

Hughes, Jones, Davies and Weaver

*A tour around Northern Herefordshire,
Southern Shropshire - and a little bit of Wales*

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There are bound to be mistakes in this account. If you find any, please let me know.

Abbreviations

HARC	Herefordshire Archives and Record Office
SA	Shropshire Archives
RD	Registration district

Elsie Mary Hughes - Leominster

Elsie Mary Hughes was the grandmother my husband never knew, as she died around eight months before his birth. She was born in Leominster on 20th February 1896 and spent most of her life in that town. She was baptised at the beautiful old Priory Church in Leominster:

April 12th Born Feb 20th; Elsie Mary; William Thomas and Mary Ann;
Hughes; 2 Pinsley Road Leominster; Railway Servant

She married at the same church on 14th April 1920, and although she was laid to rest in Leominster Cemetery, the funeral service was also conducted in the Priory. Ten months later, her first grandchild was baptised there.

Elsie attended the National School in Leominster and seems to have been a model and healthy pupil. An item in the *Leominster News*¹ in 1904 explains that:

Though sickness was prevalent during a part of 1903 and the schools were closed during the month of July, yet a goodly number in each department qualified for a prize... Each of these received a beautiful book... The following children were never absent, never late during 1903...

Named in the list of children below is Elsie Hughes. Five years later, the same newspaper² published a prize list:

...in connection with the Diocesan Bible and Prayer Book Examination...

and again, Elsie is there, along with her cousin Gladys Hubbard. These two also joined the *Girl's Friendly Society*. A charity with this name still exists, and is described as follows on its website³:

GFS is a feminist charity that has spent almost 150 years supporting girls and young women.

I doubt Elsie and Gladys would have described themselves as feminists, but at an annual gathering in 1916, the two girls were given an award for seven years' satisfactory membership⁴. This gathering was held at *The Hall*, Etnam Street, a road which would be Elsie's home during much of her married life.

¹ *Leominster News*, 12.2.1904

² *Leominster News*, 19.3.1909

³ <https://girlsfriendlysociety.org.uk/>

⁴ *The Kington Times* 8.7.1916



Elsie Mary Hughes

Her early days, though, were spent at 2, Pinsley Road in Leominster. If the numbering on that street has stayed constant, this was a fairly sizeable, detached house with five bedrooms, close to a park and with a large garden. However, the street has clearly been redeveloped over the years, and given that her father was a railway carter, it seems an unlikely setting for the family. The 1901 census⁵ shows her father, William T Hughes, aged 35, born at Hatfield in Herefordshire and her mother, Mary Ann, aged 31, born in Downton, Shropshire. William, her elder brother, was seven and born in Cardiff, while Elsie, two years younger, was born in Leominster, as was her brother, Reginald, aged one. Also in the house were Mary Ann's sister Fanny and her son Frederick, aged 19 and 2 weeks respectively. Fanny gave her occupation as Housemaid, Domestic.



Elsie and her brothers – William, Reginald and Henry

⁵ RG13/2493, 1901 census, Leominster

In 1911⁶, the family was living at 6, Cranes Lane, nearer to the centre of town. This was a three-bedroom, terraced house, with a front and back garden, and must have been somewhat cramped as the household now contained William, listed as working for a railway company, Mary Ann, William junior – a clothier's assistant – Elsie, now 15 and in domestic service though living at home, Reg, another brother Henry, aged 5, sister-in-law Jane, aged 34, and nephew Fred. Jane, like her sisters before her, was listed as a domestic servant, but currently 'at home'. Reg, Henry and Fred were all at school.

Presumably Elsie remained in service during the war years, but at some point she met Leonard Griffiths, and the two were married at the Priory Church on 14th April 1920. A photograph taken after the event shows the happy couple surrounded by family. Among those who can still be identified are Elsie's brothers Reg and Harry, her father William Hughes, his sister Annie Hubbard and Elsie's maternal aunt Jane Yapp.



⁶ RG14/15810/6, 1911 census, Leominster



Elsie and Len

To begin with, the couple settled in the Hughes home at 6 Cranes Lane. A run of Electoral Registers shows that they were still there in 1936, so it was here, on 23rd November 1923 that Elsie's only son, Leonard Henry Griffiths was born. By 1939⁷ the family had moved the short distance to 20 Cranes Lane, where, as the 1939 *Register* quaintly puts it, she was engaged in:

unpaid domestic duties

After that, she only makes a couple of brief appearances in the newspapers before her death. In 1940⁸, she was one of the collectors in a Flag Day organised by the local mayoress on behalf of the *Herefordshire Fund for the Blind*, a task she repeated the following year⁹.

By the time of her death, in 1948, Elsie and Len were living at 64, Etnam Street in Leominster. The *Kington Times*¹⁰ announced her death:

The death of Mrs. Elsie Mary Griffiths, wife of Mr. Leonard Griffiths, of 64, Etnam Street, Leominster, occurred on Monday at the age of 52...

⁷ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> , 1939 *England and Wales Register*, Leominster

⁸ *The Kington Times*, 7.9.1940

⁹ *The Kington Times*, 27.9.1941

¹⁰ *The Kington Times*, 19.6.1948

The following week, another article appeared¹¹:

FUNERAL AT PRIORY CHURCH

Late Mrs. E.M. Griffiths

Over 50 wreaths were laid on the grave of Mrs Elsie Mary Griffiths, of 64, Etnam Street, Leominster, including many from friends and neighbours when she was buried at Leominster Cemetery last Saturday. Mrs Griffiths was well-liked by all, and her gentle personality endeared her to those who knew her.

The vicar (Rev. T.J. Savage) conducted the service at the Priory Church and officiated at the graveside.

Family mourners were Mr. Leonard Griffiths (husband), Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Griffiths (son and daughter-in-law), Messrs. W.J., R.T., and H.G. Hughes (brothers), Mr W. Hughes (nephew), Mr F.J. Davies (cousin), Mrs W.J. Hughes, Mrs R.T. Hughes, Mrs H.G. Hughes (sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs H. Griffiths (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs W Hughes (uncle and aunt), Mr J. Davies and Mrs Roscoe (uncle and cousin), Miss D. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs T. Phillips, Mr G. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. F. Little (cousins).

There were also several friends and neighbours present.

Her death certificate reads as follows:

Fourteenth June 1948. 64 Etnam Street, Leominster U.D.; Elsie Mary Griffiths; female; 52 years; Wife of Leonard Griffiths a Railway Porter. Guard; Ia) Asthenia b) Ovarian Carcinoma; R T Hughes, Brother, present at the death, 84 Etnam Street Leominster

Asthenia is a term for general weakness and fatigue – not surprising in someone suffering from terminal cancer. Her memorial in Leominster Cemetery reads:

Elsie Mary Griffiths who died 14th June 1948
Peace Perfect Peace

The early Hughes – Radnorshire, Herefordshire and Shropshire

The furthest-back member of this particular Hughes family I have found is Elsie's probable three-times-great-grandfather Thomas Hews, who - with a wife named Elizabeth – baptised three children at Lingen, a small, rural parish close to the Welsh border. James, Elsie's two-times-great-grandfather, was baptised on 24th May 1767. Three sisters, Jane, Mary and Sarah, were baptised on 6th August 1769, 1st February 1772 and 17th February 1774 (**See tree 1 p. 11**). Apart from one tiny clue, these are the only details I have discovered about the parents and their daughters.

¹¹ *The Kington Times*, 26.6.1948



Lingen St Michael and all Angels

The records for the manor of Lingen are scanty, to say the least, but a single sheet¹² does survive from this period, headed:

A Court Roll for the several manors of Lingen and Aymestrey held at the Dwelling House of Elizabeth Bradford Widow at Mortimers Cross the 23 day of April 1771

It is simply a list of names, with the occasional marginal comment which I assume refers to acreage. Under Lingen, one line reads:

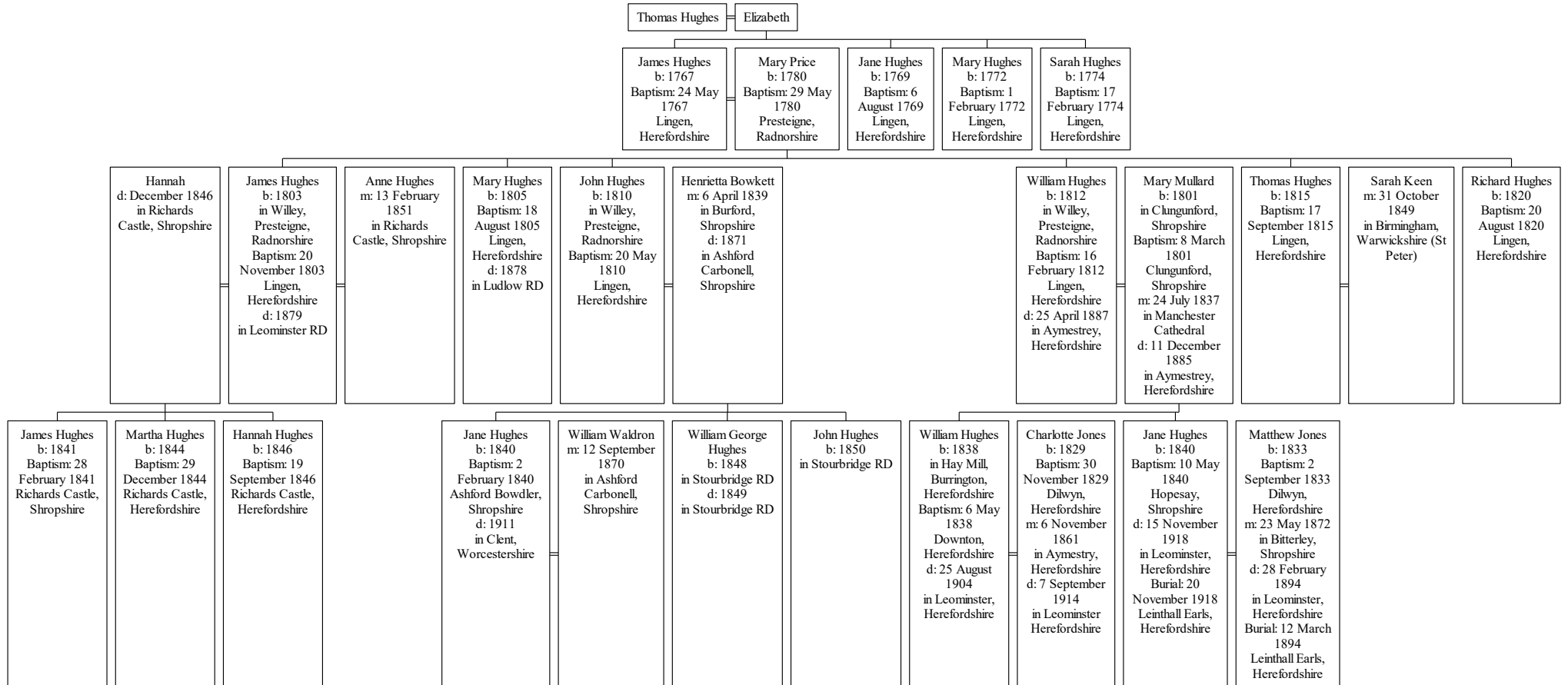
I a Tho^s Hughs

If this is our Thomas, he at least had a small stake in the land in his own parish.

His son James married Mary Price at Presteigne in Radnorshire on 4th August 1803. Although the town is in Wales, the parish also covers a large area in Herefordshire, so perhaps a marriage there is unsurprising. Their first son, also James, was baptised at Lingen on 20th November the same year. Two daughters followed, Mary - baptised on 18th August 1805 - and Ann, baptised on 31st March 1808. After that, it was all boys: John - 20th May 1810, William (our next in line) on 16th February 1812, Thomas - 17th September 1815 and Richard, baptised at Lingen like all his siblings, on 20th September 1820. The last two baptisms give an abode at Newhouse. There are two places with this name near Lingen, one just to the east of the village and the other about a mile and a half to the west. Of the two, this is the more likely as it is close to Willey, which William later gave as his place of birth. It is also within the civil parish of Willey and in easy reach of Presteigne. No burials have come to light for James and Mary.

¹² HARC, G39/1/4/36, Court Roll for Manors of Aymestrey and Lingen, 1771

Tree 1 - Descendants of Thomas and Elizabeth Hughes



None of their children seems to have settled in their home parish. James, the eldest, married a woman named Hannah and together they baptised three children in Richards Castle. The 1841 census¹³ shows them at Moor Batchcott just outside Richards Castle where James is a 35-year-old Ag Lab, Hannah is 30 and James is 8 months old, having been baptised on 28th February that year. Two daughters, Martha and Hannah were born in 1844 and 1846. Their mother was buried in December 1846 at Richards Castle – no full date given – and at the bottom of the same page is an entry which simply says Hughes. There is no further sign of either of the girls and I suspect they both died young.

On 18th February 1851, James remarried at Richards Castle. Confusingly, his new wife was named Ann Hughes. In 1851¹⁴ James, his wife and 10-year-old son James are living in the household of Ann's brother Thomas at Yarpole, Ann's home parish. In 1861¹⁵, the couple are still in Yarpole with Thomas, but this time James is head of household. In this instance, James cites Presteigne as his place of birth, but in 1871¹⁶ gives Willey. A likely death for him is recorded in the Leominster Registration District in 1879. James junior was in service at Shobdon in 1861¹⁷ but then disappears.

Mary Hughes, baptised at Lingen on 18th August 1805, never married, and although she is designated 'Formerly servant' in the 1851 census¹⁸, she appears in every census in her brother William's household. In 1871¹⁹, there is a note in the margin to the effect that she has been blind for 32 years. She, too, gives either Presteigne or Willey as her place of birth. She died in 1878. After Mary came another daughter, Ann, who was baptised at Lingen on 31st March 1808; after that there is no sign of her.

Next came John, another one with itchy feet. On 6th April 1839, he married Henrietta Bowkett at Burford, in Shropshire, giving his occupation as gardener. The marriage entry names Henrietta's father as Edward, which suggests her birth was in 1799 rather than the 1803 implied in the census returns. Both John and his brother William seem to have chosen spouses considerably older than they were. On 2nd February 1840 John and Henrietta baptised a daughter Jane at Ashford Bowdler. At least two more children were born, William George – registered in Stourbridge in 1848, and died as an infant – and John, born Stourbridge in 1853. In 1851²⁰ John, Henrietta and Jane were in Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, where John was recorded as a Farming Bailiff, born in Lyngen. In 1861²¹, John, Henrietta and Jane

¹³ HO 107/913/4, 1841 census, Richards Castle

¹⁴ HO 107/1981, 1851 census, Yarpole

¹⁵ RG 9/1833, 1861 census, Yarpole

¹⁶ RG 10/2719, 1871 census, Yarpole

¹⁷ RG 9/1833, 1861 census, Shobdon

¹⁸ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Ashford Carbonel

¹⁹ RG 10/2726, 1871 census, Bitterley

²⁰ HO 107/2047, 1851 census, Belbroughton

²¹ RG 9/2116, 1861 census, Clent

were at Clent, where John was listed as a Farmer and Hay Dealer, born in Wiley. John junior was enumerated in his uncle William's household in Aymestrey²².

John, Henrietta and Jane were in Ashford Carbonell in 1871²³. John was now a farmer of 53 ½ acres, employing three men. Inexplicably, his place of birth is given as Brierly Hill, which is near Dudley, while Henrietta purports to come from Forley in Worcestershire – a place which doesn't seem to exist - so my guess is that the enumerator had problems with the handwriting or accent, or that Lingen and Wiley were such small, out of the way places that they were often substituted for by enumerators who thought they knew better. Fortunately, Jane's place of birth is correctly listed as Ashford Bowdler.

At around this time, John Hughes witnessed a fatal accident. On 16th June in the 34th year of Victoria's reign, one William Saviger was:

accidentally casually and by misfortune knocked down and killed by a train on the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway whilst the said William Saviger was in the act of crossing the said Railway at Ashford Bowdler

John was one of a dozen witnesses at the Coroner's Inquisition²⁴ following the death, but interestingly, he, like his brother William, was presumably illiterate; he is the only one of the witnesses to make his mark rather than sign his name.

On 12th September 1870, John's daughter Jane married William Waldron, an accountant, at Ashford Carbonell. The couple moved to Warwickshire and later Staffordshire, with William undertaking a range of different occupations. They raised a family which, not surprisingly, included a daughter named Henrietta. Henrietta senior died at Ashford Carbonell in October 1871, and four years later, John married again, to Marion Rivett, an American 20 years younger than him born in St John's New Brunswick. The couple were enumerated at Ashford Carbonell in 1881²⁵, but John was still apparently claiming to have been born in Staffordshire, as he had in 1871, so maybe he had spent some part of his life in that county. John's death was registered in the Ludlow registration district in 1888. Marion was still alive in 1911²⁶, living as an old age pensioner in Ludlow. I have not traced her further.

Next-born was William, but his story will be told later as his is the direct line of descent. Thomas, his younger brother, has proved harder to track, and has not been found in 1841. When he married Sarah Keen in Birmingham in 1849, he described himself as a widower, though no earlier marriage has come to light. In 1851²⁷, he and Sarah were found on Heath Road in Upper Swinford, where he was

²² RG 9/1833, 1861 census, Aymestrey

²³ RG 10/2726, 1871 census, Ashford Carbonell

²⁴ SA, QR506/114, Inquisition, Ashford Carbonell, 1871

²⁵ RG11/2616, 1881 census, Ashford Carbonell

²⁶ RG14/342/15874, 1911 census, Ludlow

²⁷ HO107/2035, 1851 census, Upper Swinford

described as an Ag Lab born in Lingunn. She claimed to be two years older and born in Eccleshall, but there is no later sign of her. Presumably her death was the spur for Thomas to move, as in 1861²⁸ he was in Clent as a widowed labourer. Even more confusingly, he was recorded as having been born in Radnor, Chester, which *Ancestry* indexes as Essex. In 1871²⁹ he was still living alone in Clent as a labourer, giving his place of birth as Lingen. He was recorded at Rumbow in Clent in 1881³⁰ and in Clent again in 1891³¹, still on his own. His burial was recorded at Clent, with Rumbow still his address, on 9th July 1892.

Richard is even more elusive. I have found no other record than his baptism in 1820 and given that he was born five years after his next oldest sibling, when his mother had already raised six children in 12 years, he probably died young.

Before following William Hughes' life, it is worth noting that James Hughes' wife Mary Price was baptised at Presteigne on 29th May 1780, the daughter of John Price and Margaret Parker, whose marriage on 21st March 1780 also took place at Presteigne.



Presteigne St Andrew

On three of his children's marriage certificates, James Hughes senior is designated a labourer. His sons James and Thomas also remained labourers, but William, born 1812, seems to have been the most successful member of this particular Hughes family. Like his siblings, he left Willey, but not for any more obvious local destination. Instead, he seems to have headed over 100 miles north, to Pendleton in the parish of Eccles near Manchester. A marriage was solemnised at Manchester Cathedral - then known as the collegiate and parish church - on 24th July 1837 between William Hughes and Mary Mullard. Unlikely as this seems, the pieces

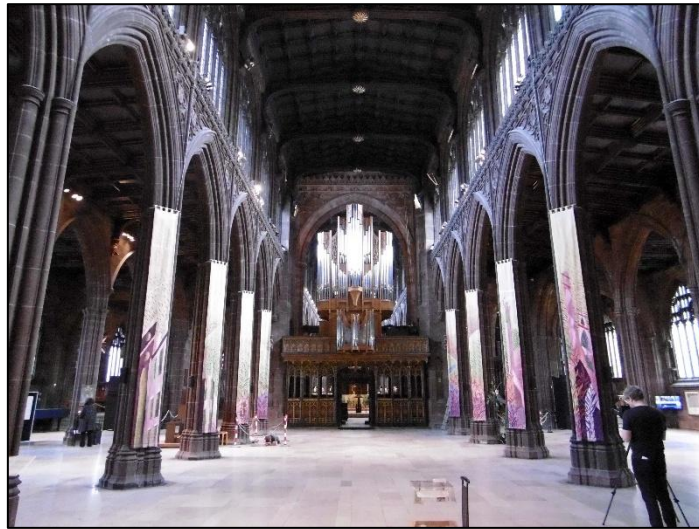
²⁸ RG9/2116, 1861 census, Clent

²⁹ RG 9/3074, 1871 census, Clent

³⁰ RG11/2941, 1881 census, Clent

³¹ RG 12/2346, 1891 census, Clent

fit. Both parties are of full age (William would have been 25 and Mary 36). Both give their parent's occupations as labourer, and both fathers are recorded as James – details which pan out – to clinch it, their son William's birth certificate confirms his mother's maiden name. William and Mary make their marks and while one witness is unknown – William Owens - the other is Jane Mullard, presumably Mary's younger sister, who was later³² in service in Crumpsall in Manchester. Mary's relatively advanced age would also explain why there were only two children from the marriage (See tree 2, p. 16).



Manchester Cathedral – Collegiate Church: SS Mary, Denys & George

Given that William's occupation on the entry is also given as labourer, there seems to be a degree of chutzpah in the announcement placed in the local newspaper³³:

On 24th instant, at the Collegiate Church, Mr Wm. Hughes, of Pendleton,
to Miss Mary Mullard, of Salford

As will later become clear, Mary was not the first Mullard to make the shift from rural Clungunford to industrial Manchester. She may have been there for work or may have been visiting family members. Whatever the answer, by the time their first child William was born eight months later, she and William were living at Hay Mill in Burrington parish, about 10 miles from Clungunford and the same distance from Willey. On both William's birth certificate and baptism record, his father is described as a labourer. Hay Mill was the home, I believe, of Mary's sister Anne, whose husband, William Turley was miller there in 1841³⁴, so I'm guessing this was rather a safe place to give birth rather than a permanent home.

³² HO 107/2232, 1851 census, Crumpsall

³³ *The Manchester Times and Lancashire and Cheshire Examiner* 29.7.1837

³⁴ HO 107/428/11, 1841 census, Burrington

Tree 2 - Descendants of William Hughes and Mary Mullard

William Hughes
b: 1812
in Willey,
Presteigne,
Radnorshire
Baptism: 16
February 1812
Lingen,
Herefordshire
d: 25 April
1887
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire

Mary Mullard
b: 1801
in
Clungunford,
Shropshire
Baptism: 8
March 1801
Clungunford,
Shropshire
m: 24 July
1837
in Manchester
Cathedral
d: 11
December 1885
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire

William Hughes
b: 1838
in Hay Mill,
Burrington,
Herefordshire
Baptism: 6
May 1838
Downton,
Herefordshire
d: 25 August
1904
in Leominster,
Herefordshire

Charlotte Jones
b: 1829
Baptism: 30
November
1829
Dilwyn,
Herefordshire
m: 6 November
1861
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire
d: 7 September
1914
in Leominster
Herefordshire

Jane Hughes
b: 1840
Baptism: 10
May 1840
Hopesay,
Shropshire
d: 15
November
1918
in Leominster,
Herefordshire
Burial: 20
November
1918
Leinthall Earls,
Herefordshire

Matthew Jones
b: 1833
Baptism: 2
September
1833
Dilwyn,
Herefordshire
m: 23 May
1872
in Bitterley,
Shropshire
d: 28 February
1894
in Leominster,
Herefordshire
Burial: 12
March 1894
Leinthall Earls,
Herefordshire

Mary Jane (Polly) Hughes
b: 27
November
1862
in Orleton,
Herefordshire
d: 1944
in Ince,
Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire
Burial: 24
January 1944
Holt,
Denbighshire

Thomas Morris
m: 1891
in Leominster
RD

Charlotte Catherine E Hughes
b: 1 February
1864
in Orleton,
Herefordshire
d: 1943
in Leominster
RD

John George Tottem
m: 6 May 1897
in Islington,
Middlesex

William Thomas Hughes
b: 19 August
1865
in Hatfield,
Herefordshire
Baptism: 31
December 1865
Hatfield,
Herefordshire
d: 26 February
1942
in 84, Etnam
St, Leominster,
Herefordshire
Burial:
Leominster
Cemetery

Mary Ann Davies
b: 1869
in The
Tinmills,
Burrington,
Herefordshire
Baptism: 14
November
1869
St. George,
Burrington,
Herefordshire
m: 26 April
1893
in Culmington,
Shropshire
d: 4 July 1917
in Leominster,
Herefordshire
Burial:
Leominster
Cemetery

Anna Caroline Hughes
b: 10 July 1867
in Kingsland,
Herefordshire
d: 1948
in Leominster
RD

Albert Arthur Hubbard
m: 10 February
1894
in Hitchin,
Hertfordshire

Walter John Hughes
b: 4 October
1870
in Bitterley,
Shropshire
d: 1953
in Leominster
RD

Alice Smith
m: 23 April
1900
in Church
Stretton,
Shropshire

Matthew Jones
b: 20 June
1872
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire
Baptism: 23
June 1872
Aymestrey,
Herefordshire
d: 9 December
1945
in Burghill,
Herefordshire

Mary Ann Jones
b: 16 June
1874
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire
d: 1945
in Leominster
RD

Arthur William Burchell
m: 1902
in Leominster
RD

Jane Jones
b: 1877
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire
d: 1907
in Leominster
RD

Thomas John Jones
b: 1879
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire

Emma Stinton
m: 1900
in Leominster
RD

Walter James Jones
b: 1882
in Aymestrey,
Herefordshire
d: 7 November
1917
in Palestine
Burial:
Beersheba
Cemetery

By the time of Jane's baptism, on 10th May 1840, the family was living at Longmeadow in the parish of Hopesay but James was still a labourer. The following year, though, the 1841 census³⁵ placed them at Wyson in Brimfield parish, and for the first time, William calls himself a farmer. All the moving about was presumably a search for work, but it seems that he was sufficiently choosy about the employment he took, or sufficiently skilled, to raise his status to farmer. This census gives his age as 25 and his wife's as 35. William junior is three and Jane is one. William's sister Mary is also there, and also purportedly 35.



