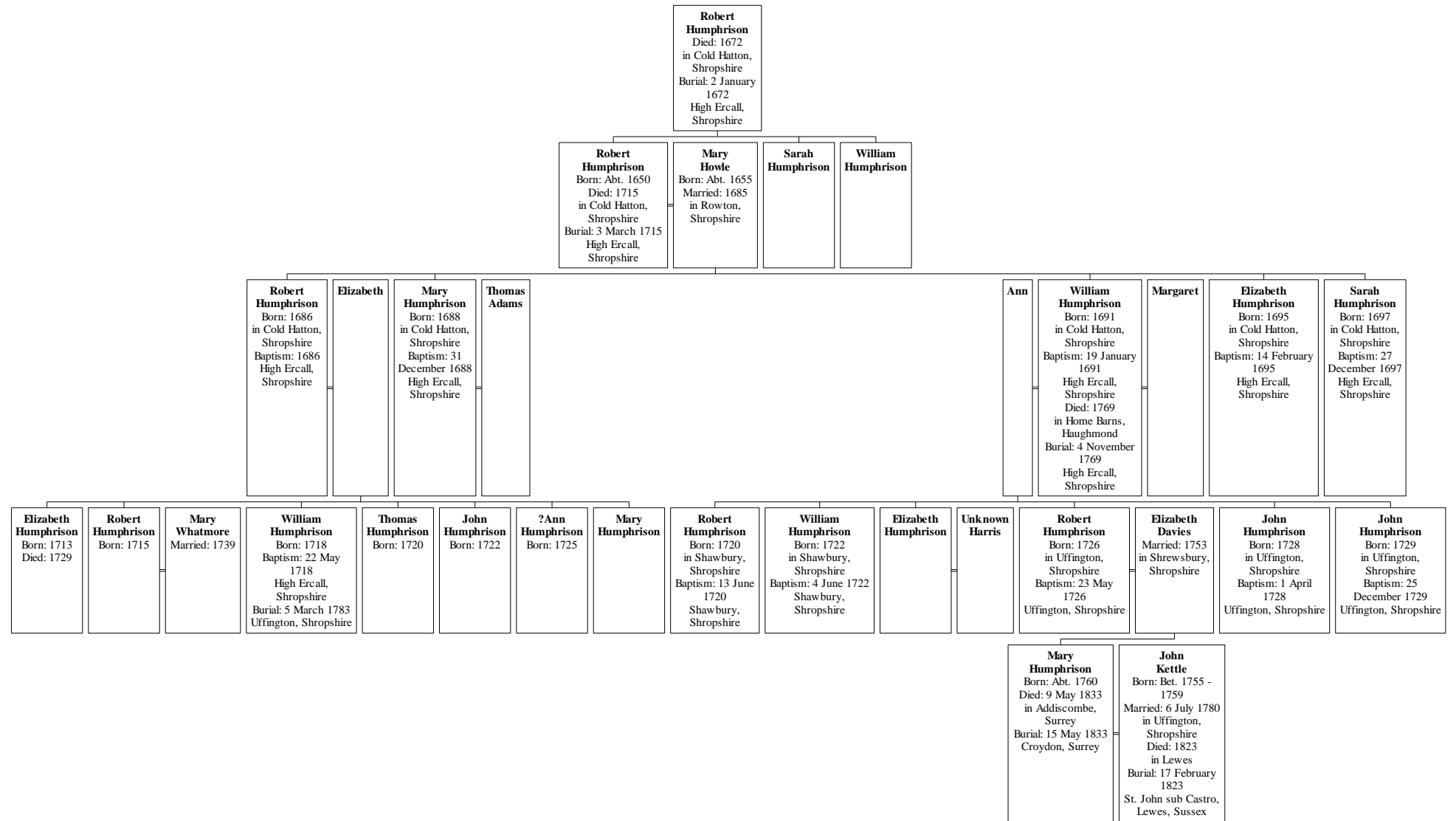
St. Michael and all Angels, High Ercall

The will makes interesting reading not just for the content, but also for the variety of forms of the surname used. William had already been recorded as Humpherson in the Shawbury register; Humphrison in the Uffington register and Humphreyes in the High Ercall burial register. Now the will, while using the spelling Humphrison in the body of the text, has both Humferson and Humfersons on the reverse. In signing the will, William seems to have favoured the spelling Humfreson – at least in this instance.

William wrote his will during a period of bad health in 1763, although he lived for another six years. He called himself a yeoman, and his first bequest was of £40 and all the goods and furniture in his house to his wife Margaret. He was clearly old enough to have several grandchildren (unfortunately not named individually), as he then went on to bequeath £10 each to his three surviving children – William, Elizabeth Harris and Robert – and another £30 to be invested between each of his children's eldest two children (i.e. £10 between each pair of siblings). Any money left over after this division was to be divided equally between all his grandchildren. His executors were to be his son Robert⁴ along with Thomas Gregory and a neighbour, Peter Colley. The witnesses were John Wilde, Thomas

Doe and Jane Colley. Six years later, William's financial circumstances had improved enough for him to add a codicil:

Tree 7 - Descendants of Robert Humphrison



Whereas William Humferson of the Barns did on Sunday the 23rd of July 1769 promised to leave to his son William the sum of £10 after his decease and also to his wife Margaret five pounds more than he left before, also to Ann the daughter of his son William the sum of five pounds more, this was promised in the presence of Thomas Swinerton, Richd Jones and Elizabeth Jones his wife. Wrote down ye 29th of July 1769. By me Peter Colley.

As noted above, Peter Colley and Thomas Gregory renounced their executorship, passing their part of the task over to John Fletcher and Charles Howard, Public Notaries and Proctors at the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. No reason is given; perhaps they were also old and infirm by this time.