Burnt House, Ashford Carbonell
<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/>

It seems that William and his family were prospering, as by 1851³⁶ they were living at *Burnt House* Ashford Carbonell. My guess is that they had moved to this property in 1847, as an advertisement³⁷ appeared in that year:

SHROPSHIRE
 TO BE LET AT LADY-DAY NEXT

THE BURNT HOUSE, situate in the parish of Ashford Carbonell, three miles from Ludlow, and lately occupied by D.R. Dansey, Esq. forming a desirable residence for a genteel family; consisting of a dining and drawing room, butlers' pantry, kitchen and back kitchen, dairy and other offices complete, with four best bedrooms, and two attics, a good garden, stable &c. and if requisite, about thirty acres of arable, meadow, and pasture lands, barn, cowhouse, stable, and every other convenient outbuildings. For particulars apply at the offices of Messrs. Tench, Ludlow, or for a view of the premises, to Mr POWELL, Serpent Farm, in the same parish. This advertisement will not be repeated; no sportsman need apply.

³⁵ HO 107/429/1, 1841 census, Brimfield

³⁶ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Ashford Carbonell

³⁷ Eddow's Journal; and General Advertiser for Shropshire and the Principality of Wales 17.2.1847

The following day, an auction³⁸ was to be held of:

NEAT, USEFUL, AND MODERN
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
AND
FURNITURE,
GLASS, CHINA,
AND OTHER EFFECTS

The extensive list of items for sale suggests a once-wealthy owner fallen on hard times, including, as it does, items such as Brussels carpets, mahogany dining room furniture, figured damask curtains, Japanned tea trays and much more. It seems likely, though, that William's was not the only household living in this prestigious house in 1851³⁹ as the census seems to show two others, comprising another eight people, at the same address.

Nevertheless, William was now describing himself as:

Farmer of 36 a

So presumably he had at least taken on the acreage surrounding the house. He is described as 39 years old and born at Willey – a ditto in the previous column suggests this is Shropshire, though later censuses disprove this. Mary, his wife, is 48, born Clungunford; William, 13, born Burrington, follows, along with Jane, 10, born Hopesay. William's sister Mary, aged 45, is described as a former servant, born at Willey and blind. I imagine she was 'in service' to her brother until her eyesight failed. Also in the household were a former miller - William Turley, married to Mary's sister Anne - and a lodger, Ann Papey, 25, a dressmaker by trade.

In 1861⁴⁰ William and Mary were still upwardly mobile. This time their address is given as *Old Field*, Aymestrey, and this time they and their household are the only occupants. Given that William is farming, it seems likely that this was the house which appears on the *Historic England*⁴¹ site as *Oldfield Farmhouse*, a grade II listed building:

Farmhouse. Early C17 with some mid-C19 and late C20 alterations.
Timber- frame with rendered infill partially rough cast and machine tile roof.
L-plan, limbs extending to south-east and north-east. External rubble stack to north end of south wing. North-west front: stack to right with attached oven....
Framing: close-studding with mid-rail and straight tension brace to ground floor, the first floor is three square panels high. Interior: has one moulded ceiling beam and other with chamfers and stops.

³⁸ SA, LB4/12/9, Sale particulars for Burnt House, 1847

³⁹ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Ashford Carbonell

⁴⁰ RG 9/1833, 1861 census, Aymestrey

⁴¹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1082112?section=official-list-entry>



Old Field, Leinthall Earls, Aymestrey

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/>

William describes himself as a farmer of 120 acres employing three men and two boys, and gives his place of birth as Presteigne, Radnorshire. As well as wife Mary, William junior and Jane and sister Mary, 10-year-old nephew John Hughes (son of his brother John and born in Stourbridge) is part of the household. The final person listed is 16-year-old Edward Faulkner, a local boy, employed as cowman.

Later that year, William junior married Charlotte Jones at Aymestrey, by licence⁴². At Aston Rectory, on 24th September, William swore that he was twenty-three years and upwards and that Charlotte was twenty-seven years and upwards, that he was a bachelor of Aymestrey and that Charlotte, too had:

her usual place of abode within the Parish of Aymestrey for the space of fifteen days last past.

Now married, William does not appear with his parents in the 1871 census⁴³. Strangely, neither does his sister Jane. Nor does she appear anywhere else. However, in the following year, on 25th May 1872, Jane married Charlotte's brother, Matthew Jones. She would have been heavily pregnant, as their first child, Matthew, was born at Aymestrey on 20th June that year and baptised three days later. Possibly there was pressure on Matthew senior to 'do the right thing'.

Matthew junior lived at home with his parents for much of his life but in 1911⁴⁴ he was working in Presteigne as a groom. In 1921⁴⁵, he was still designated as a groom, but out of work and living with his married sister Mary Ann - whose husband was also out of work - in Leominster. By 1939⁴⁶, though, his health seems

⁴² HARC, Marriage licences

⁴³ RG10/2726, 1871 census, Bitterley

⁴⁴ RG14/33650, 1911 census, Presteigne

⁴⁵ RG15/340/2/7, 1921 census, Leominster

⁴⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 England and Wales Register, Burghill

to have deteriorated as the 1939 *Register* finds him at the Hereford County and City Mental Hospital at Burghill. As with every other entry on the page, under occupation, it simply says 'incapacitated'. When he died on 9th December 1945, although probate described him as of 26 Church Street, Leominster, it also says his death was at Burghill, which suggests he was still in the hospital.

Mary Ann was born two years after Matthew on 16th June 1874, and in 1902 married Arthur William Burchell. There don't appear to have been any children from the marriage and she died in 1945. Her younger sister Jane was born in 1877 and was still living at home with her mother in 1911⁴⁷ along with brother Walter but probably died some time in 1913.

Thomas John Jones was born in 1879 at Leinthall Earls but had migrated to Wales following his marriage to Emma Stinton in 1900. The couple had four children – Reginald Thomas born in Abergavenny in 1901, Doris Irene in 1904, Walter James, named for his uncle and born at Bedwelty in 1909, and Annie Elizabeth, born in the same registration district in 1911. Thomas John was a haulier in 1911⁴⁸, living in Ebbw Vale. In 1921⁴⁹, although he described himself as a Miner Timber Man at Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Company, he was out of work. He died at Ebbw Vale in 1932. His younger brother Walter James Jones was born in 1882 but joined the 1st Hereford Regiment as a Private and was killed in action in Palestine on 7th November 1917. Probate suggests that his effects of £2,836 were left to Jane Jones, widow, but I suspect this was his mother rather than a wife.⁵⁰



Leinthall Earls, Aymestrey

To round off this digression into the history of Matthew Jones and Jane Hughes, Matthew was an independent farmer of 216 acres at Leinthall Earls in

⁴⁷ RG14/340/1/9, 1911 census, Leominster

⁴⁸ RG14/585/2/16, 1911 census, Bedwellty

⁴⁹ RG15/585/2/5, 1921 census, Bedwellty

⁵⁰ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995

Aymestrey in 1871⁵¹, employing three labourers and a boy. By 1881⁵², as well as acquiring a wife and several children, he had extended his landholding to 227 acres. He was also employing two indoor servants, one of whom was a nurse, presumably helping Jane with the children. In 1891⁵³ he was still farming, at Hall Farm in Aymestrey, and aged 57 to Jane's 50. All their children were at home on census night apart from Jane.

Sometime within the next four years, Matthew and Jane left the farm for an easier life at Newtown Villa on the outskirts of Leominster. Maybe he was in failing health, as he died there on 28th February 1894. *The Leominster News*⁵⁴ reported the funeral, which took place on 12th March at Leinthall Earls in detail. It was attended by his widow Jane, their five children, a brother, a cousin and a nephew and niece:

Upon arriving at Leinthall Earls the funeral cortege was met by many friends and workpeople who had been in service of the deceased and who acted as bearers.

The article lists the donors of:

a large number of wreaths and crosses

before concluding:

The deceased, who formerly resided at Leinthall Earls, was well known in the county, and his death, which was sudden, is regretted by a large circle of friends.

Probate⁵⁵ was granted regarding:

Jones Matthew of Newtown Ivington Leominster Herefordshire farmer....
to Jane Jones widow and Matthew Jones groom. Effects £702 9s. 6d.

Jane lived on as a widow until 1918. Presumably, she preferred to be in the centre of Leominster rather than in a village nearby as the 1901⁵⁶ census found her at 26, Church Street, close to Leominster Priory and also adjoining Pinsley Road where her brother William would later settle. In 1911⁵⁷ she was at the same address with Jane and Walter (working as a tailor) for company. It was maybe after the death of two of her children that her married daughter Mary Ann Burchell and her husband Arthur moved back to 26 Church Street, and it was here that Jane died four days

⁵¹ RG10/2718, 1871 census, Aymestrey

⁵² RG11/2607, 1881 census, Aymestrey

⁵³ RG12/2074, 1891 census, Aymestrey

⁵⁴ *The Leominster News*, 16.3.1894

⁵⁵ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995

⁵⁶ RG13/2493, 1901 census, Leominster

⁵⁷ RG14/340/1/9, 1911 census, Leominster

after the Armistice on 15th November 1918. She was buried at Leinthall Earls on 20th November. Once again, the local paper⁵⁸ printed a lengthy article on the matter:

The death occurred on Friday night last of Mrs Jane Jones, of 26 Church Street, Leominster, who passed away at the age of 78. The deceased lady who has lived in Leominster or the neighbourhood for a great many years was the widow of the late Mr. Matthew Jones.... There are two sons and one daughter who survive their mother...

The list of mourners includes many familiar names. As well as her three children and son-in-law, Thomas' son Reginald was there, as were three nephews, Thomas Howells and William and Walter Hughes along with a Morris niece. Floral tributes came from a number of friends and family members. Jane was buried at Leinthall Earls with her husband.

This section on Matthew Jones and Jane Hughes has been detailed because between them they share descent from the same Hughes and Jones lines as did Elsie Mary Hughes. The rest of the story of the Jones family will be told later.

So, by 1870, William Hughes and Mary Mullard were living in Bitterley parish near Ludlow, about 13 miles from Aymestrey. A brief comment in *The Shrewsbury Chronicle*⁵⁹ in April 1870 cites the case of a 13-year-old boy, Edward Sayers, who obtained:

...by false pretences, at Bitterley, on 17th April, 1870, one sovereign, the property of William Hughes.

The misdemeanour⁶⁰ enacted by Edward Sayers was a strange one:

On the seventh day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and sixty nine unlawfully, knowingly and designedly, did falsely pretend to one Jane Hughes that the said Edward Sayers had been sent by Mister Lello (meaning thereby one Thomas Lello) with a letter for one William Hughes and which letter was then delivered to the said Jane Hughes by means of which said false pretences the said Edward Sayers did then unlawfully obtain from the said William Hughes certain money to wit the sum of one pound of the monies of William Hughes with intent to defraud; Whereas in truth and in fact the said Edward Sayers had not been sent by the said Thomas Lello as he the said Edward Sayers well knew at the time when he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid.

Presumably there was something in the letter to suggest that William Hughes owed £1 to his neighbouring farmer Thomas Lello, though what is never revealed. There is a reference to Orleton Fair in Jane's deposition, and in Thomas Lello's he specifically says he hasn't been to the fair and hasn't bought any sheep there. So

⁵⁸ *Kington Times*, 23.11.1918

⁵⁹ *The Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 1.7.1870

⁶⁰ SA, QR505/12, Shropshire Quarter Sessions Presentment, 1870

maybe the letter was written to imply that Lello had bought stock on William's behalf.

It seems that nephew John was still living with, and farming with, his uncle as his deposition⁶¹ reads as follows:

I live at Asbatch in the parish of Bitterley with my uncle William Hughes. I recollect Wednesday 27 April ultimo between 8 and 9 o'clock at night came into my uncle's foldyard and said "is Mr Hughes about" I said I ~~did~~ do not think he is" I also said "do you want to see him please? He is in bed" the prisoner handed me the note produced by Police Constable Higgins the note produced is the one shown me I asked him if he wanted an answer he said yes I then gave the note to my cousin Miss Jane Hughes I saw her take it upstairs I afterwards saw her come down and hand something to prisoner I heard ~~prisoner~~ my cousin ask ~~my cousin~~ the prisoner if Mr Lello had given him the note

John signed, as did Jane on her statement. William, however, was presumably illiterate, as Jane's testimony shows that she read the letter to her father. It is interesting to, to note that both cousins refer to William being in bed at the time of the offense. Presumably, he would need to be up with the sun in the mornings. Jane's deposition corroborates John's and adds detail:

I am daughter of Mr Hughes farmer Asbatch in the parish of Bitterley between 8 and 9 o'clock on the night of Wednesday 27th ultimo my cousin John Hughes handed me a note for my father I read it to my father who was upstairs in bed I went downstairs and gave prisoner a sovereign in consequence of what father said to me I rapped it up and put it in an envelope and addressed it to Mr Lello of Snitton I said to the prisoner "Did Mr Lello send you with this note" he said "yes" I asked him if Mr Lelloe was at Orleton Fair he said Yes" I did not know the prisoner before this

Thomas Lello added his testimony, insisting he had not authorised the prisoner to receive money for him, and saying he recognised the writing as that of his employee Edward Sayer. He was emphatic that:

I was not at Orleton Fair this year ... It is not true I bought sheep at Orleton Fair.

Constable Higgins, who made the arrest, deposed that the boy had produced the purloined sovereign from his waistcoat pocket when charged. The final statement came from William Hughes himself:

I am a farmer residing at Asbatch in the parish of Bitterley the letter produced by last witness was produced to me by my daughter and was read ~~th~~ to me ~~on the~~ in consequence of that note I directed my daughter Jane Hughes to give the person who came with the note a ~~sovereign~~ sovereign. ~~He~~ I believed the sovereign was for Mr Lello, if I had known it was not for Mr Lello I should not

⁶¹ SA, QR505/87, Shropshire Quarter Sessions Examninations, 1870

have parted with the money, it was in consequence of the letter.

As will be seen, there are several crossings out and a lack of punctuation in the witness statements given, but the circumstances are clear. We are left wondering how Edward Sayers thought he was going to get away with it. Perhaps he was planning to do a runner. He had nothing to say when asked if he had any evidence to add, and the final verdict was prison.

Presumably, courts at the time had similar issues to those we have today of people not turning up. A lengthy recognizance⁶² enjoins all those who had made statements to attend:

the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Shrewsbury
or else forfeit:

the sum of five pounds each of good and lawful money of Great Britain to
be made and levied of their goods and chattels lands and tenements

So, having already been to Ludlow, they now had to make an excursion to the county town.



Asbatch Farm, Bitterley

The address at which William's household was enumerated⁶³ the following year was Asbach, which I suspect is what is now Asbatch Farm. His acreage had increased again, and was now 135 acres, but he was only employing one labourer. He gave his age as 60 and place of birth as Presteigne. His wife Mary (aged 70) just gave Salop as her birth county. Sister Mary, 65, born at Presteigne, was listed as blind. William junior's eldest daughter, Mary Jane, born in 1862 in Orleton in

⁶² SA, QR505/269, Recognizance, Regina v Sayers, 1870

⁶³ RG10/2726, 1871 census, Bitterley

Herefordshire, appeared as an eight-year-old scholar, born in Halton, Shropshire, which was, I suspect, how the enumerator heard Orleton. There was also a local farm servant, Samuel Nash, aged 14.

A valuation list which has survived for Bitterley⁶⁴ shows William Hughes as tenant at Asbach. The main entry has a marginal note:

New Assessmt
Mr Hughes
1 Cottage

Beside that, the whole entry reads:

Number	Name of Occupier	Name of Owner	Description of Property
79 68	William Hughes Wlliam Hughes jnr	John Knightly Esq " "	House & Land Cottage

Name or Situation of Property	Estimated Extent			Gross Estimated Rental			Rateable Value		
	A	P	R	£	s	d	£	s	d
Asbach	133	3	4	134	10		114	7	6
Cockshutt				3	10		2	10	-

However, above that is another entry, crossed through:

~~68 William Hughes John Knight Esq Cottage Cockshutt~~

with a gross estimated rental of £3 10/- I may be reading it wrongly, but the inference for me is that William was already at Asbach, but had taken the tenancy at Cockshutt for his son William, who, after leaving Orleton seems to have lived for a time at both Hatfield and Kingsland

Presumably, at 60, William was now happy to settle for what he'd got, as the 1881 census⁶⁵ finds him still at Asbach. He is 70, his wife 80, so it's maybe no surprise that two more of William's grandchildren (son William's children), Catherine and William, are there to help out. She is listed as a 17-year-old Farmer's Domestic Servant and he as a 15-year-old Ag Lab, Farmer's Assistant.

It can't have been too long after this that it was decided that William and Mary were too old to carry on at Asbach. When Mary died in 1885, it was at Leinthall Earls in Aymestrey, at the home of her daughter Jane. William died two years later:

Twenty fifth April 1887 Leinthall Earls Aymestrey; William Hughes;
Male; 76; Farmer; Heart Disease Haematemesis; Matthew Jones son in law
Present at the death Leinthall Earls, Aymestrey

⁶⁴ SA, PL9/32/3/5, Bundle of Valuation and supplementary valuation lists, 1862-74

⁶⁵ RG11/2126, 1881 census, Bitterley

Haematemesis is a sign of internal bleeding from the upper part of the digestive tract.



Hughes Grandfather Clock

It seems strange that, given his apparently successful career as a farmer, that William didn't leave a will. Maybe he left it too late and was too old and ill to do so. The fact that he seems to have been illiterate was an influence. Maybe, by the time he left Asbach, there was little to leave. I do wonder, though, if he was the original owner of the Grandfather or long case clock which is now in my son's possession. Long case clocks weren't made after 1880, and when my father-in-law had it inspected some years ago he was told it probably dated from the 1830s or 40s. At that time, I doubt William would have had the wherewithal to buy a clock, but he may well have acquired it later. In the light of his story as it appears above, it seems the kind of item he might have owned.

All family stories get a little skewed as they are passed down. The year before he died, when he was over 90, my father-in-law said that his grandfather (William's grandson) had bought the clock new and, to get it home, had pushed it in a wheelbarrow. However, said grandfather wasn't born until 1865, so if the dating of the clock is correct, he couldn't have bought it new. My feeling is that it probably passed from William senior to William junior and that his son, William Thomas brought it home to Pinsley Road or Cranes Lane after his father died in 1904.

James Mullard and family – Clungunford

An older Easter custom was the Easter 'love feast'. Churchwardens' account books tell us that these were held at Berrington and Clungunford, probably as a version of the dedication festival for the churches... Clungunford also had an Easter love feast, which involved bread, cheese and beer being supplied to the old and poor in the parish on Easter Day. Again, this was stopped by the vicar, but this time the Archbishop of Canterbury stepped in to preserve the custom as long as it was done in 'a neighbourly and decent way'!⁶⁶

Mary Mullard was baptised at Clungunford in Shropshire on 8th March 1803 as the daughter of James and Jane Mullard. She was the third child of a large family and had seven full siblings and four half-brothers (**See tree 3a and tree 3b, p. 29**). The Mullard, or Mullart family had been based in Clungunford for several generations. Nothing is known of Mary's life prior to her marriage to William Hughes. As has been suggested above, in her extreme old age she went to live in Aymestrey with her daughter Jane, married to Matthew Jones, and it was here that she died in 1885:

Eleventh December 1885 Leinthall Earls Aymestrey RSD; Mary Hughes;
Female; 85 years; Wife of William Hughes Farmer; Gradual decay of strength
from old age; Matthew Jones, son-in-law in attendance Leinthall Earls
Aymestrey

Mary's parents were James Mullard and Jane Edwards. Like most of the women on this line, virtually nothing is known about Jane other than that she married James at Stokesay on 11th September 1796, gave birth to eight children and was buried from Brand Hill at Clungunford on 10th September 1813, aged 38. Jane was presumably close to giving birth with her first child when she married as Richard was baptised as the son of James and Jane Mullart at Stokesay on 16th October 1796. He married Charlotte Butler at Ludlow on 13th September 1818, but by the time their first son – named James after his grandfather – was born, they were living in Salford and the baby was baptised at the Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Gravel Lane in 1820. I suspect this was an act of convenience rather than faith, as a second son, named John, born around 1825, does not seem to have been baptised at all. The final child, Richard, was baptised in Manchester Cathedral in 1831, with his father's occupation given as shoemaker.

Richard junior's early demise will be outlined later, but his father's life also had an unhappy outcome. In Manchester, he worked for a man named Mr Wimpory, who ran a shoe shop at 8 St Anne's Square in the centre of Manchester, with a warehouse at no. 15. This was presumably a fairly high-class establishment, as shoes from this firm are now in the Manchester Art Gallery.

⁶⁶ <https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/blog/easter-customs/>



Wimpory shoe label - Image courtesy of Manchester Art Gallery

<https://collections.manchesterartgallery.org/collections/item/49ac095c-94df-3cad-ae84-ad1d0a7ec6fe/?s%3DWimpory&pos=1>

At some point in 1828, there was some kind of strike amongst his workers, in which, maybe, James Mullard did not take part. As a consequence, he was attacked on his way home from work one night⁶⁷:

There was a strike among the men in November last: on 10th of November I went home in company with my wife and Mrs Jones, for protection; we were followed by five or six men, to the end of Bury-street, Salford; one of the men came in front and struck me violently on the head... I had a child in my arms; I laid the child down, and pursued him... I was struck another blow as I was pursuing him.

His wife Charlotte also gave evidence, describing the weapon as an iron bar. In outlining the case, remarks were made about:

The baneful consequences of combination, and the injury Mr Wimpory had experienced by the conduct of the refractory workmen

Six years later, he appeared in the newspapers⁶⁸ again, but this time as the criminal rather than the victim. He had made a habit of pledging shoes with Mr Higginbottom of Salford – presumably a pawnbroker. This man became suspicious and traced him back to Mr Wimpory's shop. He was thereafter closely watched and:

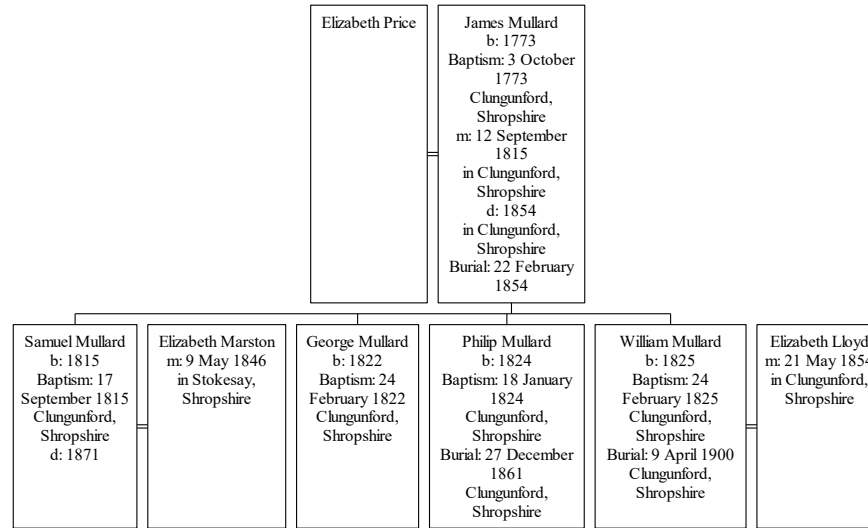
On Wednesday evening a pair of boots was found in his coat pocket as he was leaving the shop. He was then handed over to the police, and on searching his house a large quantity of leather, and other articles were found which Mr Wimpory identified as his property.