Cold Hatton

All the evidence so far reviewed suggests that this William was the child baptised at High Ercall on 19th January 1691:

Willhelmus f Roberti Humphrison de Cold Hatton et Mariae

William was the middle child of a family of five, all baptised at High Ercall, with Cold Hatton given as their residence. Cold Hatton is a hamlet forming part of Rowton Chapelry, but in High Ercall parish, lying around 6 ½ miles from Wellington. Robert² and Mary's first child was Robert³, baptised in April 1686. Mary followed, and was baptised on 31st December 1688. William was followed by two sisters: Elizabeth – 14th December 1695 and Sarah – 27th December 1697.

Robert² was obviously old enough to pay Hearth Tax in 1672, as one of only 13 households listed in the hamlet. The document⁴⁴ offers yet another version of the surname:

Robert Humphreyse 2 (hearths) 4 (shillings)

⁴⁴ http://www.archelou.co.uk/ercall_census/census_index.htm

No marriage has been found for Robert and Mary, but I suspect it took place at Rowton in 1685. The marriage registers for this chapel have not survived, but a licence was granted for the wedding, and the original bond⁴⁵ exists. In it, Robert Humphreys is supported by Richard Stevenson, husbandman of High Ercall. It is dated 23rd November 1685, and the crux of it is that:

...Robert Humphreys and Mary Howle may lawfully marry together... in the face of the Parish Church of Rowton

An accompanying slip of paper, written in Latin, appears to read:

Let a licence of marriage Robert Humphreys of the parish of Ercall Magna, aged 35 husbandman and Mary Howle of the aforesaid parish aged 30...

This implies a date of birth for Robert² of around 1650 – and maybe a second marriage, as he was quite mature. Mary must have been born around 1655.

The Churchwardens' Accounts⁴⁶ for High Ercall begin in the year of Robert's marriage, but his first appearance comes two years later. Each township is listed for church taxes separately, and on the whole these seem to be arranged with the highest payers at the top. Each year of entries is headed with a formulaic:

The true and just accounts of and Churchwardens for the year of our Lord God....

At Cold Hatton in 1687 the first name on the list is a Mrs Mound, paying 5/-, but she is followed by:

Robert Humphreyes	5	10
-------------------	---	----

This was evidently a small community; in 1695, for example, only nine names appeared under the Cold Hatton heading. Robert's name appears on every list: 1689, 1691, 2, 3, 4 and 5; 1697, 8 and 9; 1701, 3, 4, 5/6, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13/14. The same name appears in a run from 1717 onwards, although this must be his son Robert³ picking up taxes for the land inherited from his father. Robert senior is always either top of the list after the first entry, or second to Andrew Mainwairing; however, despite this man's apparently higher status, Robert², paying variously between 3/6 in 1694 and 9/4 at the turn of the century, always exceeds the other man's tax bill by around 6 or 8^d. What is most interesting about this record, though, is the variety of spellings of his surname: Humphreys, Humphres, Humphreis, Humphries, Humphreson, Humphrison, Humphreyson, Humprison and Homphris.

Robert² was presumably not much interested in taking part in parish affairs; maybe out at Cold Hatton, over four miles from the centre of High Ercall, he felt he was too far away to get involved. He did make a couple of appearances in the

⁴⁵ LRO, B/C/6,7 Marriage Bond of Robert Humphreys 1685

⁴⁶ SA, P129/B/1/1, High Ercall Churchwardens' Accounts 1685-1770

accounts, and on 8th October 1693 he was one of the signatories to the following statement:

It was agreed by the parishioners then present that there should be two
lewnes collected for the necessary use of the church

and in 1701 he signed his agreement to the parish choice of churchwardens for the year, pleased, perhaps, that it wasn't him.

These accounts yielded a few more interesting snippets, like the fact that in 1689 the Ercall churchwardens paid 17/6 for the reglazing of the chapel at Rowton where Robert and Mary had married. Maybe this was only partially successful, as in 1691 they paid out for a new window for the chapel. In 1692 they:

Received of Richard Palin of Isombridge executor to Humphrey Howle
deceased the sum of £2 10/- for the use of the poor of the parish of Ercall.

but his will⁴⁷ didn't mention Mary, although it did name Howle siblings and cousins, so presumably if he was related to Mary it wasn't closely, and there were obviously more Howles in the area than seem to get into the registers.

Incredibly, a map⁴⁸ survives from the period when Robert² was living at Cold Hatton, although the archives catalogue gives two dates: 1710 and 1720. It was created from a survey by Thomas Burton, and measures 86 x 72 cms, is beautifully drawn and painted, names the fields, and has a key showing the names of the tenants. The bottom of the hamlet is bounded by the River Tearne or – as it is spelled today – Tern, which demonstrates that the map is not drawn as we would today with north at the top. Instead, the top of the map seems to point to the west.

Robert Humpherson appears at the top of the index box and his holdings are marked with the number 1 thus - 1. Field names are always a delight, and in this instance, Robert's 1 shows that he was farming areas with the following names: Calves Lessow, Seedle, Withy Croft, Near Hill, Copy, Cow Pasture, Middle Hill, Horse Pasture, Deep Meadow, Great Hill, Little Hill, Ray Hill Lessow, Elands Meadow, Meadow Bank, River Bank and No Bridg Meadow. In addition, a yard and an opposite adjacent area bear the same number with the latter showing a minute painting of what must have been the farmhouse. It is difficult to be sure if the next-door building was Robert's outbuildings or a separate farmhouse.