At the ensuing Old Bailey trial:

⁶⁷ *Manchester Courier*, 31.1.1829

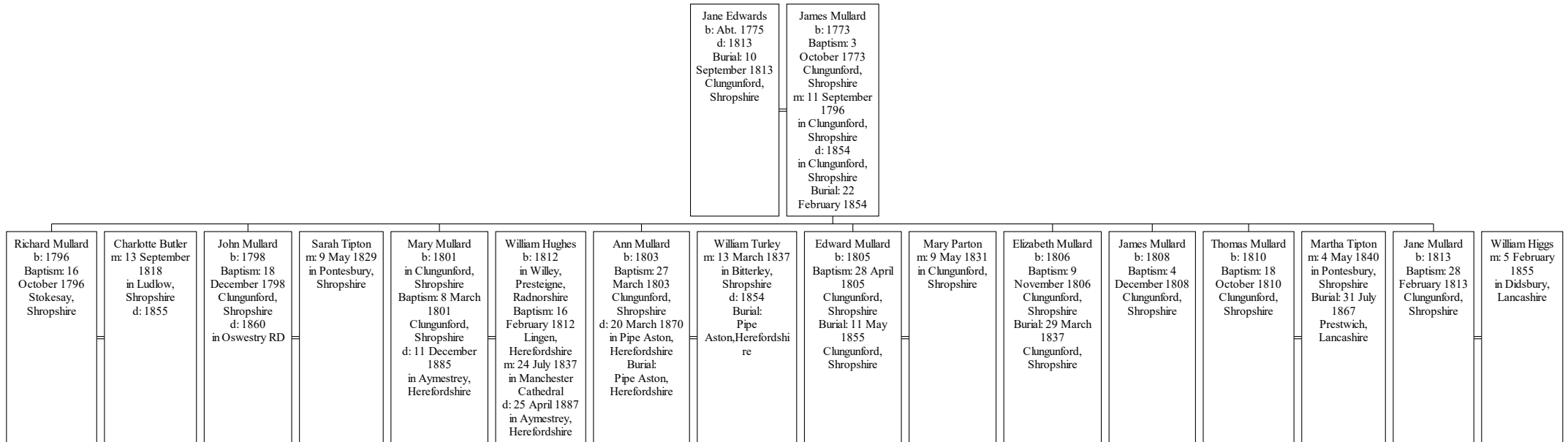
⁶⁸ *Preston Pilot*, 16.5.1835

Tree 3b - Family of James Mullard and Elizabeth Price



See tree 3a for James' children by his first wife.

Tree 3a - Family of James Mullard and Jane Edwards



See tree 3b for James' children by his second wife.

Mr Wimpory stated that the prisoner had been in his employ and that of his father for twelve years, and that he could not have committed the robbery for want, as he and his son were in receipt of 27s per week.

I suspect that depends on your definition of want. However, Richard experienced the full force of the law. The Lancashire Court Records⁶⁹ states that:

Whereas Richard Mullard late of the Township of Manchester in the said County Labourer hath at this session been convicted of Felony; This court doth therefore order and adjudge that the said Richard Mullard shall be sent and TRANSPORTED to some Part beyond the Seas for the Space of Seven Years next...

He was sent to the Prison Hulk *Justicia* at Woolwich⁷⁰ and from there was presumably transported to Australia. I'm guessing he never returned, and in 1842, Charlotte married John Roscow in Manchester Cathedral. Her two older sons continued to work as shoemakers, but neither seems to have reached old age.

James and Jane's next son was John who was baptised at Clungunford – as were all his younger siblings – on 18th December 1798. He married Sarah Tipton at Pontesbury on 9th May 1829 after banns. In 1841⁷¹ he and Sarah were living at Radleth in Pontesbury with their family and he was working as a tanner. They were still there in 1851⁷², though both enumerator and transcriber have had a severe case of word blindness, as Radleth is recorded as Ratcliff, and the index on *Ancestry* gives John's place of birth as Clinganferd Ross and Cromarty instead of Radnorsh Clungunford as it appears on the enumerator's sheet. It seems they moved again after this, as John's death was registered in the Oswestry registration district in 1860.



Elton Hall

⁶⁹ FamilySearch – Full Text, Lancashire. Court Records 1834-1835

⁷⁰ Ancestry.co.uk, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849

⁷¹ HO 107/911/8, 1841 census, Pontesbury

⁷² HO 107/1990, 1851 census, Pontesbury

Mary's birth in 1891 was followed almost exactly two years later by that of her sister Ann, baptised on 27th March 1803. She married William Turley on 13th March 1837 at Bitterley. She already had a son named William, who had been baptised as William Mullard at Richards Castle on 12th December 1830, but he appears as William Turley on the 1841 census⁷³ along with William and Ann. In 1851⁷⁴ he was an apprentice wheelwright in Ashford Carbonel, living away from his mother. (William the miller was at *Burnt House* with his brother-in-law William Hughes.) Ann was working as a cook in *Elton Hall*, in the household of landed proprietor Richard Dobson⁷⁵. This was a prestigious establishment; when the property was let in 1846, an advertisement described it as follows⁷⁶:

To be let furnished, Elton Hall with or without the exclusive right of sporting over upwards of 900 acres of land and extensive woods. The house consists of a large entrance hall; drawing room; dining room and study, with four best bedrooms and dressing rooms, and three other good bedrooms. Spacious kitchen, Brewhouse, servants' hall and other excellent offices and servants' apartments. Coach houses and stables for eight or ten horses. The parish church is near to the house and Elton Hall is within five miles of Ludlow and stands in a healthy situation commanding extensive views over surrounding beautiful country between Downton Castle and Wigmore.



Pipe Aston St Giles

Ann has not been found in 1861. However, there is a group of burials which seems to fit this family group at Pipe Aston in Herefordshire. *Findagrave*⁷⁷ has the following entries: William Turley 1831 - 8th June 1852, William Turley 1802 - 1854

⁷³ HO 107/428/11, 1841 census, Burrington

⁷⁴ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Ashford Carbonell

⁷⁵ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Elton

⁷⁶ <https://herefordshirepast.co.uk/buildings/elton-hall/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2730015/memorial-search?firstName=&lastName=Turley&includeMaidenName=true&page=1#sr-226587832>

and Anne Turley 1803-1870. It seems unlikely that this is not Ann's family, though why they are buried at Pipe Aston is a mystery.

The next child born to James and Jane Mullard was Edward, baptised on 28th April 1805. He stayed in Clungunford his whole life, marrying Mary Parton there on 9th May 1831 and raising at least six children, who appear with him and Mary on the 1841 census⁷⁸. Mary died four years later and was buried at Clungunford on 29th September 1845. So, in 1851⁷⁹ Edward was enumerated at Clungunford as a widowed agricultural labourer living with four of his children and three lodgers. He was buried in his home parish on 11th May 1855, aged 52.

A daughter named Elizabeth was baptised on 9th November 1806 and it may be her burial which was recorded at Clungunford on 29th March 1837. Her age is given as 37, but in this register a number of entries' ages don't seem to tally. It is possible, too, that whoever wrote up the register misread a 1 for a 7. A son named James was baptised on 4th December 1808 but as there is no further sighting of him, I suspect he died young, although no burial has been found. Thomas came next, baptised on 18th December 1810. He also married a Tipton at Pontesbury, namely Martha, on 4th May 1840, but no relationship between the two wives has come to light, although both were born in Pontesbury. By 1851 Thomas, Martha and their family were living in Broughton in Salford where Thomas, giving his place of birth as Brand Hill in Clungunford, was working as a gardener.⁸⁰ Ten years later, in 1861⁸¹, the family is to be found in Prestwich, where he died in 1867. Curiously, his burial entry, on 31st July, lists him as Thomas, son of James Mullard, Ostrich Lane, aged 63. Obviously, a meticulous rector, as Thomas is not the only mature person to have their father named in the burial register.

Jane and James' final child was named after her mother and was baptised at Clungunford on 28th February 1813. Seven months later, her mother was dead, whether from complications after the birth or something entirely different is not known. The entry in the burial register gives:

Jane Mullard, Brand Hill, Sept^r 10th 1813, 38

Being left with several young children was no doubt a major influence in James' decision to remarry. His second wife was Elizabeth Price, whom he married at Clungunford on 12th September 1815. James fathered four more children, but before exploring them, it is necessary to complete Jane junior's life.

It seems likely that Jane went into service, as a Jane Mullard is found at Marlow, near Leintwardine, as a female servant on a large farm in 1841⁸². Her age is

⁷⁸ HO 107/919/21, 1841 census, Clngunford

⁷⁹ HO 107/1983, 1851 census, Clungunford

⁸⁰ HO 107/222/114, 1851 census, Salford

⁸¹ RG 9/2976, 1861 census, Prestwich

⁸² HO 107/428/23, 1841 census, Leintwardine

given as 25, rounded down to the nearest five as was usual, and she was born out of county. Although Marlow was less than two miles from Clungunford, it was over the border into Herefordshire. By 1851⁸³, she had moved to Crumsall in Lancashire but was still a domestic servant. Presumably, whoever filled in the form put the nearest Shropshire place they knew for Jane, Ludlow. On 5th February 1855 she married widower William Higgs at Didsbury. However, by 1861⁸⁴ she seems to be back in service, as a cook at Newton in Makerfield. She gives her status as married, but her birthplace is unclear. It looks like Shropshire, Crum – which could be her employer’s interpretation of Clungunford. Her death has not been found.



Clungunford St Cuthbert

Jane’s father, James Mullard, had four sons by his second wife, Elizabeth. Samuel was baptised on 17th September 1815 at Clungunford. Once old enough, he presumably went into service. However, he must also have joined the army at some point, only to decide it wasn’t for him. A somewhat cryptic entry appears on *Findmypast*⁸⁵ as follows:

Samuel Mullard, 26 years, b 1814, Clungerford [sic] Shropshire, 1840, 16 Oct, HEICS Infantry. HEICS, Inf; 26; Clungerford; Salop; Servant; 16 Oct 1840.

The only definition I can find for HEICS is *The Honourable East India Company*, but whether they recruited or not in Shropshire is a mystery.

Once safely back on home turf, Samuel was found with his parents, James and Elizabeth, on the 1841 census⁸⁶. Their address is Brand Hill Gutter, Shelderton township. Both Brand Hill and Shelderton are part of Clungunford parish. James is 65 and an Ag Lab, Elizabeth is 55, and Samuel, whose age is indistinct but may read 23, is also now an agricultural labourer. Samuel courted a lass from nearby

⁸³ HO 107/2232/438, 1851 census, Crumpsall

⁸⁴ RG 9/2788/22, 1861 census, Newton in Makerfield

⁸⁵ *Findmypast*, Army Deserters 1828-40, Manchester & Lancs Family History Society

⁸⁶ HO 107/919/21, 1841 census, Shelderton

Wistantow, Elizabeth Marston, and married her at Stokesay on 9th May 1846. The couple stayed with Samuel's parents, and are found with them in 1851⁸⁷, still at Shelderton. James is more accurately recorded as 77, still an Ag Lab, wife Elizabeth – born at Lebothwood – is 70. Samuel and Elizabeth have three children at this point, a son and twin daughters, and there is a 10-year-old servant, Sarah Davies. There are two others in the household, James and Elizabeth's sons George – baptised on 24th February 1822, and now 29 – and Philip – baptised on 18th January 1824, and now 27. The only one missing is William, baptised on 24th February 1826.

George had previously been in trouble. In 1843, *The Herefordshire Times*⁸⁸ reported the following in March 1843:

CAUTION TO WAGGONERS. – DOWNTON. – *George Mullard*, aged 20, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with stealing five pecks of wheat and barley, value 4s., on the 30th January, the property of Mr. John Pugh. The prosecutor recommended the prisoner, who was his waggoner, to mercy, on the grounds that he had stolen the grain to give to the horses. – Imprisoned six weeks in solitary confinement.

One wonders whether this was considered a merciful sentence, or whether the judge decided otherwise. As far as I can discover, George never married, and after 1854, when he registered his father's death, disappears from the records.

His brother Philip also remained single and was to be found living with his brother Samuel and his family at Brand Hill Gutter in Clungunford in 1871⁸⁹. Both were listed as labourers. Philip was only 37 at the time, but within a few months he was buried in his home parish – on 27th December 1871.

William Mullard, the last of James' brood, was in service with the vicar of Leighton, nearly 30 miles to the north-east, when the 1851 census⁹⁰ was taken. However, he soon returned home, marrying Elizabeth Lloyd at Clungunford on 21st May 1854. In 1861⁹¹, he and his wife were at Brand Hill, but alone in their household, as they were in 1871, 1881 and 1891⁹². William was buried at Clungunford on 9th April 1900.

James Mullard, the father of all this brood was baptised at Clungunford on 3rd October 1773 as:

the son of Edward & Elizabeth Mullart

⁸⁷ HO 107/1983, 1851 census, Shelderton

⁸⁸ *The Herefordshire Times*, 18.3.1843

⁸⁹ RG 9/1840, 1871 census, Clungunford

⁹⁰ HO 107/1991, 1851 census, Leighton

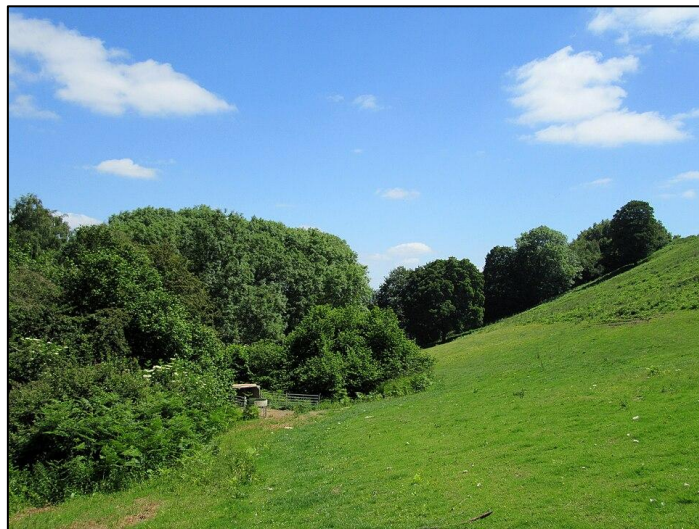
⁹¹ RG 9/1839, 1861 census, Stokesay

⁹² RG 10/2728, RG 11/2618, RG 12/2085, 1871, 1881 & 1891 census, Stokesay & Clungunford

Little is known of his early life other than the dates of his two marriages and the dates of his 13 children's baptisms at Clungunford. By 1841⁹³, all of his offspring apart from Samuel had left home. He and his wife and Samuel were enumerated at Brand Hill Gutter in Shelderton township; both men were listed as agricultural workers. Brand Hill Gutter appears as a steep-sided valley on the OS map, around halfway between Clungunford and Onibury. A street checker site⁹⁴ describes the area as a:

hamlet or isolated dwelling

So, it seems that the Mullards had it pretty much to themselves.



Steeply sloping field at Brandhill Gutter by John H Darch
CC-BY-SA-2.0 Images from Geograph Britain and Ireland

In 1839, four years after his father was transported, Richard Mullard junior was either staying or living with his grandfather James when tragedy struck. In a Coroner's Inquisition⁹⁵ taken at the house of James Mullard at Brand Hill in April 1839, twelve jurors swore that:

the said Richard Mullard on Friday the tenth day of January instant at the Parish of Clungunford in the County of Salop accidentally casually and by misfortune came to his death by his clothes then and there accidentally taking fire.

Four of the jurors appear as close neighbours to the Mullards when the 1851⁹⁶ census was taken. The four pages which make up this part of Clungunford parish are simply headed Shelderton, but the assumption is that James is still at Brand Hill Gutter. Now the household is numerous. As well as 77-year-old James, there is wife

⁹³ HO 107/919/21, 1841 census, Shelderton

⁹⁴ <https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/sy70pq>

⁹⁵ QR367/183, Shropshire Quarter Session Rolls, Inquisition - Richard Mullard, 1839

⁹⁶ HO 107/1983, 1851 census, Shelderton

Elizabeth, aged 70. Three of her sons are there: George, Phillip and Samuel, now married to Elizabeth, and father to a four-year-old son and twin baby daughters. There is even a servant, 10-year-old Sarah Davies from Ratlinghope.

James Mullard died in 1854:

Eighteenth February 1854 Brandhill Clungunford; James Mullard; Male;
80 years; Labourer; Natural Decay not certified no Medical Attendant;
x The Mark of George Mullard Occupier Brandhill Clungunford

He was laid to rest at Clungunford on 22nd February as:

James Mullard, Brand Hill Gutter

The early Mullards or Mullarts – Clungunford

Edward Mullard and Elizabeth Bumford married at Clungunford in 1773:

Banns of marriage were legally published between Edward Mullard and Elizabeth Bumford without exception, on the 27th of December 1772 & the 3rd and 10th Days of January 1773 in the Parish Church

The marriage was witnessed by William Mullard, who was probably Edward's eldest brother:

Edward Mullard & Elizabeth Bumford, both of this parish were married in this Church by Banns this twelfth Day of January 1773.

This marriage was solemnised between us in the presence of us

The Mark of Will Mullard)

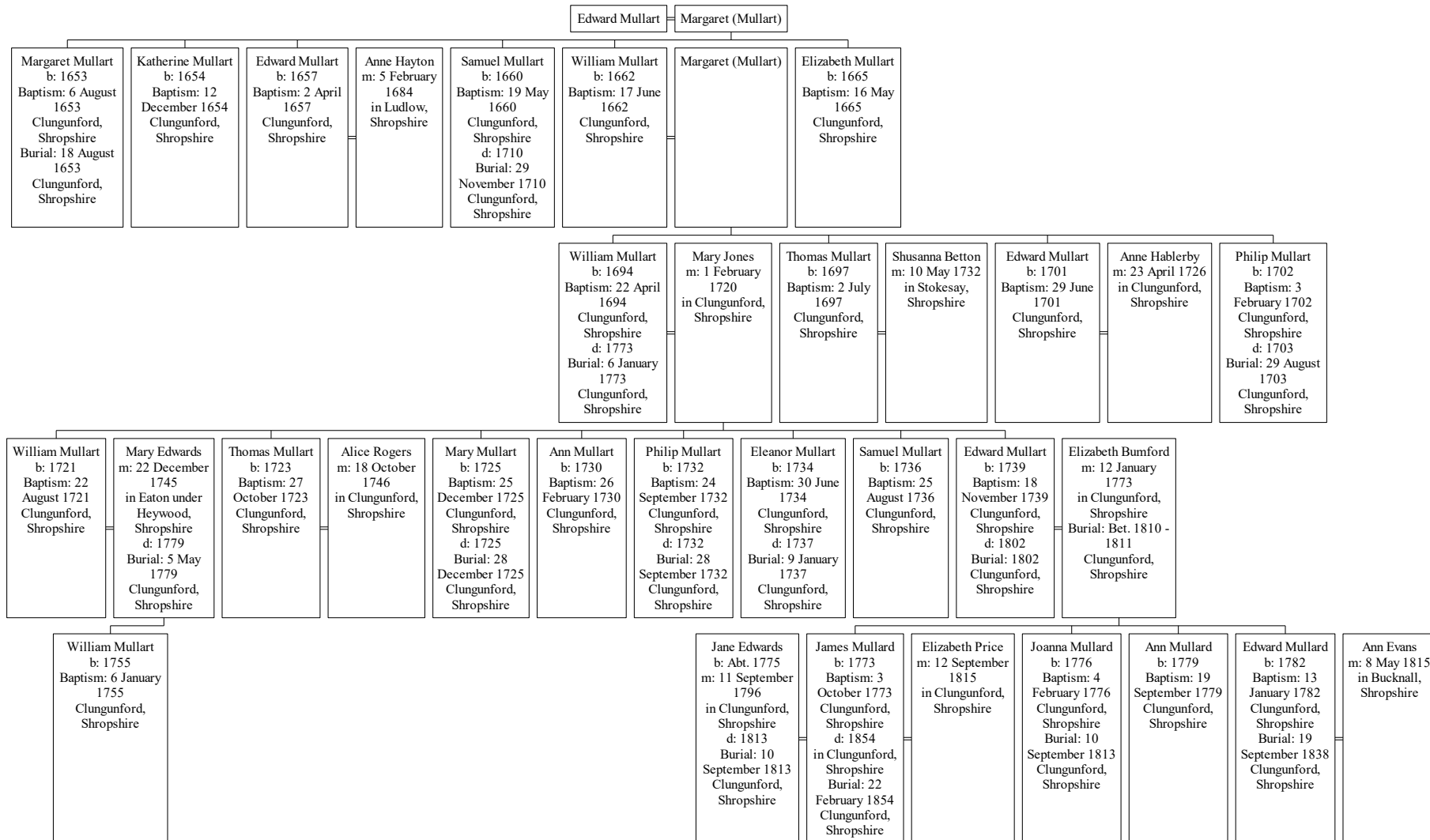
John Jones

) The Mark of x Edward Mullard

The Mark of + Elizabeth Bumford

The couple had only four children, of whom James was the eldest. Joanna, baptised on 4th February 1776 and Ann baptised on 19th September 1779, make no further appearance. The last child was named Edward after his father and was baptised on 13th January 1782. He seems to have married Ann Evans at Bucknell, about five miles away, on 8th May 1815. There were no children from this union although this was probably a second marriage as a boy named Samuel was baptised at Clungunford in 1810 to Edward and Elizabeth. Edward was possibly buried at Clungunford on 19th September 1838 although the age recorded is 64 rather than 56.

Tree 4 - Descendants of Edward and Margaret Mullart



This family has been hard to trace (**See tree 4, p. 37**). Generations of Mullards were settled in Clungunford, with, no doubt, numerous branches often using the same name pool. An example of this appears in a single page document⁹⁷ headed:

A list of inhabitants in the townships of Clungunford and Abcott

In it are listed two men called Edward Mullard, one in Clungunford and one in Abcott. Are either of these our Edward? There is no extant list for Shelderton, where his son James lived. Is this because, in this instance Shelderton was listed with Clungunford, or because no list was made for Shelderton? The evidence is inconclusive, to say the least. The scant mentions of Mullards in the Churchwardens' Accounts are equally difficult to interpret.

In addition, there seem to be gaps and discrepancies in the register. Edward's wife Elizabeth probably died in 1810 or 1811. There are two entries in the burial register which simply give the name Elizabeth Mullard, one on 23rd August 1810 and the other on 2nd August 1811. Probably one is Edward senior's wife and one Edward junior's. There is no baptism for an Elizabeth Bumford in either Shropshire or Herefordshire, although an Elizabeth is baptised to Thomas and Eliziabeth Bumford at Tregynon in Montgomeryshire, but that is nearly 30 miles from Clungunford. Even more confusingly, there are three possible burials for Edward, two in 1802, the first on 24th January and the second on 24th March. Neither of these give any detail. There is a third possible date, with an Edward Mullard buried from Little Common in Clungunford on 14th December 1816, but his age is given as 65. I suspect this is the burial of our Edward's nephew, son of his brother William.

The only Edward Mullard in the Clungunford baptism record at roughly the right time appears in 1739:

Edward the son of William Mullart and Mary his Wife was Baptized
November the 18th

This would make him 33 years old when he wed, a not-unheard-of age for marriage. His assumed parents, William Mullard and Mary Jones, were married at Clungunford by banns on 1st May 1700. They baptised eight children, of whom Edward was the youngest. The oldest was William, named for his father and baptised on 28th August 1721 at Clungunford. The only feasible marriage found for him was to Mary Edwards on 22nd December 1745 at Eaton under Heywood, about 11 miles away. However, the string of baptisms which is attributed to William junior began in Clungunford five years later, so the marriage has to be treated with caution. Of these, the eldest boy was inevitably named William, born in 1755. He would only have been 17 when 'William Mullard the elder' and 'William Mullard

⁹⁷ SA, D3651/G/9/20 Clungunford; Purslow Hundred and Manor, List of Inhabitants, 1780

pd Marg ^{tt} Mullard for keeping her granddaughter from 8 th June 1729 to 25 th January 1730 being 33 weeks at 9 ^d per week	01 04 09
pd for 3 yards of flanen for Mullards Child	00 02 09
pd Marg ^{tt} Mullard her fee as midwife for Jane Jones	00 02 00
pd her for nursing nursing [sic] for a fortnight after she was delivered	00 02 00

Further entries for Margaret may suggest that William senior was the one buried in 1719, as, in 1723, she seems to be in some financial difficulties:

Received of Doctor Edwards for the parish land	04 10 6
Received of Margaret Mullard	01 16 0
... Margaret Mullart arrears	01 01 00
Disburst	16 10 7 ³ / ₄
Margaret Mullard	01 01 00

This looks like rent receipts or church tax, which it seemed Margaret was struggling to pay. It seems that, as well as midwifery, Margaret had some skill in healing. An entry in 1728 reads:

pd Margaret Mullord for cureing y ^e child's head	00 02 6
pd for a coat 3 shifts & a cap for her	00 6 6

Whether the clothing was for Margaret or the child isn't specified.



Clungunford St Cuthbert - porch

At the end of the 17th century, the parish register is a little more helpful. William was the eldest of four children born to William and Margaret, and was

followed by Thomas, baptised on 22nd April 1694, Edward, baptised 29th June 1701 and Philip, baptised on 3rd February 1702. When this last child was buried on 29th August 1703 it was as:

Philip the son of William Mullart and Margaret his wife

When Thomas married Shusanna Betton at Stokesay on 10th May 1732, the register identifies him as of Clungunford. When Edward Mullard married Anne Halberley on April 23rd 1726, banns were mentioned. Adult burials are still a challenge, partly because the names Edward, William, Thomas and Philip are used in each generation and sometimes more than once.

To compound the issue, both William senior and his father Edward married wives named Margaret, neither of whose marriages have been traced. This Edward sits at the top of the known (probable) Mullard tree and was probably born in the 1620s or 30s. He and Margaret baptised three daughters and three sons, namely Margaret – 6th August 1653, Katherine – 12th December 1654, Edward – 2nd April 1657, Samuel – 19th May 1660, William (our presumed line of descent) baptised on 17th June 1662 and finally Elizabeth – 16th May 1665. Daughter Margaret was buried twelve days after her baptism; Samuel seems to have lived until 1710 but left no other trace. Edward, however, probably married a woman named Anne Hayton in Ludlow on 5th February 1684. He may have been a blacksmith by trade, as there is a mention in the Clungunford Churchwardens' Accounts in 1702 as follows¹⁰⁰:

Paid to Edw ^d Mullart for smith work and his assistans in hanging the bell	00 09 00
--	----------

This entry was found in an article on *The Church Bells of Shropshire* by H B Walters, but several other entries in the Churchwardens' Accounts¹⁰¹ mention an Edward Mullart, though it is not clear whether father or son are indicated. For example, in 1685 we read:

Paid to Edward Mullart for urchins	00 00 06
------------------------------------	----------

Urchins was a county name for hedgehogs. In 1694, is the entry:

Paid to Edward Mullart for a hook eye for the churchyard gate	00 01 02
--	----------

followed in 1698 by:

Paid Edward Mullart for a hook	00 00 07
--------------------------------	----------

¹⁰⁰ *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society; 3rd series, Vol V, part 1*, <https://shropshirearchaeologyhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/shropshire-transactions-vol.-28-part-1.pdf>

¹⁰¹ SA, P229/B/1 fiche 49-65 Clungunford; Churchwardens' Accounts 1659-1769

In 1702, he was paid for a journey to what looks like Pepps Castle. It seems likely that this was the younger Edward as Edward senior would have been rather old to go galivanting round the country by then. The most intriguing entry comes in 1709 and reads:

pd Edward Mullard for ye pins rings and cottrells for the	
Beer	00 01 00

A cotterell is an adjustable hook, crane or bar for hanging pots over a fire, so it seems that Young Edward was involved in providing the wherewithal for brewing church ales. In 1719, he was paid 11^d for work done at the church. Two final entries come after Edward junior's supposed death. In 1725, an Edward Mullard was lent 10/- . In 1727 there are two, final, cryptic entries:

Rec'd for Edward Mullards' Goods	00 14 06
pd Edward Mullard the overpay of his goods	00 01 06

So, maybe even at this early date, there were multiple Edwards and Williams, and none of these entries refer to Mary Mullard's ancestors.

As has been suggested, the older Edward Mullart may well have died in 1703 as the burial register records:

Edward Mullart sen^r was buried the 12th day of January

His son, recorded as Edward Mullard junior, died in 1722. Presumably, then, it is Edward senior's grandson, son of William and Mary, who was buried in 1734. However, there is a lot of conjecture here and nothing is certain.

Here, as far as the parish registers are concerned, the trail ends, despite a search on several name variants. However, intriguingly, there exists the will of one Edmund Mullart¹⁰² dated the last day of January 1614 which begins:

I Edmund Mullart Of the parish of Clungunford, and diocese of Hereford,
being sick in body but of good and perfect memory (god therefore be
praised) doe Make this my last will and testament in manner and form
following...

He names a number of family members: his brother John of Acton Burnell, his wife Elizabeth – who was buried at Clungunford as:

Elizabeth Mollart widowe

on 3rd July 1621 – daughters Anne Batchelor and Sadge Maylert and granddaughter Christian Maylert, and sons, George, Charles and Philip. Although Elizabeth is to be

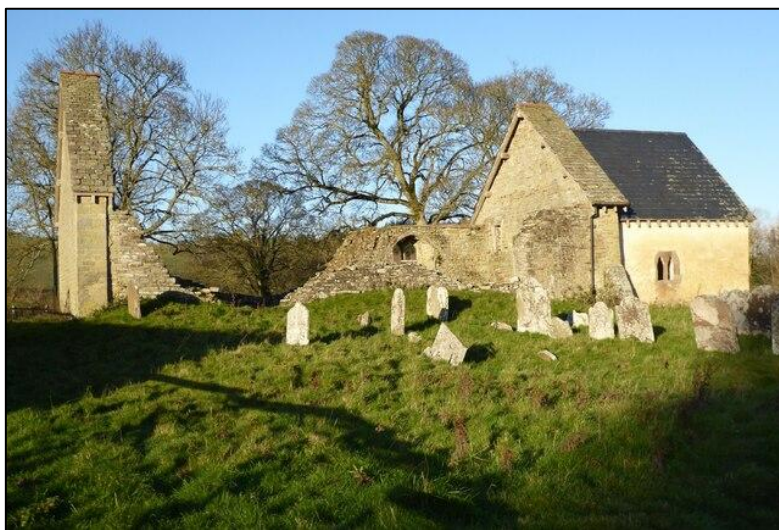
¹⁰² HARC, 63A/01/52, will of Edmund Mullart of Clungunford, 1614.

executrix, she and Philip are willed all the implements of husbandry and enjoined to use them:

in and upon the tenement wherein I now dwell

This Philip, and a wife named Catherine, baptised two daughters and a son Thomas at Clungunford in the early 17th century, and it is tempting to think that there was another son, who went unrecorded, but was called Edward and was the three-times great-grandfather of Mary Mullard wife of William Hughes.

William Hughes and Charlotte Jones – mainly Herefordshire



The remains of Old St Giles church at Downton on the Rock

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As has already been said, William Hughes was born at Hay Mill in Burrington parish in 1838:

11th March Burrington; William; Boy; William Hughes; Mary Hughes formerly Mullard; Labourer; The mark of x William Hughes father Hay Mill

He was baptised on 6th May the same year at Downton on the Rock in the old St Giles church:

William son of William and Mary Hughes, Hay Mill, labourer



Hay Mill – William Ward Gill
(courtesy of Ludlow Library & Museum Resource Centre)

Hay Mill was part of the Downton Estate, the website¹⁰³ for which describes the area as follows:

Downton Estate lies at the heart of what is considered the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Less than 40 km from Ironbridge ... where the technique of smelting iron with coke was perfected in the late 18th century. Downton played a major role in producing iron for the country, from nails to ploughshares.

The estate once had eleven working mills; while some are now in ruins, much of the industrial heritage – including bridges, weirs, and mills in the river gorge – has been restored.

In 1841¹⁰⁴ William was living with parents, younger sister and aunt at Wyson, a hamlet in Brimfield. 10 years later¹⁰⁵, he had moved with his family to a farm named *Burnt House* in Ashford Carbonell in Shropshire. By 1861¹⁰⁶ he was back in Herefordshire, at *Old Field* in Leinthall Earls in Aymestrey, where he was described as a farmer's son. He was 23 by this time, and no doubt ready to settle down.

William took out a licence on 24th September:

On which day appeared personally William Hughes of the parish of Aymestrey in the County of Hereford and diocese of Hereford a bachelor of the age of twenty three years and upwards and prayed a license for the Solemnization of Matrimony in the parish church of Aymestrey between him and Charlotte Jones of the Parish of Aymestrey in the County of Hereford and diocese of Hereford a spinster of the age of twenty seven

¹⁰³ <https://downtonestate.com/history>

¹⁰⁴ HO 107/429/1, 1841 census, Brimfield

¹⁰⁵ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Ashford Carbonell

¹⁰⁶ RG 9/1833, 1861 census, Aymestrey

years and upwards, and the said William Hughes made Oath that he believeth that there is no impediment... to hinder the Proceeding of the said Matrimony between him the said William Hughes and her the said Charlotte Jones... And he further made Oath that the said Charlotte Jones hath had her usual place of abode within the said Parish of Aymestrey for the space of Fifteen days last past.

The certificate gave the following information for their marriage which followed on 6th November 1861:

William Hughes; 23; Bach; Farmer; Aymestry; William Hughes; Farmer
Charlotte Jones; 27; Spins; Leinthall Earles; John Jones, Farmer
Married... by licence; William Hughes; Charlotte Jones;
in the presence of William I G Williams; Jane Hughes

Jane was William's sister; the identity of the other witness is unknown. Although William was living at home when the census was taken in April, by the time of his marriage he was set up as a farmer in his own right. Whether this was with the support of his father or on his own initiative isn't clear, but the *Hereford Journal*¹⁰⁷ reported the wedding suggesting that William was running Waterloo Farm at Orleton:

HUGHES-JONES. – Nov. 6, at the parish church of Aymestrey, by license, Mr William Hughes, of Waterloo farm, Orleton, only son of Mr. William Hughes, of Old Field farm, Leinthall Earls, to Charlotte, third daughter of Mr John Jones, of Leinthall Earls.

The *Shrewsbury Chronicle*¹⁰⁸ ran a similar piece, specifying for a more distant readership that Orleton was near Ludlow. William was a tenant farmer at Orleton but maybe was not cut out to run his own enterprise or didn't get on with the next owner. Only nine months later, the farm was up for sale¹⁰⁹:

VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY MR. BENJAMIN GILES

The estate was described as consisting of two tenements, *Waterloo* and *The Liners* and containing together just over 105 acres. Apart from woods and plantations, the land was in the occupation of William Hughes:

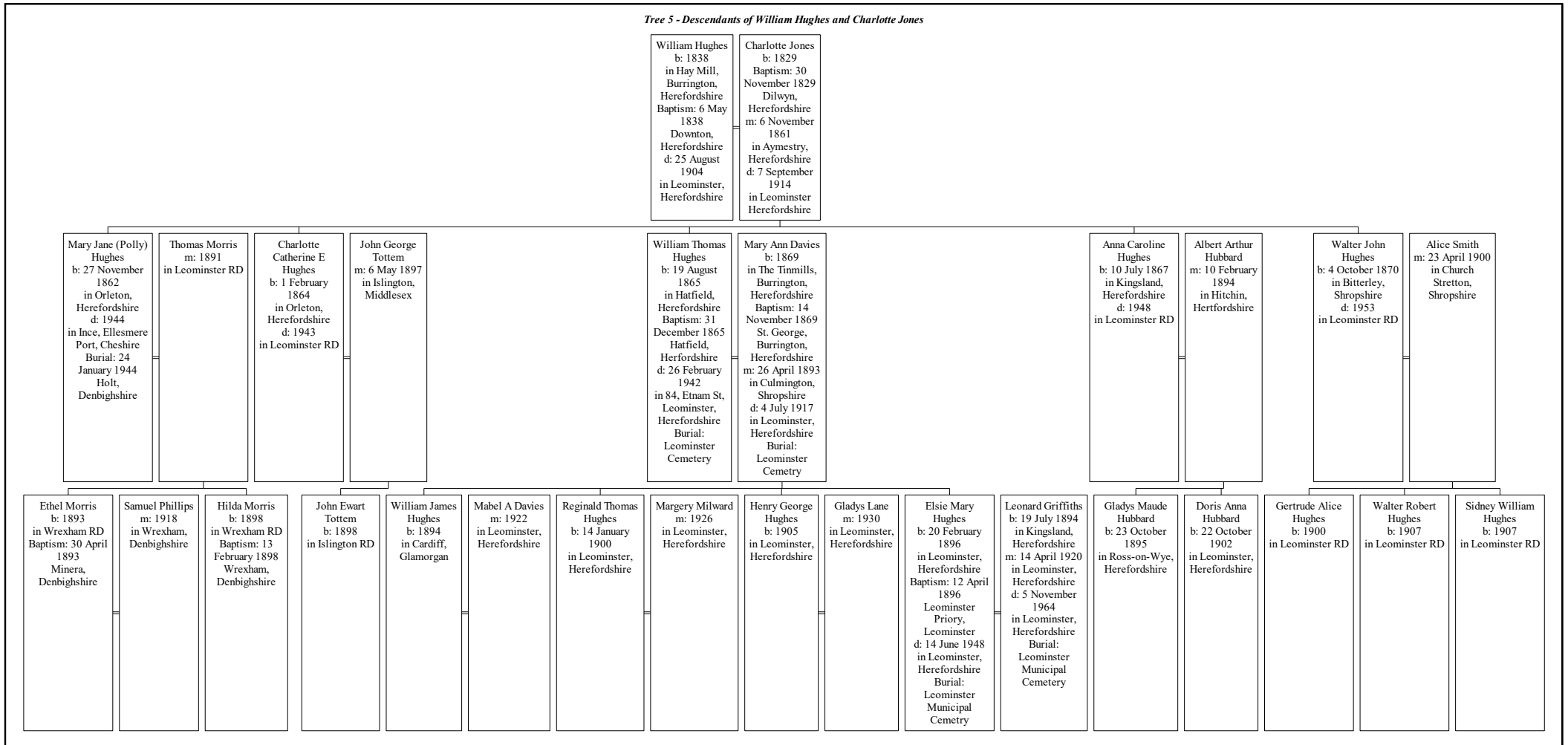
There is a good Farm House and Outbuildings at Waterloo, and a smaller House ... at The Liners... The arable lands, upon some of which may now be seen the finest wheat crops, consist of about 51 acres; the Meadow and Pasture about 31 acres... two capital streams of Water run through or adjoin the Estate.

¹⁰⁷ *The Hereford Journal*, 18.11.1861

¹⁰⁸ *The Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 15.11.1861

¹⁰⁹ *The Hereford Journal*, 30.8.1862

Tree 5 - Descendants of William Hughes and Charlotte Jones



After extolling the beauties of the countryside and commenting on the favourable road and rail links, the article goes on to say:

Mr Hughes, the tenant, will show the Estate...

William and Charlotte's first two children were born at Orleton (**See tree 5, p 46**); the first, Mary Jane, known to the family as Polly, on 27th November 1862. By the time she was eight, she was living with her grandparents on their farm at Asbatch. She hasn't been found in the 1881 census, but in 1891 she married Thomas Morris – an architect and surveyor – somewhere in the Leominster Registration District. Presumably, they moved away shortly after as their first child, Ethel, was baptised at Minera in Denbighshire in April 1893. A sister named Hilda was baptised at Wrexham in 1898. Their mother, Mary Jane, was buried at Holt in Denbighshire in 1944.

Charlotte Catherine Hughes was born on 17th February 1864. By 1881¹¹⁰ she had already left home and was living with her grandparents at Bitterley as a farm servant, while in 1891¹¹¹ she was working as a parlour maid in swanky Bedford Square. On 6th May 1897, she married courier John George Tottem in Islington and a son named John Ewart was born a year later. By 1911¹¹² the family was living in Aston in Warwickshire and in 1921¹¹³ in Birmingham but by 1939¹¹⁴, they were back in Leominster, where Charlotte died in 1943.

Sometime between 1862 and 1865, then, William and Charlotte moved their family to Hatfield, about seven miles east of Leominster, and it was here that their third child, William Thomas, was born on 19th August 1865. On his birth certificate, his father records his occupation as farmer. William Thomas' life will be followed later. When Anna Caroline was born on 10th July 1867, the family was living in Kingsland, on the other side of Leominster, and by the time the final child – Walter John – was born on 27th November 1870, they had moved again, to Bitterley.

So, when the enumerator recorded the family in 1871¹¹⁵, it was at Cockshutt in Bitterley, where William, aged 33, is listed as an agricultural labourer. With him were Charlotte, aged 30, born at Dilwyn, Charlotte C, aged seven, born Orleton, William T – 5 – born Hatfield, Anna – listed as Hannah C aged three, born Kingsland – and Walter J aged five months and born at Bitterley in Shropshire. It seems that William had not made as much of a success at farming as his father had done, which is why my gut feeling is that it was William senior who was probably behind the acquisition of the cottage William junior tenanted at Bitterley¹¹⁶:

¹¹⁰ RG11/2616, 1881 census, Bitterley

¹¹¹ RG12/209, 1891 census, St George Bloomsbury

¹¹² RG14/385/3/1, 1911 census, Aston

¹¹³ RG15/14291/159, 1921 census, Birmingham

¹¹⁴ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 *England and Wales Register*, Leominster

¹¹⁵ RG10/2726, 1871 census, Bitterley

¹¹⁶ PL9/32/3/5 Bitterley; Bundle of Valuation and supplementary valuation lists 1862-74

Number	Name of Occupier	Name of Owner	Description of Property
79 68	William Hughes jnr	John Knightly Esq	Cottage

Name or Situation of Property	Estimated Extent	Gross Estimated Rental	Rateable Value
Cockshutt	A P R	£ s d	£ s d
		3 10	2 10



Cockshutt Cottages

By 1881, all but Walter had flown the nest; he, William and Charlotte were enumerated at Ashford Carbonell, about six miles from Bitterley.¹¹⁷ Even Anna was in service, aged 13, listed in the census¹¹⁸ as Anny C Hughes, working for a landowner living in Dinham in Ludlow. She, too, slips out of sight in 1891, but may well have travelled further afield in search of a good position, as, on 10th February 1894, she married Albert Arthur Hubbard at Hitchin in Hertfordshire. Albert was born in Hertfordshire, but the couple returned to Hereford to settle, and in 1901¹¹⁹ were living at 5 Pinsley Road, Leominster where they were to be found with William and Charlotte Hughes and their daughter Gladys Maud, aged five. Curiously, Gladys' place of birth is given as the Ross registration district in Herefordshire, which includes the village of Lea where her grandparents and uncle Walter were enumerated in 1891¹²⁰, with William a labourer and Walter a gardener. So, I suspect the Hubbards were living with William and Charlotte when Gladys was born.

It may have been necessity which made Albert and Anna settle with her parents, or it may have been that they were elderly and infirm and needed support. William died only three years after the census was taken from a throat tumour, a rare but singularly unpleasant cancer. His certificate records:

Twenty fifth August 1904; 5 Pinsley Road Leominster UD; William Hughes;

¹¹⁷ RG11 2/6/1/6, 1881 census, Ashford Carbonell

¹¹⁸ RG11/2614, 1881 census, Ludlow

¹¹⁹ RG13/2493, 1901 census, Leominster.

¹²⁰ RG12/2056, 1891 census, Lea

Male; 66 years; Formerly a farmer but latterly a gardener (not domestic);
Malignant disease of throat Exhaustion; Walter Hughes Son Present at the
Death; 108 South Street Leominster

He was laid to rest in Leominster Priory churchyard on 30th August. Charlotte outlived her husband by seven years.

A short-lived son, Walter Arthur had been born to Albert and Anna in Leominster and died in the same year, 1901. A second daughter, Doris Anna, was born in 1902. She never married but her sister Gladys married George Chapman in 1918. Both daughters were still at home at 19 Cranes Lane when the 1911¹²¹ census was taken, and Anna's widowed mother Charlotte was there too. In 1921¹²², the couple were still at 19, Cranes Lane, with just daughter Doris still at home. Like so many at this time, Albert was out of work. He died in 1932 and his wife Anna in 1948, both in the Leominster Registration District.

As has been seen, Walter had finally left home by 1901, and was living as a lodger in South Street, Leominster, with his new wife Alice née Smith whom he had married at Church Stretton on 23rd April 1900. In 1901¹²³, he was working as a plate layer on the railway. The head of the household was Alice's brother, William, as he was in 1911¹²⁴ when twin boys, Sidney and Walter - born in 1907 - were also listed, but there is no sign of Gertrude, born in 1900. However, she had rejoined the family by 1921¹²⁵ and was recorded with her parents and brothers. Walter was recorded as a sub-ganger, so working with a team on the railway. By 1939¹²⁶ he and his wife were still in South Street, but, in the autumn of his life, like so many older men, he was now employed as a gardener. He died in Leominster in 1953.

John and Catherine Jones - mainly Aymestrey

Before the story of William Thomas Hughes is told, it is time to look at the Jones family and their connections. When Charlotte Jones married William Hughes in 1861 it was a case of farmer's daughter marrying farmer's son. However, although her father-in-law was the only member of his family to be able to claim that status, the Jones family had been farmers for at least three generations, and in fact one of them had designated himself a gentleman, so I suspect Charlotte experienced something of a comedown during her time as the wife of William Hughes.

¹²¹ RG15/340/1/10, 1911 census, Leominster

¹²² RG16/340/2/849, 1921 census, Leominster

¹²³ RG13/2493, 1901 census, Leominster

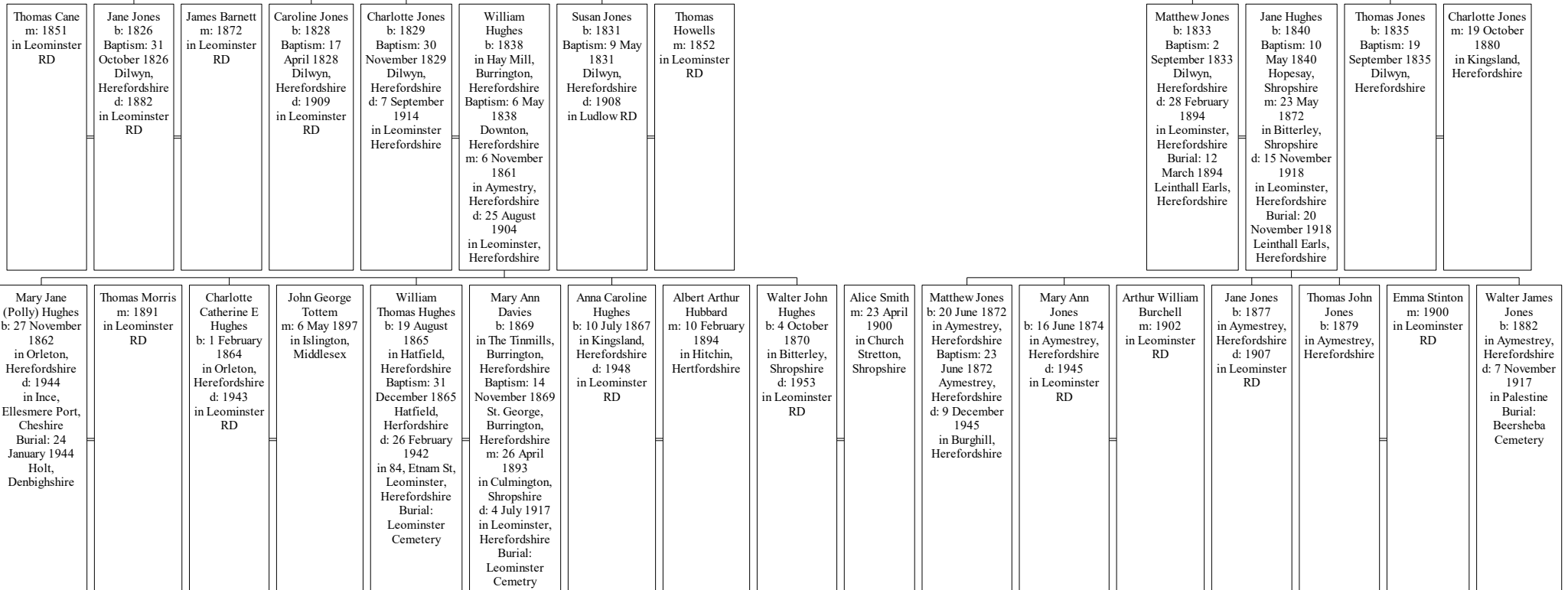
¹²⁴ RG14/340/1/8, 1911 census, Leominster

¹²⁵ RG15/340/2, 1921 census, Leominster.