More information about Robert Humphrison comes from his will and the accompanying inventory. The former was dated 27th February 1715, and presumably written in extremis as he was buried at High Ercall on 3rd March the same year:

Robert Humphrison snr of Cold Hatton for whom a mortuary of 10
shillings was paid to the vicar buried

⁴⁷ LRO, B/C/11, Will of Humphrey Howle, 1687

⁴⁸ SA, X972/7/1/3/3 – map of Cold Hatton 1710

Close up of Index and Robert
Humphrison's farmhouse



An Index to the Mapp~

	N ^o
Robert Humpherson.....	1.
M ^r Andrew Manwaring.....	2.
James ^{es} Liveing.....	3.
Tho: James of Podford Farme.....	4.
Thomas Derbyshire.....	5.
Richard Birtch.....	6.
Thomas Wilks.....	7.
John Tyther.....	8.
John Fleming.....	9.
John Browne.....	10.
Thomas Daws.....	11.
William Ferriton.....	12.
M ^r Lloyd Free.....	13.
M ^r Hinton Free.....	14.
James Talbot Free.....	15.
Highways and Comons.....	16.



Map of Cold Hatton
Courtesy of Shropshire Archives

A mortuary was a payment given to the parish priest or local church in recompense for any tithes or other duties not paid at time of death. The amount due depended on a person's means, and those worth less than 10 marks were exempt. There is no reference to any such legacy in the will, so it is not possible to tell if it was Robert's intention or the vicar's insistence that led to the money being handed over.

In the will⁴⁹, Robert² described himself as a yeoman and bequeathed:

to Mary my dear wife and to Robert my eldest son all my household goods
and stock of corn and cattell within doors and without to be equally
divided between them

with the proviso that she remove nothing from her son's ultimate inheritance. She was, however, also given £20 for her own use. William was described as his second son and willed:

the sum of three score pounds and a bed and bedstead and all other furniture
thereto belonging

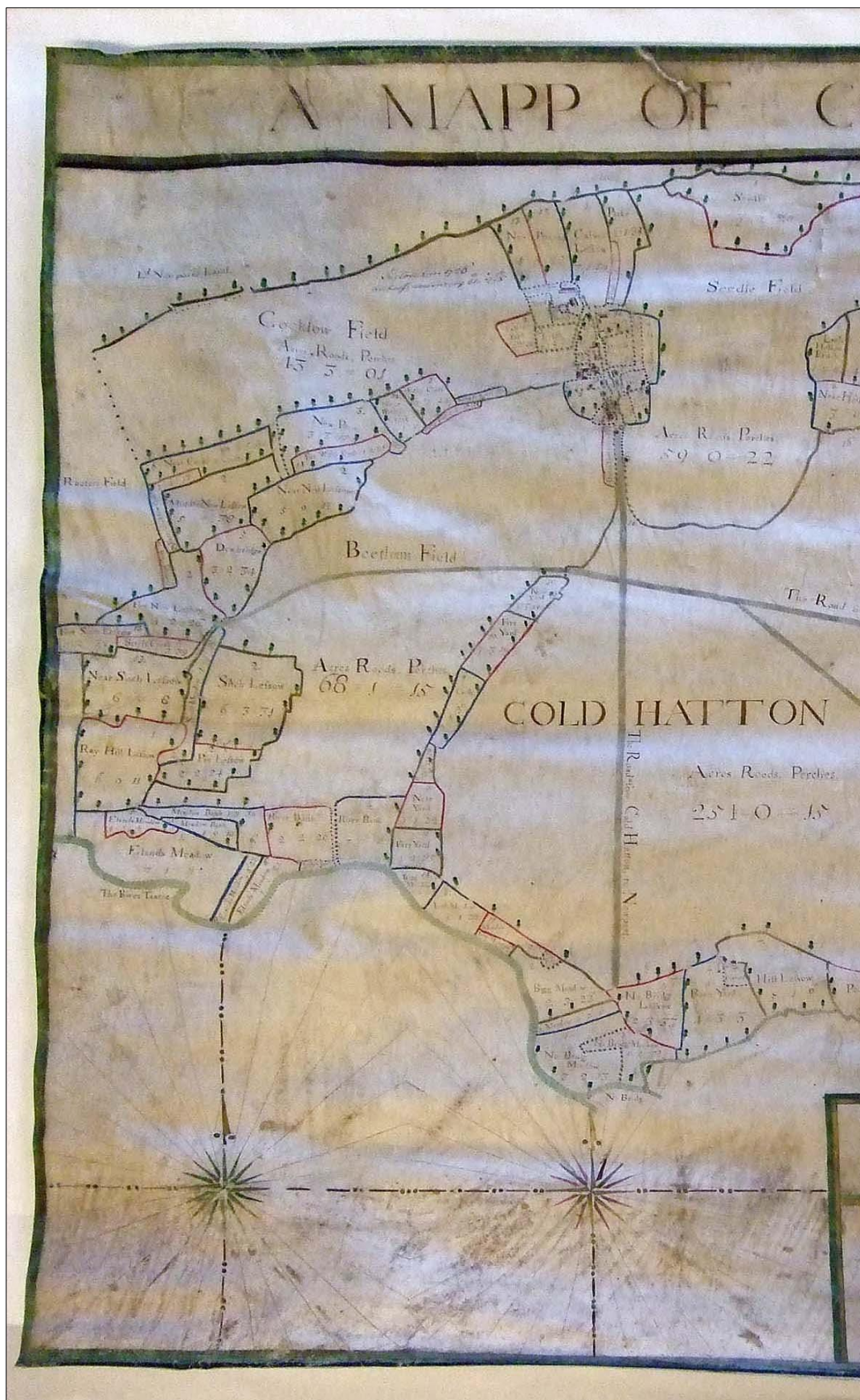
while the two younger daughters received £30 and a bed each. The oldest daughter, Mary Adams, had presumably been provided for at the time of her marriage and so only received 5/-. Her daughters - Elizabeth and Mary, and Robert junior's children - Mary, Elizabeth and Robert, were each given a guinea. His wife Mary and son Robert³ were named as executors and the will was witnessed by Mary Adams (presumably his daughter), Richard Barker and Thomas Spenlove. Interestingly, like his namesake grandson, Robert was only able to make his mark, though this was possibly due to infirmity rather than illiteracy. Probate was granted a month later on 18th April 1716.