¹²⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 England and Wales Register, Leominster

Tree 6 - Descendants of John Jones and Catherine Watkins

John Jones b: 1797 Baptism: 24 October 1797 Wigmore, Herefordshire d: 22 March 1870 in Leinthal Earls, Aymestrey, Herefordshire	Catherine Watkins b: 1795 Baptism: 2 August 1795 Dilwyn, Herefordshire d: 27 April 1860 in Leinthal Earls, Aymestrey, Herefordshire
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Charlotte was born at Dilwyn, her mother's home parish, about six miles south-west of Leominster, and baptised there on 30th November 1829. She was the third child of her parents, John and Catherine Jones (**See tree 6, p. 50**). Although all her siblings were born, like her, at Dilwyn, by 1841¹²⁷ the family had moved to Leinthall Earles in Aymestrey, closer to John's birthplace of Wigmore. In both 1851 and 1861¹²⁸ she was enumerated in the family home at Leinthall Earls as a farmer's daughter. Despite marrying by licence in 1861 – a sign of status for those who did not wish their names read out in common banns – by 1871 and after, she was married to an agricultural labourer rather than a farmer.

After her husband's death in 1904, Charlotte seems to have continued to live with her daughter Anna and her family, and she was enumerated with them at 19, Cranes Lane in Leominster in 1911¹²⁹ as:

Mother-in-law, Widow, 82, Old Age Pensioner

This census gives one more vital piece of information. Rather than just Dilwyn, Charlotte's place of birth is given as Tib Hall, Dilwyn. *Tibhall* still exists and is a substantial-looking black and white farmhouse on the road out of Luntley.



Tib Hall, Dilwyn

Charlotte survived her husband by 10 years, dying just over a month after the outbreak of World War I at the home of her daughter Anna:

Seventh September 1914, 19 Cranes Lane Leominster UD; Charlotte Hughes;
Female; 84 years; Widow of William Hughes an agricultural labourer;
Senile Decay; intestinal stasis; WJ Hughes, Son Present at the death
6 Cranes Lane, Leominster

¹²⁷ HO 107/428, 1841 census, Aymestrey

¹²⁸ HO 107/1961 & RG9/1833, 1851 & 1861 census, Aymestrey

¹²⁹ RG14/15810, 1911 census, Leominster

The son in question, given the address, was probably actually William Thomas. Charlotte was buried in Leominster Priory churchyard, on 11th September.



Eardisland St Mary

As has been stated, Charlotte was the daughter of John Jones and his wife Catherine Watkins, who had married at Eardisland on 18th January 1826. The transcript notes:

Groom of Dilwyn

which is slightly curious as it was Catherine who was baptised at Dilwyn while John came from Wigmore. Their first child, Jane, was baptised almost exactly nine months after the wedding at Dilwyn on 31st October 1826. In 1851 she married Thomas Cane somewhere in the Leominster Registration District, probably Aymestrey, where the couple's six children were born; two of them are enumerated with their parents at Leinthall Earls in 1861¹³⁰. The next household on the schedule is that of her father and siblings. Thomas Cane died in 1867, just after the birth of their last child, but Jane continued to run his farm with the help of James Barnett, a farm servant 12 years younger. Jane appears on the 1871¹³¹ census as head of household but in 1872 she married James and they continued to run a small farm of 64 acres, and were enumerated in 1881¹³² in Leinthall village, with brother Matthew farming next door. She died in 1882.

Caroline, the next child of John and Catherine, was baptised on 17th April 1826. She never married, which is probably why she featured heavily in her father's will. He left her enough to live on her own means as although she was listed as housekeeper at Leinthall Earls to her brother Matthew in 1871¹³³, in 1881¹³⁴ she was

¹³⁰ RG9/1833, 1861 census, Aymestrey

¹³¹ RG10/2718, 1871 census, Aymestrey

¹³² RG11/2607, 1881 census, Aymestrey

¹³³ RG10/2718, 1871 census, Aymestrey

¹³⁴ RG11/2615, 1881 census, Richards Castle

at Richards Castle visiting her sister Susan Howells and recorded as an annuitant. By 1891¹³⁵ she had moved to Ashford Carbonell where she was living on her own means, and at this point had her niece Mary J Cane with her as a visitor. Mary was visiting again in 1901¹³⁶, when Caroline was boarding with a family in Ludlow, so presumably aunt and niece were close. By the time of her death in 1909, she was back in her home county as the death was registered in the Leominster Registration District.



Dilwyn St Mary

A fourth daughter followed Charlotte. Susan was baptised at Dilwyn on 9th May 1831 and married John Howells in the Leominster Registration District in 1852. John was farming 64 acres in Aymestrey in 1861¹³⁷ and Susan was already mother to four children. In 1871¹³⁸ they were still at Aymestrey, with two more children. As has been said, the family was at Richards Castle in 1881¹³⁹ but by 1891¹⁴⁰ Susan was widowed, and farming in Richards Castle with help from her son Walter and a farm servant. The pair were still farming in Richards Castle in 1901¹⁴¹, assisted by a farm servant named Harry Howells, who was, I suspect, Susan's grandson. She died in 1908, still, I guess, in Richards Castle.

Finally, after four daughters, John and Catherine had a son, Matthew, named for his paternal grandfather. Most of his story has been told already, as it was this Matthew who married Jane Hughes in 1872. His father had died in 1870, and as heir-at-law, he presumably inherited John Jones' farm in Leinthall Earls. Certainly, the fact that Jane Cane is enumerated as a next-door neighbour to her father in 1861

¹³⁵ RG12/2082, 1891 census, Ashford Carbonell

¹³⁶ RG13/2504, 1901 census, Ludow

¹³⁷ RG9/1833, 1861 census, Aymestrey

¹³⁸ RG10/2724, 1871 census, Richards Castle

¹³⁹ RG11/2615, 1881 census, Richards Castle

¹⁴⁰ RG12/2081, 1891 census, Richards Castle

¹⁴¹ RG13/2503, 1901 census, Richards Castle

and to her brother Matthew in 1871 would suggest that Matthew took over his father's property there.

John and Catherine's final child, Thomas, baptised at Dilwyn on 19th September 1835, has been the hardest to pin down. He lived at home in Aymestrey probably until his father's death in 1870. In 1871¹⁴² he was enumerated as Farmer's Brother in Matthew's household in Leinthall Earls. Thereafter, it is harder to track him. He doesn't seem to have died during the next decade, but there is no census entry for a Thomas Jones born in Dilwyn in 1881. However, there is a Thomas Jones at Wigmore (a town with which this family had connections) in 1881¹⁴³, a farmer of 20 acres, aged 44, giving his place of birth as Aymestrey, which would be feasible. This Thomas had married a Charlotte Jones the previous year at Kingsland, on 19th October 1880, and had a baby daughter named Charlotte, who must have been born shortly after the wedding.

If this is the right Thomas, he was a farmer living at *Brick House* in Wigmore in 1891¹⁴⁴, with his wife and daughter, still giving Aymestrey as his birthplace, but is probably the Thomas Jones whose death was registered in Herefordshire in 1893. Charlotte was enumerated as a widow in 1901¹⁴⁵, and died in 1909, with *The Hereford Times* recording:

JONES – At Petchfield, on October 11, Charlotte, widow of the late Thomas Jones, of Brick House, Wigmore, formerly of Leinthall Earles, aged 68.

Charlotte had kept her surname, it seems, through thick and thin. Born to John and Charlotte Jones at Aymestrey in 1840, and apparently no relation to her later spouse, she seems to have made a short-lived marriage – probably to another Thomas Jones in 1865 – as in 1871¹⁴⁶, when she was housekeeping for her brother-in-law James MacKenzie following her sister's death, both James and Charlotte are recorded as widows, although this may be an error with regards to Charlotte. So, it is possible that she changed her name to Jones – from Jones – twice. In a final twist of irony, Charlotte was enumerated in 1861¹⁴⁷ at Cock Gate in Yarpole, a property seemingly earlier owned by Thomas' great-grandfather, Matthew Jones.

To return to John and Catherine themselves, although Catherine had been born in Dilwyn, her husband John Jones was baptised at Wigmore, on 24th October 1797, the son of Matthew and Jane Jones. As a young man, he farmed in Wigmore, appearing in the Land Tax records first in 1813¹⁴⁸ on land he occupied belonging to Richard Prince. From 1816 to 1823¹⁴⁹ he appears on the return as occupier of two small plots of land:

Richard Prince	John Jones	- 3 -
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¹⁴² RG10/2718, 1871 census, Aymestrey

¹⁴³ RG11/2613, 1881 census, Wigmore

¹⁴⁴ RG12/2079, 1891 census, Wigmore

¹⁴⁵ RG13/2502, 1901 census, Wigmore

¹⁴⁶ RG10/2718, 1871 census, Aymestrey

¹⁴⁷ RG9/1833, 1861 census, Yarpole

¹⁴⁸ Q/Rel/9/30/9, Wigmore Land Tax, 1813

¹⁴⁹ Q/Rel/9/30/10, 11, 12, 17, Wigmore Land Tax, 1816, 17, 19 and 23

Benjⁿ Hill John Jones - 1 8

However, at the same time, he was beginning a move into Eardisland. The return for 1820¹⁵⁰ reads:

Late Henry Bengough Esq ^e	John Jones	- 15 2	- 15 2
Late W ^m Jones	Richard Stridup	- 15 -	

with the second figure in the first entry appearing in the 'exonerated' column.

By 1822, the entry is the same, but with John's name replacing the 'late William Jones' line, as it is in the following two years¹⁵¹. He hadn't given up on Wigmore though, as the 1826 return shows him to be the occupier of land taxed at 2/4 and owned by Samuel Lewes. The 1829 return¹⁵² for Wigmore gives delightfully spelled descriptions of the property he occupied:

Thomas Owens	John Jones	Hous and garden	- 2 10
Earl of Oxford	John Jones	Tilleg and paster land	- 7 6

Despite all this activity in Wigmore and Eardisland, John baptised his children in Dilwyn, and it seems to be here that he settled, as the next sighting is from *The Hereford Times*¹⁵³ in an item which seems to be about a lost sheep:

AT TIBHALL, in the parish of DILWYN, in March last, A YEARLING
EWE SHEEP of a cross breed; the owner may have it by proving it to be
his property and paying for this advertisement and other expenses, on
application to JOHN JONES; if not claimed before 17th of August, it will
be sold to defray expenses.
Tibhall, July 17th, 1837.

For a long time, the imposition of tithes – a tax of one tenth of produce to be given to the church annually – had rankled with farmers. By a parliamentary act in 1837, these were gradually converted to money payments. The commissioners reached Aymestrey in 1840, and an enormous and beautiful tithe map, along with an almost equally massy book recording the apportionment both survive¹⁵⁴. In it, all John Jones' plots of land and their uses, acreage and amount due to the vicar are recorded. These number 39 in all, including his house, garden, buildings and fold, one acre, one rood and 17 perches. The rest consists of a mix of arable, pasture, meadow, woodland and orchards. Some of the names are straightforwardly descriptive, such as *Upper Cow Pasture*, *Best Meadow* or *The Dale* but many are evocative or simply amusing. For example, *The Hole*, *Upper Spout Piece*, *Little Broomy hill* and *Shirt and Sleeve*.

¹⁵⁰ Q/Rel/7/5/12, Eardisland Land Tax, 1820

¹⁵¹ Q/Rel/7/5/14, 16 & 17, Eardisland Land Tax, 1822, 23 & 24.

¹⁵² Q/Rel/9/30/22, Wigmore Land Tax, 1829

¹⁵³ *The Hereford Times*, 19.7.1837

¹⁵⁴ HARC, F71/162, Tithe Map, Aymestrey,; F71/163, Tithe Apportionment, Aymestrey, 1840

The map shows some of these plots dispersed around the parish, but many of them are round plot 250, the farmhouse. According to *Littlebury's Directory*¹⁵⁵, this would be the property in Leinthall Earls, which survives as *The Hall Farmhouse*. In an entry on an estate agent's website¹⁵⁶, it is described as:

A substantial detached stone former farm house ... with immense character...

comprising three double bedrooms and two reception rooms. The dining room is described as follows:

With original flagstone floor, window seat, fabulous stone inglenook
Fireplace with oak beam over and Clearview wood burning stove.
Double aspect windows, radiator, beamed walls and ceiling.

The living room also boasted an inglenook fireplace.

The entry in the directory for John's son Matthew reads:

Matthew Jones, farmer, The Hall, Leinthall Earls



Hall Farm, Leinthall Earls

The Aymestrey Rate Book¹⁵⁷ also records John and his land. The entry for 24th September 1840 reads:

Occupier	Owner	Description	Situation	Extent	Rateable value	Total to be collected
John Jones	Greenly	Farm	Leinthal Earls	230 0 12	180 0 0	£4 10 0
Do	Vicar	Small tithes	Do		10 0 0	£5 0 0

¹⁵⁵ <https://texts.wishful-thinking.org.uk/Littlebury1876/Aymestrey.html> Littlebury's Directory of Hereford, 1876

¹⁵⁶ <https://media.onthemarket.com/properties/9641757/1326699087/document-0.pdf>

¹⁵⁷ HARC, F71/64, Aymestrey Rate Book 1839-41

Similar entries follow, with the owner named as Lady Greenly.

On the 1841¹⁵⁸ census, when he and his family were recorded at Leinthall in Aymestrey, John is a farmer, and he and Catherine's ages are both rounded down to 40. The children are recorded as two years apart, which isn't quite accurate: Jane – 13, Caroline – 11, Charlotte – 9, Susanna – 7, Matthew – 5 and Thomas – 3. Also in the house are three agricultural labourers and two female servants, suggesting a relatively well-off household.

This is borne out by the next two census returns. In 1851¹⁵⁹ John was 50, a:

Farmer of 230 acres employ 6 Lab

His wife Catherine was 54. All the children were still at home, with the girls designated:

Farmer's dau employed at home

while the boys were scholars.

By 1861¹⁶⁰ John was widowed, Catherine having died a year earlier:

Twenty seventh April 1860 Leinthall Earls, Aymestrey; Catharine Jones;
Female; 66 years; Wife of John Jones Farmer; Rheumatic Gout and
Mortification of Legs; John Jones in attendance Leinthall Earls, Aymestrey

Four of the children were still at home and unmarried: Caroline, Charlotte, Matthew and Thomas, listed as farmer's daughters and farmer's sons respectively. John was still farming and had increased his acreage to 239 acres. Also in the household were a carter, a dairymaid, a cowman and a farmer's boy.

In 1865, maybe in recognition of failing health, John Jones made his will¹⁶¹. It makes intriguing reading and shows a number of pieces of property which presumably weren't part of the land he farmed. The first bequest to his son Matthew is of:

All that freehold estate with the messuage tenement outbuildings and lands called "The Davern" Situated in the parish of Llanbister and county of Radnor with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances

However, this was subject to a mortgage of £800. To his younger son Thomas he left:

All that freehold messuage or tenement outbuildings gardens and premises situated opposite to the Castle Inn in Wigmore in the said county of Hereford and now or lately known by the sign of the

¹⁵⁸ HO 107/428, 1841 census, Aymestrey

¹⁵⁹ HO 107/1961, 1851 census, Aymestrey

¹⁶⁰ RG9/1833, 1861 census, Aymestrey

¹⁶¹ HARC, Will of John Jones, Aymestrey, 1865

Plough Inn together with six pieces or parcels of meadow or pasture land situate at the Nowille in the said parish of Wigmore and now in my own occupation with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances



Castle Inn, Wigmore

To his unmarried daughter Caroline he left:

All that freehold messuage or tenement outbuildings gardens and two pieces or parcels of arable land belonging thereto called "The Lower House" situate at the Bears Wood in the parish of Eardisland and county of Hereford now in the occupation of Richard Carpenter with their and every of their appurtenances

All in all a fair amount of land, it would seem. Everything else was bequeathed in trust to his executors, his sons Matthew and Thomas, to convert into cash to pay legacies to his children. Matthew, Thomas and Caroline were to receive £100 each out of the sum raised, which was then to be divided equally between those three and their siblings: Jane Cane, Charlotte Hughes and Susan Howells, with the caveat that if any of the above should die in his lifetime, the grandchildren would receive their parent's share. The will was dated 3rd April 1865 and witnessed by John Hill and John Smart.

Two years later he added a codicil, raising the initial bequest to each of his sons from £100 to £500. This was witnessed by John Hill and Jane Reynolds. John died at Leinthall Earls on 15th March 1870, aged 73. The cause of death was simply:

Senectus

which means very old. His son Matthew was present at the death.

He was buried at Wigmore on 22nd March 1870. A gravestone still exists, though it has fallen and cracked, so not everything is legible. What can be read, or surmised, is as follows:

*In
affectionate remembrance of
JOHN JONES
of Leinthall Earles
WHO DIED MARCH 15. 1870
AGED 75 YEARS.
I am the resurrection and the life he
that believeth in me though he were dead
yet he shall live*

The brothers proved the will at Hereford on 17th November that year. Effects were totalled at under £4,000¹⁶². According to the National Archives Currency Converter¹⁶³, the purchasing power of £4,000 would have allowed for the buying of either: 266 horses, 749 cows, 6060 stones of wool, 1990 quarters of wheat or paid the wages of a skilled workman for 20,000 days.



Gravestone of John Jones, Wigmore

¹⁶² <https://ancestry.co.uk> England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995

¹⁶³ <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/#currency-result>

Watkins and Garlick – Dilwyn and Eardisland



Dilwyn St Mary

Like all her children, Catherine or Catherina Watkins was baptised at Dilwyn. Her baptism took place on 2nd August 1795, as the daughter of Thomas and Catherina Watkins. She was the third child of five, all baptised at Dilwyn. Thomas came first, baptised on 5th February 1791, just over a year after his parents Thomas Watkins and Catherina Garlick had married at Eardisland on 31st December 1789. Thomas junior doesn't seem to have married and a burial is recorded in Eardisland for a man of that name and the right age on 16th September 1828. Mary Ann was baptised on 1st January 1793. She married Thomas Grosvenor at Eardisland on 26th March 1822 and died in the Leominster registration district in 1864. After Catherine came Anne, baptised on 15th April 1798. She was still alive and unmarried in 1836 when her father wrote his will, but there is no further sign of her. The last child was Richard; baptised on 27th January 1805; he was buried at Eardisland on 1st September 1814.

At one time I had assumed that both Thomas and Catherina had been married before, but the allegation he made in order to obtain a marriage licence¹⁶⁴ clearly states him not to have been married previously:

Appeared personally Thomas Watkins of the parish of Dilwyn in the county and diocese of Hereford Farmer

And being sworn on the holy evangelists and made oath that he is of the age of 30 and upwards a bachelor and intends to marry Catherina Garlick of the parish of Eardisland in the same county and diocese a widow.

Given that he and another farmer, Philip Phillips, were bound to pay £100 if there were any cause found for the marriage not to take place, it seems unlikely that

¹⁶⁴ www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSJC-W98N-F?view=fullText

Thomas would have lied about something so critical. The licence was granted on 21st December and the couple married ten days later.

Thomas and Catherina baptised all their children at Dilwyn, and he can be traced in the parish in these years through the Churchwardens' accounts¹⁶⁵ for that parish. The first entry of interest is on January 10th 1800 which records, somewhat cryptically:

p ^d Mr Watkins for Thomas' diet	0	18	7
--	---	----	---

A few lines above is an entry which reads:

p ^d Thomas the Glazier	1	6	7
-----------------------------------	---	---	---

Presumably the glazier had been repairing the church windows and Thomas Watkins had been providing his food while he worked. This is borne out by a pair of entries on 23rd November 1802:

p ^d Jn ^o Thomas repairing the leds [sic]	0	10	4
p ^d Mr Watkins for victuals and drink for him	0	5	0

At the end of 1803, he is once more reimbursed, though the reason is not clear:

p ^d Mr Watkins a Bill for Meat drink & Lodging	-	6	-
---	---	---	---

On 29th April 1804 the following appears:

p ^d Mr Watkins a bill for clothes for poor	3	11	3
---	---	----	---

It wasn't all positive, though, as in the same year he received a summons for being 1/6 in arrears for the poor rate. In June another bill of £1 6/2 ½ was recorded for something unspecified. The entry reads:

p^d a bill at Watkins

so maybe the farm or house was known by the name of the man who lived there. A final reference to Thomas appears in 1807:

p ^d Mr Watkins a Bill for Cloathes for the Poor	12	7	6
--	----	---	---

which was a considerable sum. I suspect it may have been around this time that the Watkins family moved from Dilwyn back to Eardisland, Thomas' home parish.

The Land Tax for Eardisland¹⁶⁶ survives spasmodically between 1795 and 1830. Although Thomas was already describing himself as a farmer at the time of his

¹⁶⁵ HARC, AJ13/32 Dilwyn Parish Book Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts 1798-1836

¹⁶⁶ Q/Rel/7/5/1-17, Eardisland Land Tax

marriage, he doesn't seem to make an appearance until 1812, the first return after 1804 which survives. He then appears regularly until 1824, assessed at £1 8/6 on land he both owned and occupied.

Thomas Watkins wrote his will¹⁶⁷ on 12th March 1836. In it he calls himself:

Thomas Watkins of The Folly in the parish of Eardisland

After directing that his debts and funeral expenses be paid, he bequeaths:

unto my wife Catherine Watkins all and singular my real estate, houses land and hereditaments, whomsoever and wheresoever, for her my said wife to receive the rents interests and profits arising therefrom for and during her natural Life.

After Catherine's death his executors are to sell the Folly and divide the proceeds between his three daughters and a granddaughter:

Mary Grovenor, Catherine Jones and Anne Watking and Elizabeth Watking my granddaughter Share and share alike

The only caveat is that, while his daughters are to get their share immediately after Catherine's death, Elizabeth must wait until she reaches 21, suggesting she was born after 1817. He continues with a bequest to Mary Garlick:

I give and bequeath unto Mary Garlick daughter of John Garlick all that Cottage Garden and Orchard situate at the Barewood in the Parish of Eardisland and County of Hereford, subject however to the payment of twenty pounds to my granddaughter Elizabeth Watkins aforesaid, and in case the said Mary Garlick die before she is possessed of the aforesaid premises, or without lawful issue I direct that the aforesaid premises situate at the Barewood shall be sold, and equally divided between my aforesaid three daughters and granddaughter

Mary is also gifted a bed, but all the remaining household goods go to his wife Catherine.

His two sons-in-law, William Grovenor and John Jones of *Tibhall* are nominated executors; Henry Bullock snr and Henry Bullock jnr, along with Richard Fencott, witnessed the will and Thomas made his mark. John Jones and William Grovenor were sworn on 4th August, stating that the estate was under £20, and the will was proved on 21st August 1838. By then, Thomas had been dead for a year.