The inventory⁵⁰ of Robert²'s goods, which would have been appraised by neighbours who knew him well, was taken on 9th March 1715, and names him as Robert Humphries, demonstrating once again the slipperiness of this surname:

	L	S	d
Imp ^s Four Bullocks	11	05	00
Three Cows	07	10	00
Two heifers	04	00	00
Three twinters	04	10	00
Fifty sheep	08	15	00
One horse one mare part in a colt	06	05	00
Corn in the barn and out of barn and all sorts of hay	09	16	00
Implements of husbandry	02	15	06
Corn growing upon the ground	01	12	04

⁴⁹ LRO, B/C/11, Will of Robert Humphrison of Cold Hatton, 1715

⁵⁰ LRO, B/C/11, Inventory of Robert Humphrison of Cold Hatton, 1715



Map of Cold Hatton 1711

One bed one chest one table in the parlour with the appurtenances thereto belonging and likewise two chairs	02	00	00
Brass and pewter	01	05	00
Barrels bowls and stands	01	08	06
One iron pot and dreeping pan one grate and pottacks fire shovel and tounge a boule the fire	00	15	06
Linens and napery ware of all sorts	01	02	06
Beef bacon butter and cheese	01	10	00
Three hives of bees	00	06	06
Money at interest	120	00	00
His wearing apparel and money in his pocket	03	05	00
Three store pigs	01	04	00
All other things omitted or forgotten	<u>00</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>00</u>
	195	10	08
William Adams)			
William Medings) Apraysers			

Twinters are sheep oxen or cattle that have lived through two winters; store pigs are over 12 weeks old and still growing. Despite occasional idiosyncratic spelling, this inventory shows a relatively prosperous and well-run farm.

Robert² Humphrison was the son of yet another Robert Humphrison, Robert¹, who was buried at High Ercall on 2nd January 1672. He was probably not an old man when he died, though I suspect his wife may have predeceased him. His death may also have been sudden, as Robert², described at that stage of his life as a husbandman, took out letters of administration⁵¹ in default of a will. There were also younger siblings, Sara and William, still minors at the time of their father's death, and much of the administration was designed to protect their interests:

The condition of this obligation is such that if the above-bounded Robert Humphreyson the natural and lawful son of Robert Humphryson senior late of the parish of High Arcall in the co. of Salop deceased to whom the admon of all and singular the goods [etc.] of the said deceased together with the tuition and education of Sara and William Humphreyson natural and lawful children of the deceased being in their minority [is granted].... conveniently educate foster and bring up the said children with sufficient and convenient meals drinks lodging and apparel meet and decent for their estate and ... during their minority pay unto them all such sums of money and portions of good as are or shall be due to them when they shall accomplish their lawful age.

Once again, the name is spelled variously Humphreyson and Humphryson, but the most curious spelling seems to be Robert²'s own signature. In a clear hand, he has written Robert Humphreys at the foot of the obligation. Just above the final 's' is written what looks like 'son'. I did wonder if it could mean 'senior', but there is no

⁵¹ LRO, B/C/11, Admon of Robert Humphreyson of High Ercall, 1671

backwards swirl to suggest an abbreviation, as there is on the 'jun' of the notary's signature, and the 'sen' referring to his father earlier in the same document. In any case, following his father's death, and until the birth of his son in 1686, he was the only Robert in town. Maybe the notary took issue with Robert's version of his name and insisted on 'son' being added.

An inventory was taken of Robert¹'s property as well, and shows him to have been more successful than his son. His estate, appraised by Richard Ryecroft, William Bathoe, William Wood and Richard Steeventon – all local yeomen – was valued at £560 12/4. The biggest amount by far was the £324 owing by bond, along with £72 which had been loaned without security. It would seem that he acted as an informal banker in the community. If his son didn't get the money back, it would explain the difference between the value of their estates. The inventory also shows six oxen, cattle, sheep, horses, bees, pigs, geese and hens, as well as corn and hay, bacon, butter and cheese and all the instruments of husbandry needed for such a mixed farm.

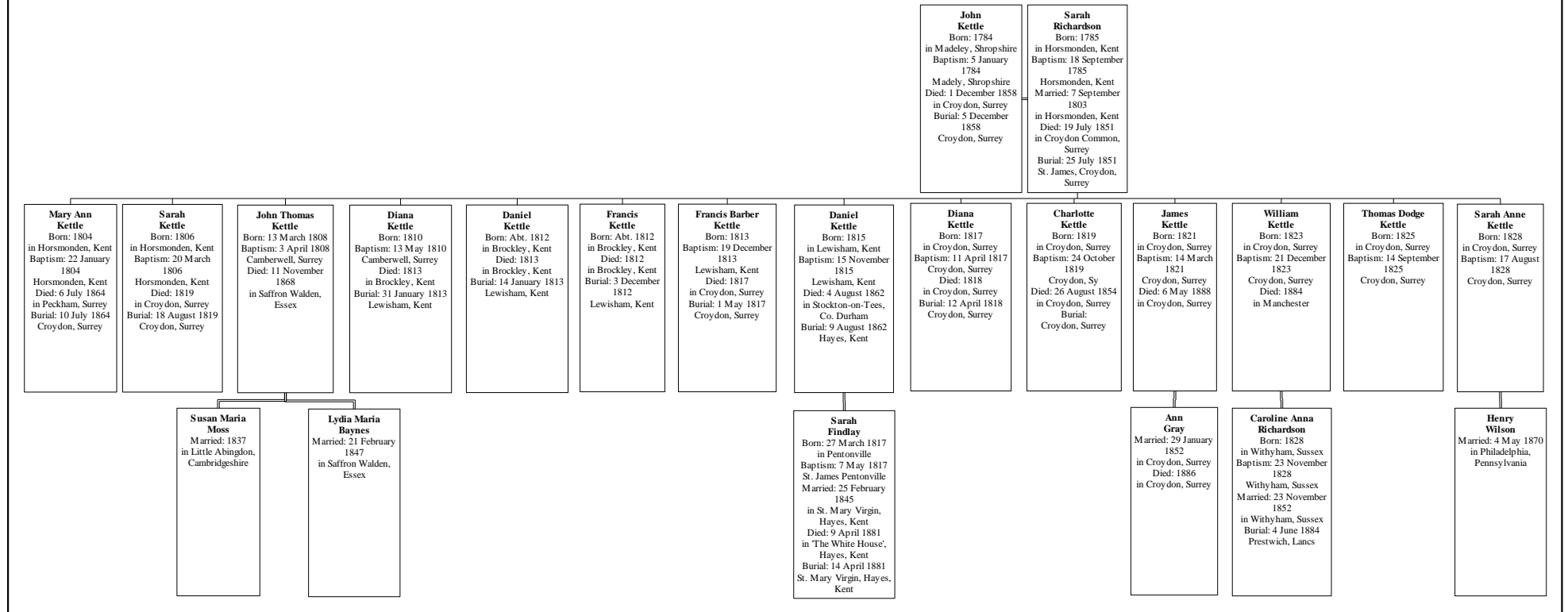
John³ Kettle: Shropshire, Kent and Surrey