Thomas Watkins' will named his wife and three daughters, and also a granddaughter named Elizabeth Watkins or Watking (**See tree 7, p. 63**). For some

¹⁶⁷ HARC, Will of Thomas Watkins, Eardisland, 1838

time, I assumed this must be a daughter to Ann. However, the presumed granddaughter married in 1853, and the *Hereford Times*¹⁶⁸ reported the event:

At Pembridge.... Mr Henry Powell (late gardener to Lady Harcourt Brampton Bryan) to Miss Elizabeth Watkins of the Barewood Farm Eardisland.

In 1851¹⁶⁹, Elizabeth was enumerated at Barewood in Eardisland with parents Francis and Mary, giving Presteigne as her birthplace. Further investigation showed her to have been baptised in that parish on 7th November 1824 to Francis and Mary. Francis gave his place of birth in the census as Stanton in Herefordshire, a place which doesn't seem to exist, and his age as 62. A bit more digging revealed a Francis Watkins baptised at Staunton on Arrow on 29th June 1788 – to Thomas and Mary.

From there, things seemed to fall into place. The register for Staunton on Arrow showed a Thomas Watkins married to one Mary Greenly on 16th October 1774. A first son, John, was born around five months later and baptised on 5th March 1775. A son Thomas was baptised on 12th January 1777 but seems to have been buried two days later. Anne followed on 10th January 1779, William on 28th October 1781 and James on 13th February 1785. Finally, Francis was baptised on 29th June 1788.

Thomas Watkins married Catherine Garlick at Eardisland six months later on 31st December 1789. At first glance, it would seem that his first wife had died at the time of or shortly after Francis' birth, and that he had quickly remarried. But, and it's a big but, he swore to being a bachelor when he applied for a licence to marry. Given that Catherina was a widow, there seems to be no reason to hide a previous marriage of his own, had there been one, and lying would presumably leave him open to having to forfeit his bond of £100.

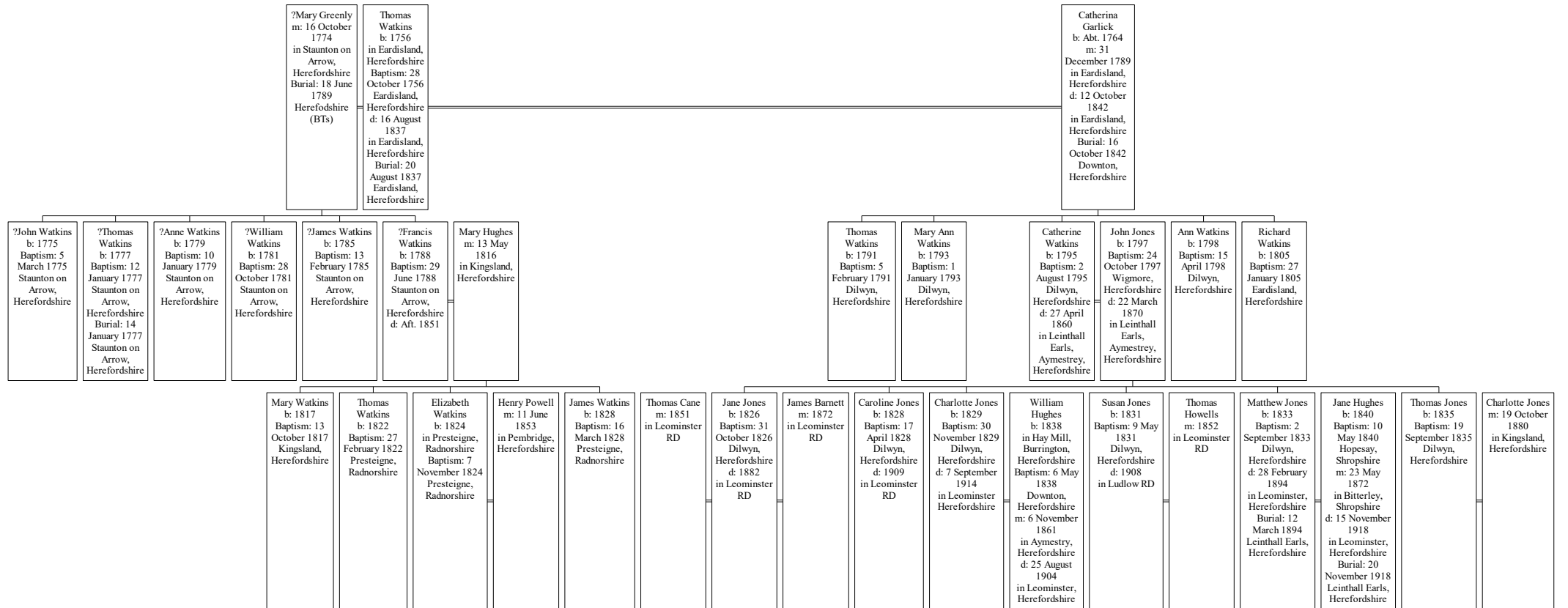
So, we are left with a choice of scenarios. In the first, Thomas either lied about his previous marital state on the licence or – and possibly more likely, someone made a mistake in giving information or writing it down, and Elizabeth Watkins was his granddaughter via son Francis, who was living at Barewood Farm from at least 1841¹⁷⁰. In the second, we are left with a mystery about Elizabeth Watkins' parentage. There is no baptism in the Eardisland area for an Elizabeth in the period when Thomas and Catherina's children could have produced a child. It is possible that Thomas had an illegitimate child who later took his name and had a daughter he recognised as granddaughter, but there is nothing in the records to corroborate this, and we are left with a mystery. Even with a common name like Watkins, it seems unlikely that there was no connection between the farm at Barewood – a hamlet of around six houses, and the cottage willed to Elizabeth.

¹⁶⁸ *The Hereford Times*, 11.6.1853

¹⁶⁹ HO 107/1979, 1851 census, Eardisland

¹⁷⁰ HO 107/426/11, 1841 census, Eardisland

Tree 7 - Descendants of Thomas Watkins



The marriage to Mary Greenly is speculative.

Thomas' will¹⁷¹ also raises another mystery. Who was John Garlick, father of the Mary named as a beneficiary:

I give and bequeath unto Mary Garlick daughter of John Garlick all that Cottage Garden and Orchard situate at the Barewood in the Parish of Eardisland

There is no sign of a marriage between a John Garlick and a Catherine, but there is a baptism at St Marylebone for Mary on 24th August 1817 – she was born on 2nd August, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Garlick. (John had married Elizabeth Jones in 1817 in Kensington in 1815 but Elizabeth died in Marylebone in 1820). While this initially seemed unlikely, further research revealed that Mary Garlick married John Rogers on 11th October 1839 at Eardisland. The 1841¹⁷² census shows her born out of county but living in Dilwyn with Catherine Watkins, John Rogers and two young children, William and Thomas. By 1851¹⁷³ she was widowed and living in nearby Pembridge stating that she had been born in London.

Piecing all this together, I surmise that Catherine had married an unknown man named Garlick and had a son named John by him sometime in the 1780s, and then, being widowed, had married Thomas Watkins. John, having fathered Mary, lost his wife shortly after and presumably sent his daughter to be brought up by his mother in Herefordshire, where her step-grandfather must have become sufficiently fond of her to remember her in his will.

Thomas died on 16th August 1837, with his certificate describing him as:

Thomas Watkins; Male; 83; Freeholder; Old Age and Infirmary

His son-in-law, John Jones of *Tibhall*, registered the death. He was buried at Eardisland on 20th August, with his age there recorded as 82.

Catherine lived for another four years after Thomas' death. Her granddaughter along with her husband and two children moved into *The Folly* with her, and it was here than she died:

October 12th 1842, The Folly, Eardisland; Catherine Watkins; Female; 78 years; Old Age and Infirmary; Mary Rogers in attendance and present at the Death, The Folly Eardisland

She was buried at Eardisland on 16th October 1842. Her death certificate tells us that she was probably born somewhere around 1764 but does not solve the mystery of her maiden name or birthplace. Mary Rogers lost her husband a few years later and moved to Pembridge, where she supported herself as a dressmaker.

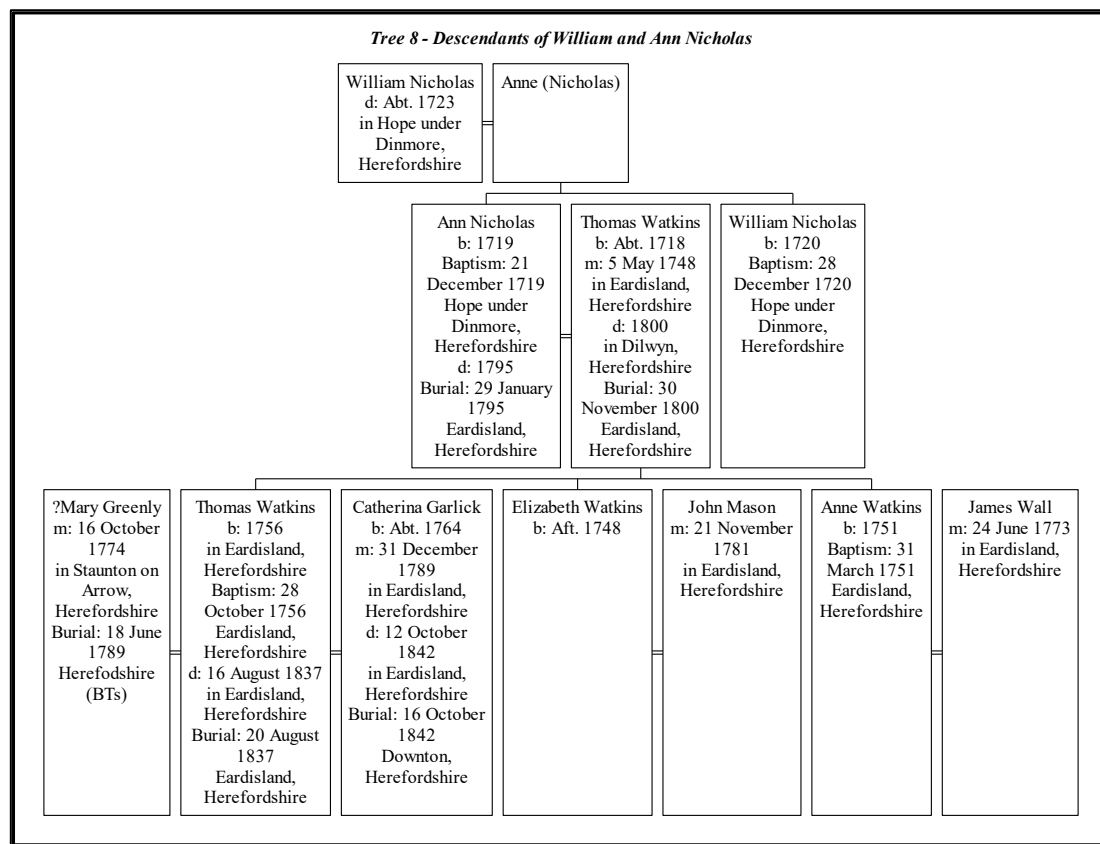
¹⁷¹ HARC, Will of Thomas Watkins, Eardisland, 1838

¹⁷² HO 107/426, 1841 census, Eardisland

¹⁷³ HO 107/2492, 1851 census, Pembridge

Watkins and Nicholas – Dilwyn and Hope under Dinmore

The Watkins line can be taken back one more generation. Thomas Watkins' death certificate suggested a date of birth around 1754, and his burial entry 1755. In fact, he was baptised at Eardisland on 28th October 1756. His parents were another Thomas Watkins, and his wife Ann Nicholas (**See tree 8, p. 65**). These two had married at Eardisland on 5th May 1748, when Thomas senior was around 30 if the age given in the burial register is accurate. A daughter Anne was baptised on 31st March 1751 and married James Wall on 24th June 1773 – both ceremonies at Eardisland. She died in 1826 and was buried at Staunton on Arrow. There is no baptism for a third child Elizabeth, who married John Mason at Eardisland on 21st November 1781, but we know of her existence from her father's will.



Thomas' wife, Ann Nicholas, was probably baptised at Hope under Dinmore on 21st December 1719, daughter of William and Anne Nicholas. If this is right, she had a brother William baptised the following year. William Nicholas probably died around 1723, as an Ann Nicholas took out an administration at Hope under Dinmore in that year for a man named William Nicholas. Ann, wife of Thomas Watkins, was buried at Eardisland on 29th January 1795, aged 76.

Thomas senior served on the Eardisland Vestry much as his son did at Dilwyn. There are three entries in the Eardisland Churchwardens and Overseers' Accounts¹⁷⁴, the first in 1768, which refers to church taxes:

¹⁷⁴ HARC, AJ32/58 Eardisland Churchwardens and Overseers Accounts 1703-1807

October y^e 13th 1768 at a Vestry Meeting it is agreed that the Poor Lewn be Rated at one Shilling and three Pence in the Pound and the Church at Sixpence

...

Thomas Watkins

Thomas then served as churchwarden in 1769:

At a Vestry Meeting held pursuant to public notice on the 7th Day of January 1769 Edward Brown and Thomas Watkins Church Wardens for the preceding Year passed their Accounts

The final entry is in 1772, and is somewhat cryptic:

Mr Turbeville & Griffiths's Acc^t for y^e Office of Church Wardens & Overseer of y^e Poor for y^e Year 1772

Poor Lewn at 2/6 is	111	19	0)	
Church D ^o 6	21	8	0)	£136 19 4
Mr Watkin's Lewn, not p ^d to W ^m Meredith	3	12	4)	

Thomas Watkins senior was buried at Eardisland on 28th November 1800, with his age recorded as 82, which would suggest he was born around 1718. No baptism has come to light for him, although another Thomas Watkins married Elizabeth Kinnersley at Eardisland in 1695. Could this couple be Thomas' grandparents, maybe?

Thomas wrote his will nearly three years after his wife died, on 3rd December 1797. He opens by describing himself as:

Thomas Watkins of Tibhall

which property was, of course, the birthplace of his great-granddaughter Charlotte Jones, nearly 30 years later. His first bequest, though, was of another property:

I give and devise unto my Son Thomas Watkins and his heirs my Messuage and Tenement Orchard and Lands called the Folly in the Parish of Eardisland and County of Hereford and now rented of me by my Son in Law John Mason at four pounds a year together with some Leasehold Land about half an acre called the little meadow, and I also give to my said Son Thomas Watkins his heirs administrators and assigns for the remainder of my Estate Term therein being 1000 years of which about Thirty are unexpired

This was the property in which his putative grandson Francis and great-granddaughter Elizabeth were living some 50 years later. Thomas junior was bequeathed all his father's household goods, furniture and personal estate:

subject to the Payment of Fifteen pounds to my daughter Ann Wall and of

the like sum of Fifteen pounds to my other daughter Elizabeth the wife of the said John Mason at the End of twelve months after my decease

The latter bequest was only to be valid providing John Mason relinquished the property he rented to Thomas junior as heir. Thomas junior was named as executor and swore on 20th October 1801 that the estate was worth under £100.

The earliest Jones – mainly Aymestrey, Yarpole and Wigmore

After this brief digression into the Watkins family, it is time to return to the Jones clan. John Jones, whose history has already been told, was born at Wigmore in 1797 and died at Leinthall Earls in 1870. He was the son of Matthew Jones and Jane Monington who had married at Wigmore on 24th February 1784, by licence¹⁷⁵. This was taken out on 20th February by Matthew and his father, and provides the useful information that Matthew junior was a skinner by trade:

Know all Men by these Presence that We Matthew Jones of the Parish of Wigmore in ye County of Hereford Skinner and Matthew Jones of the Parish of Aymestrey in the same County Husbandman are held and firmly bound... in one hundred pounds ...

The Condition of this obligation is ... that the abovebounden Matthew Jones a Bachelor and Jane Monnington of the Parish of Wigmore in the County and Diocese of Hereford Spinster may lawfully solemnise Marriage



Wigmore St James

It is clear from this that, although Matthew's roots were in Aymestrey, he was settled by this time in Wigmore, which is no doubt why the couple's large family were all baptised there (**see tree 9, p. 70**). The reason for the move to Aymestrey may lie in the fact that, on 27th January 1775, when Matthew would have been

¹⁷⁵ HARC, Marriage Licence, Matthew Jones & Jane Monnington, 1784

around 16, one William Davies of Wigmore, Glover, paid duty for an apprentice named Matthew Jones¹⁷⁶. This ties in nicely with him being referred to as a skinner on marriage.

Matthew and Jane's first child was Thomas, born almost exactly nine months after the wedding and baptised on 6th December 1784. He married Mary Owens in Leominster on 16th December 1812 and seems to have spent the rest of his life there, raising a family of five children. From 1841¹⁷⁷ he can be seen to be farming at Nether Marsh in Leominster. By 1851¹⁷⁸ he was widowed but running a farm of 90 acres employing four labourers and in 1861¹⁷⁹ although still describing himself as a farmer, he was living in Nether Marsh Cottage. He died later that year, on 30th September. Probate describes him as:

Thomas Jones late of Marsh Broad Cottage Leominster... gentleman...

The will was proved by three of his executors, brothers John and James Walter and sister Priscilla Symmonds, showing effects of under £1,000¹⁸⁰.

The next child was Matthew, who seems to have lived a somewhat unconventional life. He was baptised on 25th May 1787, and little is known of his early life. At some point, he seems to have formed a relationship with Elizabeth Stead, who was presumably his servant. Elizabeth baptised a 'base child' Jemima at Wigmore in April 1818, and another, named Cornelius in 1822; he was living with Matthew and Elizabeth in 1841 although Jemima was not. There is no further sign of Cornelius, but Jemima was in service in Brixton in 1851¹⁸¹, and subsequently married Thomas Burbridge in Bloomsbury in 1858, citing her father as Matthew Jones, Farmer.

This was probably a convenient fiction – as was giving her status as widow, as the Wigmore Overseers' Records¹⁸² include a document dated 1820 in which Elizabeth Stead swears to having been born in Wigmore but then explains that, at 15 she was hired to a Mr Morris at Brampton Bryan and then to a Mr John Allen at Leinthall Starkes but has not been hired since. Presumably she was seeking official parish settlement following the birth of Jemima. An entry in the Overseers' Accounts for the same year reads:

Paid for the order for Elizth Stead 5/6

It is not clear what this money is for.

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK, Register of Duty paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811

¹⁷⁷ HO 107/430, 1841 census, Leominster

¹⁷⁸ HO 107/1981, 1851 census, Leominster

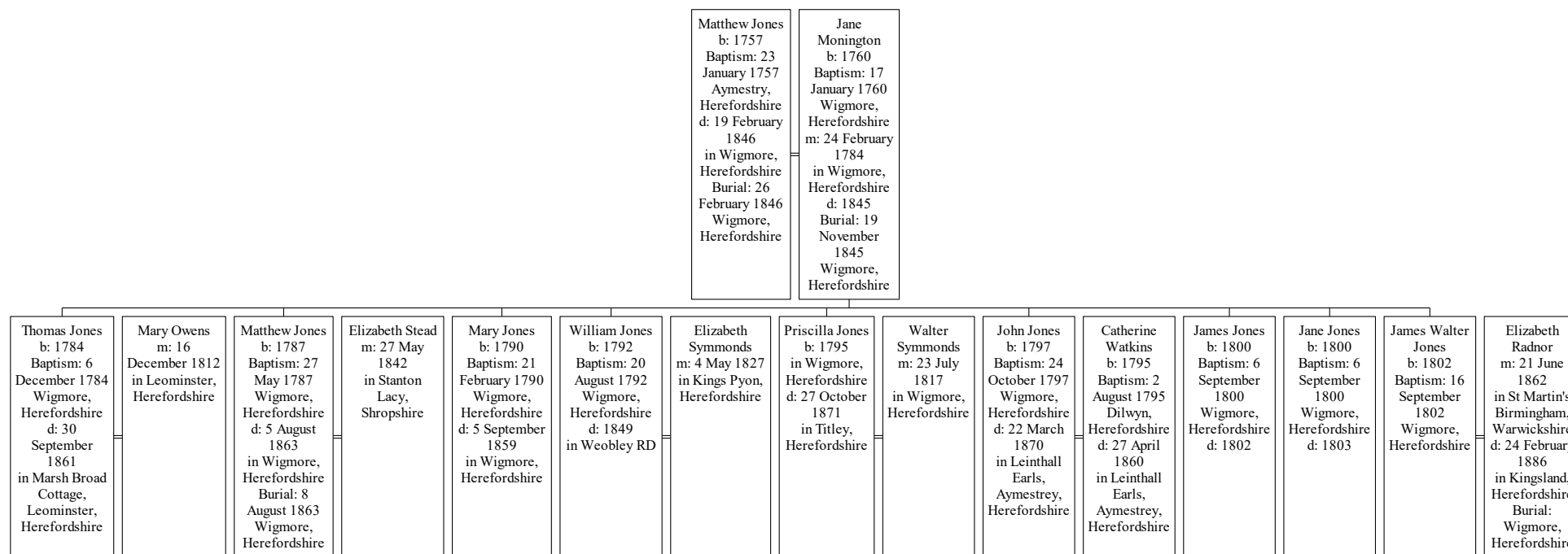
¹⁷⁹ RG9/1831, 1861 census, Leominster

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995

¹⁸¹ HO107/1575, 1851 census, Brixton

¹⁸² HARC, CY35/1/39, Settlement Examination Elizabeth Stead, Wigmore, 1820

Tree 9 - Family of Matthew Jones and Jane Monington



There was a second Settlement Examination¹⁸³ in 1826 in which she explained that in March 1822 she had hired herself to Captain George Richards of Wigmore and worked for him for three years for £4 per year. At the time of the examination she had not been hired again. It seems that after this, she must have been taken on by Matthew Jones.

In 1827 was born the first of eight more illegitimate children, all apparently fathered by Matthew. For the last five baptisms she is described as housekeeper. The 1841¹⁸⁴ census shows the family living together in Wigmore Village where Matthew Jones is described as a farmer and Elizabeth and her children are all listed with the surname Stead. The following year, he finally did the decent thing and married Elizabeth, on 28th March at Stanton Lacy in Shropshire, about ten miles away. The marriage certificate gives as both party's abode Goalford, which seems to be in Ludlow, so presumably they were trying to keep the marriage quiet at home. Matthew gives his occupation as timber dealer and his father's as wool dealer.

By 1851¹⁸⁵, Matthew was no longer farming. Elizabeth had died, but he was living with four of his children, the older two girls described as:

Servant at home

Matthew's occupation is indecipherable, but could be trundle maker, which would fit perhaps with him being a timber dealer earlier. This did not last, however, as in 1861¹⁸⁶, still looked after by daughter Helen or Ellen, he was enumerated at *White Hart Beer House* in Wigmore and was calling himself an inn keeper. His ending was a sad one and is unexplained. He died on 5th August 1863. Curiously, the one newspaper which recorded the circumstances was the *Birmingham Gazette*¹⁸⁷:

LEOMINSTER

SUICIDE. – Mr. Matthew Jones, an innkeeper, at Wigmore, committed suicide on Wednesday. The cause of this melancholy affair has not yet reached us.

The Probate Calendar¹⁸⁸ calls him a yeoman. His executor was the local schoolmaster, George Griffiths. Effects were recorded as under £200.

Next in John and Jane's family was Mary, baptised at Wigmore on 21st February 1790. She never married but spent much of her life acting as housekeeper to her brother James. She was living with him in 1841¹⁸⁹ and was still part of the

¹⁸³ HARC, CY35/1/41, Settlement Examination Elizabeth Stead, Wigmore, 1826

¹⁸⁴ HO107/428, 1841 census, Wigmore

¹⁸⁵ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Wigmore

¹⁸⁶ RG9/1834, 1861 census, Wigmore

¹⁸⁷ *Birmingham Gazette*, 17.8.1863

¹⁸⁸ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995

¹⁸⁹ HO 107/428, 1841 census, Titley

household at Titley in 1851¹⁹⁰. She died on 5th September 1859 and was buried with her parents at Wigmore.

Her brother William, baptised on 26th August 1792, married Elizabeth Symmonds at Kings Pyon on 4th May 1827. At the time, he was living in Leominster, but their first child, named Walter after his wife's father, was born at Wellington. Both Elizabeth and William's younger sister Priscilla seem to have married children of Walter and Mary Symmonds of Lucton. In 1841¹⁹¹ William and Elizabeth were at Tibhall in Dilwyn with all their older children apart from Jane, and not surprisingly he was a farmer. Jane's whereabouts is unknown but the *Leamington Spa Courier*¹⁹² noted in 1848:

April 16, at Eardisland, Herefordshire, Mr James Baker, of the Barrow,
near Pembridge, to Jane, eldest daughter of Mr William Jones, of Dilwyn.

William purportedly died at Tibhall in Dilwyn on 9th November 1849, aged 58. The *Hereford Journal*¹⁹³ reported that he had:

left a widow and a large family to deplore his loss

The *Familysearch* index has him buried at Dilwyn on 13th October, so either the newspaper or the index is a month out. The 1851¹⁹⁴ census shows his wife continuing to farm at Tibhall, with five children at home along with Jane's baby daughter.

Priscilla, the next of Matthew and Jane's offspring, must have been born around 1795 at Wigmore, but no baptism record survives. On 23rd July 1817 at Wigmore, she married her sister-in-law's brother Walter Symmonds. There seem to have been no children from this union; Walter died relatively young and was buried at Aymestrey on 19th December 1835. Priscilla moved to Leominster and was found living at Middle Marsh there in 1841¹⁹⁵, of independent means. In 1851¹⁹⁶, she was visiting a friend in Brierly on census night, recorded as an annuitant. In 1861¹⁹⁷ she was living on her own in Church Street, Leominster, designated a fundholder. By 1871¹⁹⁸, the year of her death, she was presumably in failing health, so was living with her younger brother James on his farm at Titley. She died there on 27th October 1871. When her will was proved the following year, her estate was valued at under £4,000, a sum which would be worth over half a million pounds today.

¹⁹⁰ HO 107/2492, 1851 census, Titley

¹⁹¹ HO 107/426, 1841 census, Dilwyn

¹⁹² *Leamington Spa Courier*, 22.4.1848

¹⁹³ *Hereford Journal*, 28.11.1849

¹⁹⁴ HO 107/1979, 1851 census, Dilwyn

¹⁹⁵ HO 107/430, 1841 census, Leominster

¹⁹⁶ HO 107/1981, 1851 census, Leominster

¹⁹⁷ RG9/1831, 1861 census, Leominster

¹⁹⁸ RG10/2722, 1871 census, Titley

After Priscilla came John, whom we have already met. He was followed by twins James and Jane, baptised on 6th September 1800. Both seem to have had short lives, with James being buried on 1st August 1802 and Jane on 29th May 1803.

Matthew and Jane's final child was christened James Walter on 16th September 1802 at Wigmore. In 1841¹⁹⁹ he was farming at Titley, around ten miles south-west of Wigmore. In 1851²⁰⁰, still at Titley, he was enumerated as a farmer of 181 acres, employing six men, so he was clearly doing well. His sister Mary died in 1859 so in 1861²⁰¹ his niece Charlotte, brother William's daughter, was housekeeping for him, but she married later that year. No doubt that prompted James' decision to get married at the ripe old age of 60, for on 26th June 1862, at Birmingham St Paul, he married Elizabeth Radnor, 20 years his junior and born in Presteigne.

So, in 1871²⁰², the household at *Rhulas Farm* in Titley consisted of James, now farming 217 acres, wife Elizabeth, sister Priscilla, two female servants and two male agricultural labourers. James appears in one further census, in 1881²⁰³ but at *Park House* in Kingsland, where he is described as a retired farmer. Park House is a substantial, double-fronted, brick-built 18th century house, and James and Elizabeth and their one servant must have rattled around in it when they didn't have visitors. James died at Kingsland on 24th February 1886. The probate index²⁰⁴ describes him as a gentleman and values his estate at £8,391 17/11 – a sum worth well over a million today. The will was proved by Elizabeth, Richard Edwards of Hares Green and James' nephew Matthew Jones, farmer of Leinthall Earls – presumably his brother John's son. James was buried at Wigmore and his wife Elizabeth joined him there in 1905.



Park House, Kingsland

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¹⁹⁹ HO 107/428, 1841 census, Titley

²⁰⁰ HO 107/2492, 1851 census, Titley

²⁰¹ RG9/4230, 1861 census, Titley

²⁰² RG10/2722, 1871 census, Titley

²⁰³ RG11/2607, 1881 census, Kingsland

²⁰⁴ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995

It is clear from what has been written above that the Jones family at this time was a prosperous one, so it is now time to look at the parents of those above, and more specifically, the paterfamilias, Matthew Jones. Matthew was baptised at Aymestrey on 23rd January 1757, the second son of Matthew and Mary Jones. (Both father and son are recorded as Mathew.)

His next appearance in the documentary evidence is his marriage at Wigmore in 1784:

Matthew Jones and Jane Monington both of this parish were married in this parish by licence the 24th day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four by me Charles Price curate. This marriage was solemnised between us
Matthew Jones Jane Jones late Monington
In the presence of John Griffiths, Elizabeth Jones

Later in the same year there is a brief reference to him in the Ludlow Toll Book of Horse Fairs²⁰⁵:

Ludlow 2.6.1784. Matthew Jones, Wigmore, sold a dun horse [4] old, sound, Richard Langdon, far, £9.9.0.

I assume 'far' means farrier. In the margin is another name, Richard Collins, but I'm not sure what his involvement was, and whether he or Richard Langdon was the purchaser.

Matthew seems to have spent all his adult life in Wigmore, and if his will is to be believed, built up quite a portfolio of property there. The Land Tax return for Wigmore 1782²⁰⁶ – the first in the run – opens as follows:

County of Hereford for the p'sh of Wigmore in the s^d County
An Assess^{mt} made in pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in the 20th
Year of his Majesty's Reign for granting an aid to his Majesty by a Land
Tax to be raised in Great Britain for the service of the Year 1782 at 4^s in
the pound.

In the list that follows, headed:

Names of Proprietors Names of Occupiers £ s d

Appears:

Matt^w Jones Himself - 1 -

²⁰⁵ SA, LB7/1066 Toll Book of Horse Fairs (Ludlow) 1783-1816

²⁰⁶ Q/Rel/9/30/1, Land Tax Wigmore 1782

The following year, he is assessed the same.²⁰⁷ However, there is then a gap in the surviving Land Tax records until 1795. Fortunately, the gap is filled by the Wigmore Churchwardens' Accounts²⁰⁸. In 1782 he is recorded paying church tax, called in this part of the world a lewn:

A copy of Wigmore Church Lewn for the yeare 1782 at 5 in the pound.

...
 Mathew Jones 1 10 ½

and he continued to pay this on a regular basis.

He eventually became part of the parish vestry, and in 1793 was signatory, amongst others to the following note:

On Tuesday second day of April 1793 it was agreed that the Chancel called Harry Chancel on the North side of the Church being in a very ruinous condition should be in part repaired and in part pulled down, that is to say that the East end of the s^d Church and a Window put in the Arch in the side wall of the Church in order to give more light to the Church and we consent that the above shall be done and that Sam^l Davies Esq^r shall have the remainder to use as a Pew, provided it be done at the sole expense of Sam^l Davies Esq^r, the remainder of the old material, over what will be wanting to put the standing part in order, to be kept for the use of the Church.

...
 Mathew Jones

The entry for 1802 makes reference to a loan, but I think this is probably the lewn, and I assume the first set of figures to be the rateable value:

1802 Oct 15 At a Vestry meeting (Pursuant to notice given) it was then agreed to allow a loan of 4^d in the pound to John Dine Child.
 7 0 0 Mathew Jones, Jennys & late ?Davy 2 4

In 1803, his signature appears again along with other members of the vestry:

1803 Oct^r 16th At a Vestrey meeting then held in the Parish Church of Wigmore it was then agreed that a proper person should be fixed on to value the Parish in order to levy an equal rate for the relief of the Poor and other necessary uses.

...
 Matthew Jones

Two further entries bear Matthew's name; in 1821 the churchwardens were allowed a loan of 6^d in the pound, and in February 1823:

²⁰⁷ Q/Rel/9/30/2, Land Tax Wigmore 1783

²⁰⁸ HARC, G46/23, Wigmore Churchwardens' Accounts 1760-1810

At a Vestry meeting then holden it was agreed to allow Tho^s Bowen & Rich^d Harper churchwardens one sixpenny rate for 2 years loan.

...
Matthew Jones

By 1795 he was paying Land Tax at 2/3, and this continues²⁰⁹ until 1812²¹⁰ when it goes up to 2/6 and stays at that rate unchanged for several years.

However, in 1816, his signature also appears at the bottom of the document as one of the collectors, and the following year he is noted as the Assessor. After that, he seems to become more established and prosperous. By 1820²¹¹, he is taxed on three pieces of land:

Matt ^w Jones	Late Griffiths	- 2 6
"	"	- 2 6
Tho ^s Price	Matt ^w Jones	- 8 6

Three years later²¹² the entry reads:

Matthew Jones	Benjamin Pollard	- 2 6
"	Himself	- 2 6
"	"	- 2 6
Tho ^s Price	Matt ^w Jones	- 8 6

He is nominated Collector again in 1826²¹³:

We do hereby return Matthew Jones John Evans as able and Sufficient Persons living within the limits and bounds of the said Parish of Wigmore to be Collectors of the Monies as aforesaid

and the last two entries²¹⁴ shed some insight into what he is paying for:

Names of Proprietors	Names of Occupiers	Names or descriptions of Estates or Property	£	s	d
Matthew Jones	Mr Proctor	Surgen Hous [sic]	8	6	
Matthew Jones	Self	Hous and Garden	2	6	
		Paster Land			

and:

Matthew Jones	Mr Proctor	Hous and paster land	8	6
Matthew Jones	Self	Hous and Garden	2	6

I assume that Matthew owned the house and that the local surgeon rented from him.

²⁰⁹ Q/Rel/9/30/3, 4 & 5, Land Tax Wigmore 1795, 98, 99

²¹⁰ Q/Rel/9/30/8, 9, 10, 11, 13, Land Tax Wigmore 812, 13, 16, 17, 19

²¹¹ Q/Rel/9/30/14, Land Tax Wigmore 1820

²¹² Q/Rel/9/30/17, Land Tax Wigmore 1823

²¹³ Q/Rel/9/30/20, Land Tax Wigmore 1826

²¹⁴ Q/Rel/9/30/22 & 23, Land Tax Wigmore, 1829 & 30

Matthew Jones was clearly a busy man with a strong social conscience as he makes regular appearances in the Wigmore Overseers' records²¹⁵ and vestry minutes. To begin with, to be fair, he appointed a deputy to serve for him, a not uncommon occurrence as parish duties were often seen as an imposition:

The disbursements of Ric^d Prince Deputy for Matt^w Jones Overs^r of the poor for the last part of the year 1806-7 being a Monthly acc^t from Oct^r 26th to Nov^r 23rd

However, from then on, he does his duty. The next reference to him is six years later:

The disburs^{mt} of Richard Prince and Matthew Jones Overseers of the Poor from Apr^l 19th 1812 to April 18th 1813 being a monthly account

For the next six years his signature regularly appears at the end of the vestry minutes and then in 1821 his turn came round again:

Disburs^{mt} of Matt^w Jones Overseer for the last part of the year 1820 to March 25th 1821

In the following three years he signs the minutes regularly and is then appointed overseer for two consecutive years in 1825 and 1826. His final signature appears the following year, where the book ends.

He can be found voting in 1802²¹⁶ where both his residence and place of freehold are given as Wigmore, and the land there is occupied by himself. After that, the first glimpse of him is in the 1841 census²¹⁷ where he is listed as an 82-year-old farmer, born in county, alongside his wife Jane, aged 81. Later the same year he put an advert in the local paper²¹⁸ regarding a farm in Llanbister, lately owned by his brother:

TO BE LET
WITH POSSESSION AT LADY DAY NEXT, 1842
ALL that FARM, called the DAVERN, DOWERTH, in the parish of
LLANBISTER, now in the occupation of Mr. Richard Griffiths, and
containing 240 Acres, in a Ring Fence, with a good Sheep-walk attached
to the Farm.
For particulars apply to Mr. Matthew Jones, Sen. Wigmore, Herefordshire

Farming can't have been Matthew's only occupation, though, as the marriage certificates of the two sons who married after the introduction of general registration give another clue as to how he made his living. Matthew's certificate calls his father a wool dealer while James' refers to him as a wool stapler. Both suggest that he made much of his income through selling wool.

²¹⁵ HARC, G46/25, Wigmore Overseers' Accounts and Vestry Minutes, 1729-1826

²¹⁶ SoG, Poll Book for the County of Herefordshire 1802

²¹⁷ HO 107/418, 1841 census, Wigmore

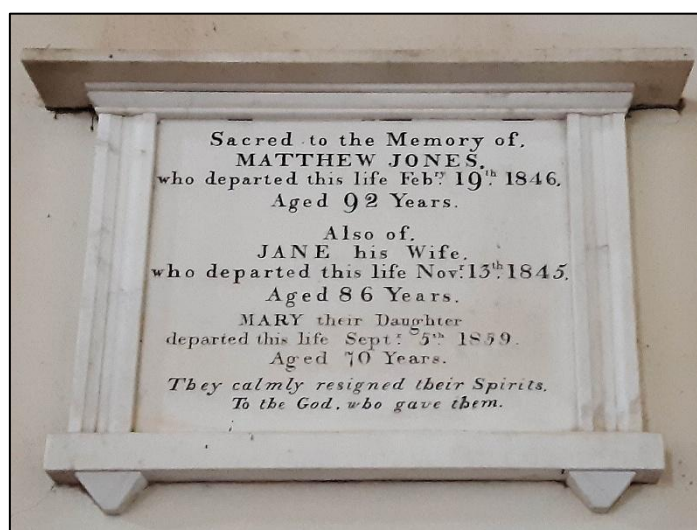
²¹⁸ *The Hereford Journal*, 14.11.1841 & 24.11.1841

Matthew died on 19th February 1846, with his age somewhat inflated on his death certificate and elsewhere:

Matthew Jones, Wigmore, Male, 92 years, Farmer, Decay of Nature (not certified), Priscilla Symmonds daughter, present at the death, Wigmore

He was buried on 26th February at Wigmore, with the register repeating his age as 92. *The Hereford Journal*²¹⁹ published the following obituary:

At Wigmore, in this county, Mr. Matthew Jones, aged 92 years. He was an affectionate husband and kind father, and was the oldest inhabitant of that place, in which he had lived for 76 years. In him was combined the good qualities of social friend and kind neighbour, and as he lived so he died, a good Christian and truly honest man.



Memorial to Matthew and Jane Jones – Wigmore St James

A memorial inside the church at Wigmore reads as follows:

Sacred to the memory of
MATTHEW JONES
who departed this life Feb^y 19th 1846
aged 92 years
Also of JANE his wife
who departed this life Nov^r 13th 1845
aged 86 years
MARY their daughter
departed this life Set^r 5th 1859
aged 70 years
They calmly resigned their spirits
to the God, who gave them.

²¹⁹ *The Hereford Journal*, 25.2.1846

It is presumably either a mark of the respect in which this family was held or an example of family hubris that the memorials to Matthew's son Thomas, his wife Mary and their son Thomas all cite the relationship to Matthew, who is described as:

the late Matthew Jones of this village

Matthew's will²²⁰, proved on 30th December 1846 but written on 2nd May 1844, shows how widespread his land portfolio was. He begins by describing himself as a gentleman – a term used to show he is no longer working for a living. His first bequest is to his firstborn, Thomas:

I give devise and bequeath all that my messuage farm and lands commonly called or known by the name of The Davern Estate situate and being in the parish of Llanbister in the county of Radnor unto my eldest son Thomas Jones

This was a property Matthew had presumably acquired from his brother John, who had been farming at The Davern in 1820 and died at Llanbister in 1831. He had already advertised in the *Hereford Journal*²²¹ to let this property.

He then makes a bequest to his son William to whom he gave:

all that my messuage farm and lands called or known by the name of Tibb Hall Estate situate and being in the parish of Dilwyn

As we have seen, William was already in occupation, and it begs the question of whether Tib Hall (occupied but presumably not owned by the Thomas Watkins who died in 1800 and was grandfather of Catherine Watkins - Matthew's daughter-in-law) was already in possession of the Jones family when Thomas Watkins lived there. A condition of inheriting Tib Hall was that William paid his mother Jane an annuity of £40 and his sister Priscilla an annuity of £20 during her mother's life, with the assumption that Priscilla would take care of her mother. After Jane's death, Priscilla's annuity was to reduce to £10.

The next property bequest was to son James Walter, who was also to contribute an annuity of £5 to his sister Priscilla. James Walter's bequest seems to be made up of a number of small parcels of land:

all that my messuage or dwelling house formerly called Joiners House and now called or known by the name of The Red Lion with the garden there two belonging ... Also all that piece of land called the Garden Piece and the little orchard near thereto containing about a quarter of an acre and all that piece of land called the Burgage all situated in the Moors in the parish of Wigmore aforesaid ... Also all those two acres of woodland being an allotment in a Wood called Barnett Wood and now in my own occupation

²²⁰ HARC, Will of Matthew Jones, Wigmore, 1846

²²¹ *Hereford Journal* 14.11.1841 & 24.11.1841

Also all that piece or plock of land containing about one acre and a half called Dearfield Piece situated on Dearfield

Land occupied by Matthew was willed to John:

All those three pieces or parcels of land now in the occupation of my son Matthew Jones called or known by the name of Norfield Lands formerly enclosed from a common called Norfield situate in the Parish of Wigmore aforesaid Also all that piece or parcel of land called the Hopyard adjoining the said last mentioned pieces of land And also all that piece of land called Norfield Meadow all in the occupation of my son Matthew Jones unto my son John Jones

Daughter Mary received a variety of parcels of land but also what seems perhaps to have been the family home:

All that messuage or dwelling house with the garden and premises thereto belonging now in my own occupation called by the name of the Brick House with the following pieces of land ... Rushy Piece in the Moors, ... Bury House Piece ... Also all that piece of land called the Plutt now in the occupation of my son Matthew Jones Also all those eight acres of woodland being another allotment in the said wood called Barnett Wood



Plough Farm, Wigmore

Matthew, the black sheep, finally gets a mention. He is to inherit:

All that messuage or dwelling house formerly called The Plough with the garden and premises thereto belonging now in the occupation of my son Matthew Jones unto my said son Matthew Jones

but with the proviso that the property pass to John when Matthew junior dies. The property now called *Plough Farm* is next-door but one to *The Castle Inn* (the

intervening property is modern), and as the 1851 census entry²²² for Matthew junior follows the entry for the inn, I suspect this is the house he inherited.

The rest and residue of his estate is to go to sons John and Walter with instructions to share any money remaining after funeral expenses and debts are paid between:

all reputed children of my said son Matthew Jones by Betsy Stead

Despite the complexity of the will, drawn up no doubt by Thomas Vitters, solicitor, Knighton and his clerk William Edwards, who witnessed the will, the whole estate was valued at under £450.

The man at the top of the Jones branch of the tree was also named Matthew. Later documents suggest he was born around 1723, but there is no Matthew Jones baptised in Herefordshire for ten years either side of that date – at least in the on-line indexes. There are a few parishes not far from Aymestrey, where he settled, whose registers don't go back beyond the mid-18th century, so maybe he was baptised in one of them. It is feasible that our Matthew Jones married Mary Hughes at Beguildy in Radnorshire on 21st September 1753. This, however, is speculation. Beguildy is about 20 miles away from Aymestrey, but this couple didn't baptise any children in the parish of their marriage, and there is no burial for a Matthew Jones there. Our Matthew and Mary's first child was baptised at Aymestrey about 15 months later, a reasonable gap between marriage and first child. However, without further proof the jury is out.



Aymestrey St John the Baptist and St Alkmund

For the first years of his adult life, the only thing we know is that he and Mary baptised eight children at Aymestrey (**See tree 10, p. 83**). The first of these was named Thomas and was baptised on 1st January 1755. Nothing much is known of

²²² HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Wigmore

his early life. He doesn't seem to have married, and the single reference to him in his father's will²²³ gifts him £100:

if he be pleased to accept it

Perhaps he had already received his share of his father's money or maybe, or more likely, if the account of his personal estate is accurate, he simply didn't need anything from his father. He was clearly respected in Norton Canon where he lived, acting as collector of Land Tax²²⁴ in 1810 as well as paying it. He was still in touch with his siblings, though, as when he died on 27th March 1811 it was his brother Thomas and sister Mary – along with her husband Thomas Wootton or Wotton – who put the following notice into the papers²²⁵:

ALL persons having any claim... on the estate... of the late THOMAS JONES, Esq. of Eckley's Green in the parish of Norton Canon. Deceased... are desired to send particulars thereof to Mr. John Jones of the parish of Llanbister, in the County of Radnor; or Mr. Thomas Wootton, or Mary his wife, at Eckley's Green aforesaid

The piece goes on to describe the three as executors of Thomas' estate, and the notice is dated 17th April 1811. Presumably, Thomas didn't write a will, as a PCC admon was granted on 24th April 1811²²⁶. According to fellow researcher Clairevo, there are accounts at the Herefordshire Archives regarding Thomas Jones' estate²²⁷ which, including house, horse and carriage, total £9,239.

Matthew and Jane's next child was Matthew, whose life we have already explored. He was followed by Mary, baptised on 18th November 1759. According to a family bible in possession of one of her descendants²²⁸, she was born two days earlier on 16th November. She married the aforementioned Thomas Wootton, somewhat surprisingly for a Herefordshire girl, at Shadwell in Middlesex, on 5th August 1790. Mary was described as of the parish when she married; her sister Ann was witness and the curate was Griffith Griffiths, who maybe made it feel more like home!

In July 1787 Thomas Wootton appears as a Leominster tailor paying duty for an apprentice's indentures²²⁹. Maybe it was his tailoring business which took him to London at the time of his marriage. Shortly after the wedding the couple returned to Herefordshire and baptised three daughters at Leominster in the 1790s. One of these later married a London corn merchant, James Fortey, who had strong Aymestrey connections.