St. Michael Madeley

To return to John² Kettle and Mary Humphrison's younger son, John³ Kettle: he was baptised at Madeley, but presumably spent some or all of his childhood in Cressage before the family moved to Southwark, perhaps during his adolescence. Aged only 19, he married Sarah Richardson at her home parish of Horsmonden in

Tree 8 - Family of John and Sarah Kettle



Kent on 9th July 1803. She was also a minor, but pregnant, which is no doubt why his father and her mother supported John in his application for a licence⁵² to marry:

Know all men present that we John Kettle of the parish of Southwark ...
and Dianah Richardson ... are holden and firmly bound....

John junior was described as a horse dealer of St. Saviour Southwark, aged above 20 but under 21 and Sarah was over 18 but under 21. Both parents swore that they consented to the marriage. John senior signed, and Dianah made her mark.

The register records:

John Kettle of the parish of St. Saviour Southwark, and Sarah Richardson of this parish, by licence; James Marriott (rector). Witnesses: John Kettle, John Fishenden, Mary Kettle



St. Margaret of Antioch Horsmonden

Their first child, the Mary Ann who was found living with her uncle Francis in Brighton in 1851, was baptised at Horsmonden on 22nd January 1804. She never married, still living at home in 1841, looking after her uncle in 1851 and recorded as a visitor staying with the Goodman family in London Road Brighton as an annuitant in 1861⁵³. She died in Peckham on 6th July 1864 and was buried at St. James' Church in Croydon on 10th July, aged 60. The next-born, Sarah, was also baptised at Horsmonden, on 30th March 1806, but she was one of several children in this family destined for a short life; she died aged 13 and was buried at St. John's Croydon on 18th August 1819.

By the time their first son, John Thomas, was born, on 13th March 1808, John³ and Sarah were living in Peckham. John junior was baptised at Camberwell on 3rd

⁵² CKS, DRb/M/1803

⁵³ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG 9/595, 1861 Census, Brighton

April. Maybe this move brought them closer to John's sister Ann, who had been married in the same church a few months earlier. John Thomas seems to have inherited the itchy feet gene, as he next surfaces on 14th September 1837 in Little Abingdon in Cambridgeshire, where he married Susan Maria Moss. The 1841 census⁵⁴ shows him, his wife and two children, John and Daniel, living in Castle Street Saffron Walden in Essex, and working as a grocer. After the death of his first wife in 1843, John Thomas married Lydia Maria Baynes on 21st February 1847 at Saffron Walden. The 1851 census⁵⁵ shows them, with son John, at Sewers End Saffron Walden. Ten years later⁵⁶ the same household is back in Castle Street – maybe it was the same place – and John was still a grocer. However, on 11th October 1868 John Thomas died, and an estate valued at under £2,000 was settled by his brother William, woollen merchant of Manchester, and Thomas Day Green, gentleman, of Saffron Walden⁵⁷.



St. Giles Camberwell

The next four children all died young. First came Diana, baptised at St Giles Camberwell on 13th May 1810 and buried at St. Mary Lewisham on 31st January 1813. Francis and Daniel appear to have been twins, born around July 1812, although I have found no baptisms for them. Francis only lived for 5 months, and was buried at St. Mary's on 3rd December. Daniel made it into the New Year, but joined his brother on 14th January 1813. The register noted that the family was living at Brockley in Lewisham by this time. Between burying these two little boys, John² and Mary baptised another son at St. Mary's on 19th December 1813. He was given his recently deceased brother's name Francis, but with Barber as a second name. He, though, was not much luckier than his namesake, and was buried at St. John Croydon (where the family was then living) on 1st May 1817, aged three. Francis Barber's baptism is the first to show an occupation for his father, who was recorded

⁵⁴ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, H0 107/345/5, 1841 Census, Saffron Walden

⁵⁵ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, H0 107/1766, 1851 Census, Saffron Walden

⁵⁶ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG 9/1122, 1861 Census, Saffron Walden

⁵⁷ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, National Probate Calendar

as 'farmer', the only time he is not referred to as a horse dealer. Whether this was a passing occupation or a mistake in the register is not certain.

The fact that Daniel, Francis and Diana all died within three weeks of each other suggests, perhaps, some infectious illness – various websites mention both measles and whooping cough epidemics in this time period. Whatever the cause, when Daniel was born at Brockley and baptised at St. Mary Lewisham on 15th November 1815, his parents must have wondered how long he would survive. In fact it was this child, named after a dead sibling and his maternal grandfather, who grew up to marry Sarah Findlay and whose story was followed earlier. He did not have a long life, but made a successful career as a master grocer (maybe following the lead of his brother John) and fathered six children before dying in 1862 at Stockton-on-Tees where he had settled a few years earlier. It would seem that he, too, had inherited the wanderlust which had brought his father and grandfather from Shropshire to Southwark and all parts south-east.



St. John the Baptist Croydon

Daniel can't have spent long in Brockley, for the next child, another Diana, was baptised on 11th April 1817 at St. John Croydon, but lived only for a year and was buried at the same church on 12th April 1818. Charlotte – baptised 14th October 1819 – did reach adulthood though she never married, and died in 1854. Her memorial inscription, at St. James Croydon Common, read:

Charlotte Kettle d. Aug 26th 1854, aged 34.
This stone is erected by her brothers who best knew
her value and deeply lament her loss.

James, baptised at St. John Croydon on 14th March 1821 was the only son to follow in his father's footsteps and become a horse dealer. He appears to have gone awol at the time of the 1841 census, but was back living with the family in 1851⁵⁸. He

⁵⁸ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, HO 107/1601, 1851 Census, Croydon

married Ann Gray at St. John's Croydon on 29th January 1852. Her father was a licensed victualler, which may explain why, in 1861⁵⁹, this is the occupation recorded for James when the couple were enumerated at Selhurst Road in Croydon. By 1871⁶⁰ he had changed occupation again, and was keeper of a coffee house at 45 Surrey Street. Surrey Street is still the site of a thriving market, so this may well have been a good move on James' part. The same establishment designated him an eating house keeper in 1881⁶¹, so perhaps he had diversified a little. The couple had no children and Ann died in 1886. James died two years later; the National Probate Calendar⁶² noted a personal estate of £59 13/3 and the following:

...James Kettle late of 3 Charles-street Church-road Croydon... Widower who died 6 May 1888 at 3 Charles-street... to John Kettle of Great Chesterford Saffron Walden in the county of Essex Grocer the Nephew and one of the Persons entitled in Distribution.

The next child, William, was baptised on 21st December 1823 at St. John's. Like James, he seems to be missing from the 1841 census, but was enumerated with the rest of the family in 1851, occupation woollen draper. Despite all their flitting, Sarah had obviously kept in contact with her family, as when William married in 1852 it was to his cousin Caroline Anna Richardson who had grown up at Blackham in Sussex, daughter of Sarah's brother Daniel. The marriage took place on 23rd November at Withyham, the parish church for Blackham. However, the Kettle wanderlust kicked in for William too, as the marriage entry shows he was already settled in Manchester.

Here William seems to have gone into partnership with one John Henry Lee, (the censuses show no other William Kettle in the area whose occupation fits) and a series of adverts appeared in the *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*⁶³ clearly designed to alert the public to a new enterprise. The first reads:

WOOLLEN CLOTHS. - the Best Value for money.
- LEE and KETTLE Leeds House. 20, Market-street

Others advertise, over a number of years:

FANCY Doeskins & Vestings in every style and quality

QUALITY, - the true test of cheapness for Woollen Cloths

20, MARKET-STREET for 3s 9d wool-dyed BLACK DOESKINS

LEEDS HOUSE for 8 s 6d wool-dyed BLACK CLOTH

⁵⁹ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG 9/450, 1861 Census, Croydon

⁶⁰ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG 10/840, 1871 Census, Croydon

⁶¹ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG 11/809, 1881 Census, Croydon

⁶² <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, National Probate Calendar

⁶³ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 3.9.1853, 12.11.1853, 17.12.1853, 4.2.1854, 18.3.1854,

Presumably this flurry of advertising paid off, as after the end of 1854 there are no further announcements designed to drum up business. Business was presumably good as in 1860 the company advertised in the same paper for an assistant.



Lee and Kettle Manchester⁶⁴

A photograph held in the Manchester Art Gallery Collections⁶⁵ shows Lee and Kettle's original store at 20 Market Street, on the corner of Cross Street. The store's name is clearly visible. The picture is entitled Newalls Buildings, and the premises was already famous as the home of the Anti-Corn Law League in the 1840s. In 1867, though, the business had to move, as the site was to be used for the third incarnation of the Manchester Royal Exchange (now housing the Royal Exchange Theatre), and an advertisement was put into the paper⁶⁶ to alert customers to the change of address to 94 Market Street:

NOTICE OF REMOVAL, - LEE AND KETTLE

Respectfully inform their friends, that in consequence of the premises, 20, Market-street, Manchester, being required for the building of the New Royal Exchange, they have taken the commodious Warehouse, situate 94, MARKET-STREET where their Business will be continued.

and continue it did until 1883. In that year, something clearly happened to rupture the partnership, as a notice appeared in the *Manchester Courier*⁶⁷ as follows:

NOTICE is hereby given that the PARTNERSHIP heretofore subsisting

⁶⁴ Courtesy of Manchester Art Gallery

⁶⁵ <http://www.manchestergalleries.org/the-collections/search-the-collection/display.php?EMUSESSID=a508a00f2ffeb7599ca098844920c3e0&1117941270>

⁶⁶ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 6.4.1867

⁶⁷ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 3.2.1883

between us the undersigned JOHN HENRY LEE and WILLIAM KETTLE carrying on business in co-partnership as woollen merchants at No. 24 High-street, Manchester, under the style and firm of 'Lee and Kettle', is this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent. All debts due to and owing by the said firm of Lee and Kettle will be received and paid by the said John Henry Lee, who will carry on the said business at No. 24, High-street aforesaid on his own account. – Dated this 22nd day of January, 1883.

This legal notice had been signed by both men in front of a solicitor. A very similarly worded notice appeared below, but this time dissolving the partnership as cotton spinners between John Henry Lee, William Kettle and one Joseph Lees at a premises called Moses Gate near Bolton. There is no clue as to what caused the breakdown after all these years, but it seems that William then tried to go it alone, advertising⁶⁸ himself as:

WILLIAM KETTLE, (late of the firm of Lee and Kettle, WOOLLENS and TAILORS' TRIMMINGS, 63, Cannon-street, Manchester. Terms to wholesale buyers, 4 per cent prompt 3 ¾ 14 days, 2 ½ two months

The 1861 census⁶⁹ showed William and his wife in Camp Street, Broughton, near Salford, with children Charlotte, William, Elizabeth, Albert and Edith, and Caroline's sister Sarah, who was visiting. In 1871⁷⁰ the family was living at Prestwich Park, and William was designated a Woollen and Manchester Merchant. Another son, Walter, had been born and there were four live-in servants, a visitor, Emily Robinson, and a 23 year-old niece - Daniel Kettle's daughter, Helen, my great-grandmother. Ten years later⁷¹, the family was still in Prestwich, in Bury Road at a house named Addiscombe, presumably after William's old home in Croydon. There were four servants in the household as well as William's youngest sister, Sarah Anne, a widow, with a daughter named Marie, born in Canada. Caroline Anna died three years later, and was buried, aged 55, from Lower Broughton in Prestwich on June 4th 1884. William's death was registered in Manchester in the following quarter, but I have not managed to trace his burial.

John³ and Sarah's penultimate child, named Thomas Dodge (the latter name being his grandmother Diana's maiden name) was also short-lived, being baptised on 14th September 1825 and buried on 17th November 1827.

With the last of the brood, Sarah Anne, baptised at St. John Croydon on 17th August 1828, the Kettle wanderlust kicked in big time. The 1841 census⁷² shows her living with her parents but after that, I have found no further record of her in England until she was enumerated at her brother's house in Prestwich in 1881, with her profession recorded as retired schoolteacher. The surprising thing was that her

⁶⁸ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 30.6.1883

⁶⁹ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG 9/2908, 1861 Census, Broughton

⁷⁰ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG 10/4067, 1871 Census, Prestwich

⁷¹ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, RG11/4032, 1881 Census, Prestwich

⁷² <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, H0 107/1079/5, 1841 Census, Mitcham

daughter Marie's place of birth was given as Canada. Even more surprising is the fact that her marriage to Henry Wilson of Manchester appears to have taken place on 4th May 1870 at the Central Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the United States, when she was 42 years old and clearly very pregnant. The event was published in the *New York Herald*⁷³ on 12th May as follows:

WILSON - KETTLE. - At Philadelphia, on Wednesday, May 4, Mr HENRY WILSON, late of Australia and British Columbia, to Miss S.A. KETTLE, late of Prestwich, Lancashire, England.

The baby's birth took place some 900 miles or 1,400 kilometres away in Algoma County in Ontario, across the border into Canada in a region which bordered onto Lakes Superior and Huron. Canadian records were evidently very detailed, so Marie's birth registration gives the following information:

When born: July 6th 1870 Name: Marie Wilson Sex: F
Name and surname of Father: Henry Wilson
Name and maiden surname of Mother: Sarah Ann Kettle
Rank or profession of father: Gentleman
Signature, description and residence of Informant: Henry Wilson Esq,
 Manchester, England
When Registered: July 13th 1870
Name of Accoucheur: Chas N Trew MD
Signature of Registrar: Henry Pilgrim
County: Algoma



Sarah Anne Kettle

⁷³ <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/us-and-world-newspapers/page/view/10770418>

It is intriguing that Henry Wilson gives his place of residence as Manchester. Whether the couple met in England when Sarah was visiting or living with her brother, or in America or even Canada can only be guessed at. I have not been able to find any further trace of Henry, Sarah or Marie. A photograph, with the name Sarah Anne Kettle on the back, and dated 1868, has come down through the family. Maybe it was taken as a memento for the family before she left England, or maybe it was sent back from abroad.

To return finally to John³ Kettle and his wife Sarah Richardson: it seems clear from the baptisms of their children that they moved frequently in the early years of their marriage. The first two children were born at Horsmonden, Sarah's home parish. From there, the family moved to Brockley and then to Croydon. In 1822 and 3, Piggotts Directory⁷⁴ places John Kettle, horse dealer in Church Street in Croydon. The same description appears in Piggotts⁷⁵ in 1839.

Three years previously, on September 1st 1836, John³ had been party to a release⁷⁶ to one brother-in-law, Daniel Richardson, under the terms of the will of his other brother-in-law, James Richardson.

Know all Men by these Presents I John Kettle of the Parish of Croydon in the County of Surrey Horsedealer Send Greetings Whereas in the last will and testament in writing of James Richardson late of the Parish of Withyham deceased bearing date the twenty-fourth of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four are the words following "Whereas John Kettle of Croydon in Surrey the husband of my sister Sarah stands now indebted in or about the sum of six hundred and seventy- five pounds to myself and my brother Daniel Richardson Now it is my will and meaning and I hereby bequeath my moiety of such sum to the said John Kettle absolutely with all interest that may be due thereon at my decease And I further direct that the other moiety of such sum so due as aforesaid to my brother Daniel Richardson shall be discharged by my said brother to the said John Kettle immediately on my decease without any consideration for the same....

There is no clue in the document as to why John³ Kettle had needed a loan from his brothers-in-law; maybe he was as unfortunate in his financial dealings as his brother Francis had been; or maybe the loan had been to help his brother out. Whatever the case originally, James was obviously determined to wipe out the debt, and was equally adamant that his brother should do the same.

Now I the said John Kettle do hereby admit and acknowledge that the said Daniel Richardson has relinquished all claim to the said recited debts so due and owing to him by me as aforesaid and also the said debts so due and owing by me to the said James Richardson ...Now I the said John Kettle do hereby release and discharge the said Daniel Richardson ...from all and

⁷⁴ Piggotts Directory of Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex, 1822, 1823

⁷⁵ Piggott's Royal, National and Commercial Directory of the Counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex, 1839

⁷⁶ ESRO, ACC4937/Box 3 1752 - 1979, Clients' Papers re. Stephnett's Farm

all manner of claims and demands actions writs bills accounts and all other charges whatsoever from and by virtue of the said will of the said James Richardson deceased or in any manner relating thereunto and do for ever quitclaim any right or title to any legacies residues or other monies under the said will ... As Witness my hand and seal this first day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

Signed Sealed and Delivered	}	
being first duly stamped in the	}	<i>Jno Kettle</i>
Presence of.....	}	

By the time of the 1841 census⁷⁷, John and his family had either moved again or were living away from the business, in the vicinity of New Barnes Farm on Mitcham Common, where John and Sarah were enumerated with daughters Mary, Charlotte and Sarah. It is hard to be sure of the precise location from the census return. The name New Barnes Farm is actually written next to the next-door household of James Arthur, and there is no property name next to John Kettle. An old photograph on-line⁷⁸ shows an extensive property, which could well have been divided into tenements by this time. Certainly the only map I have found of the area close to this time⁷⁹ shows little building on the Commonsides. The article suggests that documentary evidence for the house goes back to the early 17th century, adding that the associated land was known as New Barnes Grounds and that the farm may date from the reign of Elizabeth I. The 1874 map refers to the property as Galpins, which, according to an article on nearby Pollards Hill⁸⁰, was an alternative name:

Most of the woodland was cleared in the Middle Ages, becoming the meadows and dairy pasture of New Barnes Farm, also known as Galpins. James Arthur – a ‘physic gardener’ – grew aromatic herbs here in the mid-19th century.

Commonside East, the road on which New Barnes stood, was described in another article written by the Merton Historical Society⁸¹:

Commonside East.. [shows] ... how as early as the 17th and 18th centuries desirable sites bordering the open heath had been enclosed for the building of several substantial houses.....Closer examination shows the history of the hinterland to be even more interesting, for here a medieval open field system had survived virtually intact until the mid-19th century before giving way to market gardens, a firework factory and other light industry, gravel extraction, brickworks and chemical works - each making its own contribution to the economic history of the expanding town.

⁷⁷ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> , HO 107/10785, 1841 Census, Mitcham

⁷⁸ http://www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/doc_library/BULL165.pdf

⁷⁹ <http://mapco.net/surrey1874/surrey18.htm>

⁸⁰ <http://hidden-london.com/gazetteer/pollards-hill/>

⁸¹ Merton Historical Society

<http://www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/mitcham/Pollards+Hill,+Commonside+East+and+Lone+some>

By the next decade, John was appearing in the directories back in Central Croydon, in the High Street in 1850⁸², on Croydon Common in 1851⁸³, and on the south side of Cherry Orchard Road in 1853⁸⁴, always as a Horse Dealer. Although there is no sign of a common now, it would have been so close to what is now Cherry Orchard Road, that the two addresses may well have been the same place. Certainly, his address in the 1851 census⁸⁵ is given as Cherry Orchard Lane and the household is recorded as follows:

John Kettle	H	m	67	Horse Dealer	Sal, Cressage employing 1 man
Sarah Kettle	W	m	65		Kent, Horsmonden
Charlotte Kettle	dau		30		Sry, Croydon
James Kettle	son		29	Horse Dealer	Sry, Croydon
William Kettle	son		27	Woollen Draper	Sry, Croydon
Emma Jarvis	serv	u	19	House Serv'	Sry, Addington

John's wife Sarah died later in the same year of heart disease. Her death certificate reads:

19th July 1851 Croydon Common, Sarah Kettle, 65 years, wife of John Kettle dealer in horses, pericarditis 7 days, serous effusion

She was buried at St. James Croydon on 25th July with a monumental inscription reading:

Sarah, wife of John Kettle, died July 9th 1851, aged 65



St. James Croydon⁸⁶

The *Surrey Gazette*⁸⁷ recorded her passing:

⁸² Croydon and Reigate Directory 1850

⁸³ Essex, Herts, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex Post Office Directory 1851

⁸⁴ Kelley's Directory 1853

⁸⁵ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>, HO 107/1601 432b, 1851 Census, Croydon

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Sarah Kettle died 9.7.1851 at Croydon. Sarah, wife of Mr John Kettle dealer in horses, aged 65

A book called *Croydon in the Past*⁸⁸ paints a brief portrait of John³ Kettle and his stables:

Mr John Kettle was a livery stable keeper and horse keeper, residing in Addiscombe Road, nearly opposite Ashburton Road. When the Military College was in existence, most of the pupils hired their horses from Mr Kettle; and the professors and others who could afford to keep a horse of their own generally dealt with Mr Kettle. Many a general officer in the Indian army will have a lively recollection of this old gentleman's horses, some of which he let out to the cadets, and were more celebrated for bone and spirit than flesh.

John³ Kettle died on 1st December 1858 at Gloucester Road in Croydon, not far from from Cherry Orchard and Addiscombe Roads; the Kettle wanderlust finally extinguished, maybe. He had not left a will. The death certificate recorded:

1st December 1858, John Kettle, male, 75 years, horse dealer, diseased heart and kidneys 4 years dropsy 6 months, Philly Woodhorns, present at the death, 5th December 1858.

The local paper⁸⁹ also noted the event:

Deaths: Kettle. December 1st at Gloucester Rd, Croydon. Mr John Kettle, aged 75 years.

John³ Kettle was buried at St. James Croydon Common on 5th December 1858 and the following wording added to his daughter Charlotte's memorial:

John Kettle, her father, d. Dec 1st 1858, aged 75

See Part 2 for continuation

⁸⁷ <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, Surrey Gazette, 5.8.1851

⁸⁸ *Croydon in the Past – Historical Monumental and Biographical*, Pub: Jesse W Ward, Croydon, 1883

⁸⁹ CCL, *Croydon Chronicle*