²²³ HARC, Will of Matthew Jones, Yarpole, 1800

²²⁴ HARC, Q/REL/4/18/8, Land Tax, Norton Canon, 1810

²²⁵ *The Hereford Journal*, 1.5.1811

²²⁶ <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/> (SoG), Boyd's Inhabitants of London

²²⁷ HARC, Fortey Bequest, LC Deeds 2688-2767, N100/2745

²²⁸ https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/41638235/person/432534437284/facts?_phsrc=wgU1480&_phstart=successSource

²²⁹ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Register of Duties paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811

Tree 10 - Family of Matthew and Mary Jones

Matthew Jones d: 1800 in Cock Gate, Yarpole, Herefordshire Burial: 23 October 1800 Aymestrey, Herefordshire	Mary (Jones) Burial: 31 December 1804 Aymestrey, Herefordshire
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Thomas Jones b: 1755 Baptism: 1 January 1755 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 1811 in Norton Canon, Herefordshire	Matthew Jones b: 1757 Baptism: 23 January 1757 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 19 February 1846 in Wigmore, Herefordshire Burial: 26 February 1846 Wigmore, Herefordshire	Jane Monington b: 1760 Baptism: 17 January 1760 Wigmore, Herefordshire m: 24 February 1784 in Wigmore, Herefordshire d: 1845 Burial: 19 November 1845 Wigmore, Herefordshire	Mary Jones b: 1759 Baptism: 25 November 1759 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 30 April 1833 in Kingsland, Herefordshire Burial: Aymestrey, Herefordshire	Thomas Wootton m: 5 August 1790 in Shadwell, Middlesex	Ann Jones b: 1762 Baptism: 7 March 1762 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 14 April 1829 in Aymestrey, Herefordshire Burial: Aymestrey, Herefordshire	Elizabeth Jones b: 1764 Baptism: 26 August 1764 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 30 September 1807 in Aymestrey, Herefordshire Burial: 3 October 1807 Aymestrey, Herefordshire	William James m: 13 February 1787 in Aymestrey, Herefordshire	John Jones b: 1767 Baptism: 6 January 1767 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 19 June 1831 in Llanbister, Radnorshire Burial: Aymestrey, Herefordshire	Jane Jones b: 1770 Baptism: 26 August 1770 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 5 March 1792 in Aymestrey, Herefordshire Burial: Aymestrey, Herefordshire	Susannah Jones b: 1773 Baptism: 2 February 1773 Aymestrey, Herefordshire d: 27 June 1845 Burial: Aymestrey, Herefordshire	William Green m: 1806 in Shadwell, Middlesex
---	--	--	--	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---

By 1811, the couple were living in Norton Canon, whether drawn there by the death of Mary's brother or earlier is not known. By 1821, when Thomas Wootton died, the couple were living at Wellington, and Mary proved his will²³⁰ the following year, showing an estate worth under £300. It would seem that after her husband's death she moved into the *Bridge Inn* (unless it was already the couple's home) but that by 1827 she was:

declining business

Two auction announcements appeared in the papers²³¹, one for the 25th and 26th April in which Mary Wootton was getting rid of:

ALL the LIVE and DEAD STOCK, IMPLEMENTS in HUSBANDRY, part of the HOUSEHOLD GOODS and FURNITURE

The second, on 13th November the same year, offered:

A Quantity of CIDER HOGSHEADS and TUBS, HOUSEHOLD GOODS and FURNITURE

Items in the first auction included a number of cattle, cart mares, sows and pigs as well as waggons, carts, ploughs, harrows – everything needed to run a farm, in fact – along with what look like materials used in cider-making or brewing. In addition, bedding and hangings, tables and chairs and culinary items were advertised. In the second, items listed included forty cider hogsheads, two 200-gallon casks, other barrels, a must tub, cheese press and malt mill, along with a half-tester and other beds, dining tables and:

various other Articles

It would seem, then, that following her husband's demise, she had been farming and running an inn. Now, at 67, it was time to retire. She moved to Kingsland, where she died on 30th April 1833. She was buried at Aymestrey alongside her husband. *The Hereford Journal*²³² reported as follows:

Lately died, at Kingsland, in this county, much respected, Mary, relict of the late Mr. Thomas Wootton, in the 74th year of her age.

Perhaps slightly shockingly, the auction of her possessions had already been advertised in *The Hereford Times* on 11th May²³³, 11 days before the death announcement was published. Mary seems to have spent her last days in some comfort, surrounded in part by some of the items not sold in the previous auctions. The auction list is extensive:

²³⁰ <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/herefordshire-archive-records-centre/wills-search>

²³¹ *Hereford Journal*, 11.4.1827 & 7.11.1827

²³² *Hereford Journal*, 22.5.1833

²³³ *Hereford Times*, 11.5.1833

...four-post Bedsteads, with Chintz, Dimity, and Plaid Hangings; excellent goose-feather Beds, Bolsters and Pillows; mahogany and oak Chests with Drawers, Linen Chests, Bureaus, Buffets with folding door, mahogany and oak Dining, Card and Pembroke Tables, frame bamboo and other Chairs, Pier and Swing Glasses, Blankets, Quilts and Counterpanes, painted and oak Dressing Tables and Wash-hand Stands, large Sofa and chintz cover, squabs, and cushions, Fenders and Fire-Irons, China, Glass and Earthenware, and a large assortment of Kitchen Articles, Cider Casks, small Casks, Brewing Utensils and other Effects; the particulars of which will appear in handbills.

Mary's closest sister in age was Ann, baptised on 7th March 1762 at Aymestrey. She never married, but as a single woman she made her will on 3rd November 1821²³⁴. She seems to have been close to Mary in more than age, as most of her bequests are to her niece Mary and her daughter, Ann Mary Fortey. These consisted of land in Aymestrey and East India Stock. Only if the Fortey line failed completely were these bequests to be shared between her brother Matthew's children. Otherwise, they were to be satisfied with £10 apiece to buy a suit of mourning! Her brother-in-law Thomas Wootton was one of the witnesses, and the will was proved by his daughter Mary Fortey, sole executor. Ann had died on 14th April 1829 and was buried at Aymestrey on 23rd, aged 67. An inscription on the monument erected by her sister Susannah reads:

This monument is erected in grateful remembrance to the memory
of Miss ANN JONES (late a resident of this village) who died on
14th day of April 1829 aged 67 years.

Again, I am indebted to Clairevo for this transcription.

The next-born was Elizabeth, baptised on 26th August 1764. On 13th February 1787, she married William James by licence at Aymestrey, but there seem to have been no children from the union. Elizabeth died in 1807 and was buried at Aymestrey on 3rd October. Her memorial reads:

Sacred
To the memory of
ELIZABETH wife of
William JAMES
Of Upper Lye
She died September
30th 1807 aged 43
years

After three girls, Matthew and Jane baptised another son, John, who was christened on 6th January 1767. Like his brothers, he grew up to be a farmer, but crossed the border into Wales to do so, choosing land in Llanbister. He makes one brief appearance in the Welsh records in 1820, when John Jones of *The Davern* in Llanbister is named as executor to the will of one Edward Price, farmer of *The*

²³⁴ Prob 11/1759, will of Anne Jones, Aymestrey, 1829

*Hendri, Llanbister*²³⁵. John didn't marry, but seems to have fathered a child, whom he refers to as Marian. I suspect this may be Mary Ann, baptised at Llanbister on 17th November 1814. No father's name is given and her mother is referred to as Susan Jones or Williams.

John came to an untimely end on 18th June 1831. The *Hereford Journal* ²³⁶ explained the circumstances:

On the 18th inst. Died, at the Witcantoney, Mr. John Jones, of the Davvern, in the parish of Llanbister, and county of Radnor, owing to a fall from his horse, in the 65th year of his age. He was a most worthy honest man throughout his life, uniting the qualities of a sincere and charitable Christian with those of a kind friend and good master. His loss is deeply lamented, and a large circle of friends and acquaintances will long regret the sudden departure of so excellent and valuable a man.

I wonder if Susan Williams felt so charitably towards him when she was baptising her illegitimate child! However, it seems that the father did the right thing by his daughter eventually.

John survived his fall long enough to make a fairly detailed will²³⁷, making it on 18th June:

in the perfect soundness of my understanding a few hours after my serious accident caused by a fall from my horse

His first thought then is for his daughter:

I give and devise unto my reputed daughter Marian Jones whom I have brought up under my roof and who is at this time living with me all that messuage farm and lands called Castlecock as now occupied by John Duggan containing together about twenty acres situate in the parish of Llanbister

Unlike his sisters, he then puts his brother's family at the top of the list. He names each of his brother Matthew's children – Thomas, Matthew, John, William, Walter, Mary, and Priscilla Symonds, gifting them £20 apiece. Mary Wootton's two daughters receive the same amount of £20 each, and the rest goes to his daughter Marian.

John, like his siblings, returned to Aymestrey for burial, where his memorial reads:

²³⁵ <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-8995-93X5?view=fullText&keywords=John%20Jones%2CJohn%2CJones%2CDavern&groupId=TH-1961-28620-22418-74>

²³⁶ *Hereford Journal* 29.6.1831

²³⁷ Prob 11/1790, will of John Jones of Llanbister, 1831



Jones memorials at Aymestry
Clockwise from left:
Thomas and Jane Wootton, Susannah Green,
John Jones of Davern-Dowart,
Jane Jones



In memory of
Mr JOHN JONES
(late of Davern Dowarth in the parish of
Llanbister, Radnorshire)
who died (from a fall from his horse)
June 19th 1851
aged 65 years

An auction of John's possessions was advertised in the paper²³⁸ under the heading:

Farming Stock, Implements of Husbandry, nearly 300 HILL SHEEP,
Household Furniture, Dairy and Brewing Utensils, and other Effects
To be Sold by Auction

This is followed by a very long list indeed, of which this is just a flavour: four wagon horses, two mares, several colts, three hill ponies, sheep, heifers, bullocks, cows in calf, sows, pigs and poultry. The list of implements is also fairly exhaustive, and followed by mention of cheeses, butter, beef and bacon. In terms of furniture, along with four post beds and bedding are table linen, linen chests, dressing table and glass, night table, an eight-day clock, a variety of other furniture, including a safe. Finally, there are about 30 stones of fleece wool, corn, straw, hay and an acre of potatoes. Clearly, John Jones lived well.

Jane, baptised on 26th August 1770, was the only one of Matthew and Mary's brood not to reach middle age. She died at Aymestrey on 5th March 1792 and was buried three days later. Her memorial, or what can still be read, states:

In memory of JANE
ye daughter of MATT and MARY JONES
who departed this life March ye 5, 1792 aged 22 years
Weep not for me tho I was in my prime
for God will call at his appointed time
for this vain world in hopes...

Poor Mary Jones had been pregnant on and off for nearly 20 years by the time her last child, Susannah, was baptised at Aymestrey on 2nd February 1773. She also married in Shadwell, like her sister Mary. A marriage licence²³⁹ was taken out on 14th March for William Green and Susannah Jones. According to Pallot's Marriage Index²⁴⁰, both were living at Yarpole when the licence was issued. However, the marriage entry at St Paul's Shadwell on 18th March 1806 gives the bride's residence as 'this parish'. Whatever the reason for the London marriage, Susannah and William seem to have settled back in Hereford. They had no children, and by 1841²⁴¹ Susannah was widowed, living on independent means in Aymestrey, and, on census

²³⁸ *Hereford Journal*, 28.9.1831

²³⁹ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> Faculty Office Marriage Licences

²⁴⁰ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> Pallot's Marriage Index, 1780-1837

²⁴¹ HO 107/428, 1841 census, Aymestrey

night sharing the household with Mary, Ann and Maria Forty, her niece and great-nieces respectively.

When Susannah died on 27th June 1845, she, too, was buried at Aymestrey. She, too, left a considerable estate²⁴². Her niece Mary Forty received the interest on a £2,000 investment which was to be divided between her children after Mary's death. Her other niece, Elizabeth Jones was to receive the interest on another investment worth £1,000, with similar provision for it to be divided between Elizabeth's children after her death. Her brother Matthew's children received much smaller bequests: Thomas of Leominster and Matthew of Wigmore received £100 each; Mary Jones at Titley £200; William at Tibhall only £50; Priscilla Symmonds £100, John at Leinthall Earls £100, and James Walter at Titley £100. Mary Turner, John Jones' illegitimate daughter Marian, also received £200. Further bequests were made to members of the Fortey family. Probate was granted on 18th October 1845.

Reading through the lives of Matthew and Mary's children, it is clear that on the whole they were remarkably successful. This seems a family much more likely to possess a grandfather clock than the Hughes family, so maybe the treasured Griffiths clock actually came down the Jones line somehow. However, it is our ancestor Matthew, born in 1757, who seems to have prospered least, given that his estate was valued at under £450. However, he was nearly 90 when he died and had maybe disposed of many of his possessions already.

Even more intriguing is the question of where Matthew Jones senior and his wife Mary spring from. They appear in the Aymestrey records with no clue as to their origins, produce eight children, all of whom survive to adulthood – suggesting a degree of financial security - and most of these children either make advantageous marriages, or farm sufficiently successfully to leave sizeable estates. The only possible marriage I have found within a 20 mile radius of Aymestrey is between a Matthew Jones and Mary Hughes at Beguildy in Radnorshire on 21st September 1753, two and a bit years before their first son was baptised. Given that their son John settled in Llanbister, adjacent to Beguildy, this marriage is worthy of consideration, especially as no children from the union were baptised there. There is another marriage between a Matthew Jones and a Mary Ellis in 1755 at Little Wenlock – nearly 40 miles away, but the groom is a wood collier, in other words a charcoal burner, which seems unlikely. Of course, it is equally possible that Matthew and Mary married near Aymestrey and the record has been lost.

The first paper trail clue Matthew leaves after the birth of his children is a draft exchange in 1777 – when Susannah was already four. This document²⁴³ was generated as a result of an early enclosure in Wigmore. There is a marginal note which explains its purpose:

²⁴² Prob 11/2025, will of Susannah Green, Aymestrey 1845

²⁴³ HARC, J90/55 Woodhouse Family Records - Draft exchange between Mathew Jones and John Woodhouse

An Act of Parliament passed in the 12th Year of the reign of his present majesty King George the third Intitled An Act for the Inclosing dividing allotting and improving certain common Woods and Moorlands within the Borough and Parish of Wigmore In the County of Hereford

The indenture describes him as:

Mathew Jones of Aymestrey In the County of Hereford Husbandman

It appears that Matthew and John Woodhouse esquire, along with his son, are exchanging plots of land in woodland in Wigmore. Matthew is relinquishing two acres:

All that Lot piece or parcell of woodland of him the said Mathew Jones in Woodwood in the Parish of Wigmore on the north side thereof marked Number (9) in a plan lately made

in exchange for an equivalent amount from the Woodhouses, namely:

all that Lot piece or parcell of woodland in the common Wood called Barnett aforesaid (containing two acres be they more or less) being part of sixty eight acres two rood and eleven perches allotted assigned determined and awarded by the said Commissioners or the major part of them to the Right Honorable Edward Earl of Oxford and Earl of Mortimer as his share or part of his share in the woods or commons divided under or by virtue of the said act

It appears that the woodland came with:

one burgage in Wigmore

and it was this property which he later willed to his son Matthew.

Barnett Wood, west of Wigmore, still exists, covering nearly 150 acres and was recently on the market for £1,200,000²⁴⁴. So, presumably, Matthew's two acres were worth having. The sales brochure uses phrases like:

A single block of broadleaves dominated by good quality oak. Secluded Ancient Woodland ... Arguably one of the most attractive native woodlands we've had on our books recently

and:

This part of Herefordshire is famous for stunning landscape and productive woodland.

²⁴⁴ https://www.tustins.co.uk/content/large/brochure_barnett_wood_final_14-4-23.pdf



Preaching Cross, Aymestrey churchyard

In the same year, 1777, Matthew makes a brief appearance on a Court Roll²⁴⁵ where he appears to be holding an acre of land in Aymestrey. The next is a brief mention in a document recording Window Tax paid in Aymestrey in 1783:

Wigmore Hundred An assessment on the Township of Aymestrey for
Collecting the Duty on Houses and Lights for y^e year 1783

Lights		£	s	d
Mathew Jones	8	0	7	0

‘Lights’ refers to windows rather than any form of illumination, and therefore Matthew was occupying a house with eight windows.

Also in 1783 there is a complicated Assignment dated 14th March²⁴⁶ in which:

Matthew Jones of Aymestrey, yeoman

comes into possession of a messuage and land in Adforton for the remainder of its term for the consideration of £20, but with the proviso that it can be redeemed by the previous owner John Lane provided he repay Matthew the £20. Matthew also pays an entry fine of £5. The Herefordshire Archives catalogue describes the property as follows, although I don’t think Matthew took possession of all of it:

All that messuage, previously 2 tenements, with the garden, orchard, fold, backside and outbuildings belonging, situated in Adforton ... And all those parcels of arable in Poole Field (6a.), parcels arable in Wood Field (5a.), the

²⁴⁵ HARC, G39/1/4/36, Court Roll for the Manors of Lingen and Aymestrey, 23.4.1771

²⁴⁶ HARC, M8/19, Assignment, 14.3.1783

meadow called Woman by Peytoe (1 ½ a.), meadow ground in Southey (1a.)
3a arable called Churchill lying in Harbor Field, parcel arable in Harbour
Field (1a.) 3 2a. in Poole Field, 4a. in Wood Field; 1 ½ a ...lying in Upper
Field: 2a. meadow in Kingsey: parcel pasture called The Pound Close (1 ½ a.)
?parcel meadow called Drapers Plock, adjoining Stanway Meadows (1 ½ a);
the "Tyth of Stanway Meadow" (1a.) and Lake Leasow (1a.)

Presumably, John Lane was unable to raise the £20 needed to regain his land as three years later²⁴⁷, articles of agreement are drawn up in which:

Edward Peytoe doth agree to give the said John Lane the said sum of eighty pounds for the absolute purchase of the said Messuage and Lands out of which s^d sum of eighty pounds the money due to Mathew Jones is to be paid & all Interest.

and a further assignment describes the land Jones acquired ²⁴⁸ in the earlier Bargain and Sale as:

All and singular the said several parcels of Land Ridges Butts Messuage & Cottage 4 acre of Land with their and every of their appurtenances ... To Hold ... unto the said Matthew Jones [etc] during all the rest and residue & remainder of the said term of 900 years

and reminds the parties that:

there [was] a covenant for redemption by the said John Lane ... upon payment of the said sum of twenty pounds & interest to the said Matthew Jones

However, the date for this has now long passed, and Matthew is now due his £20 plus interest, i.e. £23. John Lane has now appealed to Edward Peytoe, gentleman, who has agreed to pay Matthew his £23 and another £57 to Lane in exchange for all the parcels of land and properties involved.

In 1791²⁴⁹, if I am reading it right:

Matthew Jones Late of Aymestrey now of Kinsham, husbandman

along with Richard Colerick of Leinthall Earls, takes out a mortgage for £300 on a:

farm and lands in Leinthall Earls

Once again, though, the property changes hands again after a few years and in 1800²⁵⁰:

Matthew Jones of Cockgate, Yarpole, yeoman

²⁴⁷ HARC, M8/20, Articles of Agreement, 21.3.1786

²⁴⁸ HARC, M8/21, Assignment, 5.4.1786

²⁴⁹ HARC, AD4/14, Gatley Collection, Mortgage, 24.6.1791

²⁵⁰ HARC, AD4/20, Gatley Collection, Assignment, 25.6.1800

and Richard Colerick assign the property to John Gough of Gatley, gent. According to the *Discovery*²⁵¹ index:

Principal money still owing, though interest paid. Dunne has contracted with Colerick to purchase the fee simple of a piece of land forming part of the property mortgaged above. Now therefore, £48.8.6 paid to (1 [Jones]) at direction of (2 [Colerick]). (2) grants to (3 [Gatley]) Piece of arable land called The Shirt in Leinthall Earls...

All very confusing, and it is hard to tell how much, if at all, Matthew benefitted from these transactions.

The earliest available Land Tax record for Aymestrey is for 1783²⁵², when Matthew seems to be occupying a plot of land in that parish:

An Assessment of the Land Tax on the Township of Aymestrey for
ye year 1783 at 4^d per pound
Half yearly Payments

Proprietor	Occupier	Sums [£ s d]
John Woodhouse Esq ^e	Mathew Jones	0 3 0

In 1785²⁵³ he has become a proprietor rather than an occupier, albeit of a smaller plot:

Mr Jones	Edw ^d Bradford	1 4
----------	---------------------------	----------

and the next surviving tax returns²⁵⁴ – in 1796 and 1798 - read exactly the same

However, it is possible to say that, from 1796 at least, Matthew Jones was living at Yarpole as he was occupying land there owned by Thomas Wootton in the Poll²⁵⁵ that year:

Name of freeholder	Place of Residence	Place of freehold	Name of occupier
Thomas Wootton	Leominster	Yarpole	Matthew Jones

In fact, he was almost certainly there the previous year as the assessment:

at fore [sic] shillings in the pound for part of the year 1795 and 1796 to be paid half yearly

shows him paying on two parcels of land²⁵⁶:

²⁵¹ NA, *Discovery*, <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> F76/II/161, 25.6.1800

²⁵² Q/Rel/9/3/1, Aymestrey Land Tax 1783. Source, Familysearch Experiments

²⁵³ Q/Rel/9/3/2, Aymestrey Land Tax, 1785

²⁵⁴ Q/Rel/9/3/5 & Q/Rel/9/3/6, Aymestrey Land Tax, 1796 & 1798

²⁵⁵ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538-1798

²⁵⁶ HARC, Q/REL/10/39/1-27, Yarpole Land Tax, 1783-1837

Name of Proprietor	Name of Occupier	Sums assessed		
Mr Wootton	Mr Jones	0	4	5
Mr Tudor	Mr Jones	0	2	0 ½

In addition, he makes a brief appearance in the Yarpole Parish Book²⁵⁷ in 1795, though for some reason, the whole entry, including the names not quoted is crossed through.

At a meeting held this day to put out apprentices the following gentlemen are liable to take the next in rotation.

...
Mathew Jones

Two years later he was still paying Land Tax²⁵⁸ there; this time 8/10 on land owned by Mr Wootton and 4/0 ½ on Mr Tudor's land. However, he doesn't seem to have given up on his Aymestrey land until 1798 when the Aymestrey return²⁵⁹ reads:

Late Mr Jones	Edw ^d Bradford	1	4
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In early 1800, he makes a further appearance in the Yarpole Parish Book²⁶⁰.

At a meeting held this 20 th day of Feby 1800 pursuant to –		
Publish notice given for the purpose of placing out Parish Prentices		
Masters	Apprentices	Parishioner abode
...	...	...
Matthew Jones to have	Edw ^d Preece	Cock Gate



Cock Gate, Yarpole



Cock Gate Farmhouse, Yarpole

²⁵⁷ HARC, S14/4, Parish Book Yarpole, Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts, 1791-1810

²⁵⁸ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Land Tax Redemption, 1798

²⁵⁹ Q/Rel/9/3/7, Aymestrey Land Tax, 1798

²⁶⁰ HARC, S14/4, Parish Book Yarpole, Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts, 1791-1810

There are two properties at the crossroads in Yarpole named Cock Gate – the one on the left, which carries a datestone for 1732 with the names Richard and Margaret Green, and Cock Gate Farm. It is impossible to be sure which was Matthew’s home at this time.

Although he died a few months later, bureaucracy regarding land ownership presumably moved slowly, as both the 1802 and 1804 Land Tax returns²⁶¹ for Aymestrey have the following entry at the bottom of the page:

Land Tax purchased and certificates shown for the same				
Late Mr Jones	Edward Bradford	0	1	4

Matthew Jones wrote his will²⁶² on 10th July 1797, witnessed by his son Thomas and son-in-law to be, William Green. A third witness, T Maylord, does not seem to be a family connection. Matthew describes himself as of Yarpole, and after the usual pious openings he turns to his son Matthew:

Imprimis to my son Matthew Jones of Wigmore in the said county of Hereford I bequeath a messuage or dwelling house with the garden and buildings thereunto adjoining and belonging together with all and singular the Burgage of the Moor and about two Acres of Coppice Wood Land a wood called Barnet and all thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining situate in the said parish of Wigmore

To his wife Mary, Matthew leaves an annuity of £20. His daughters Mary Wootton, Ann and Susan Jones are each given £150, while Elizabeth James receives only £50, with no reason given for the difference. Son John is given £100, and son Thomas a token £20.

He then deals with his grandchildren:

Item to my grandson Matthew Jones son of Matthew Jones of Wigmore aforesaid I bequeath the sum of twenty pounds Item to my granddaughter Mary Jones daughter of Matthew Jones of Wigmore aforesaid I bequeath the sum of twenty pounds Item to my grandson William Jones son of Matthew Jones of Wigmore aforesaid I bequeath the sum of twenty pounds Item to my granddaughter Priscilla Jones daughter of Matthew Jones of Wigmore aforesaid I bequeath the sum of twenty pounds Item to my granddaughter Mary Wootton daughter of Thomas and Mary Wootton of the Borough of Leominster aforesaid I bequeath the sum of twenty pounds Item to my granddaughter Eliza Wootton daughter of Thomas and Mary Wootton of the Borough of Leominster aforesaid I bequeath the sum of twenty pounds.

²⁶¹ Q/Rel/9/3/7 & Q/Rel/9/3/8, Aymestrey Land Tax 1802 & 1804

²⁶² HARC, Will of Matthew Jones, Yarpole, 1800

With the exception of a Clock and Jack gifted specifically to daughter Susan, the rest of his stock, implements and household goods and furniture are to be divided between his daughters Mary, Ann and Susan. Again, Elizabeth is not mentioned.

He appoints Thomas Wootton and:

My daughter Susan Jones of the Cock-Gate in the parish of Yarpole
as joint executors and makes his mark.

Matthew died three years later at Yarpole on 20th October 1800 and was buried at Aymestrey three days later. On 29th October, the *Hereford Journal*²⁶³ published the following obituary:

On Sunday se'nnight died, in the 78th year of his age, after a long and painful illness, which he bore with becoming resignation, Mr. Matthew Jones, of the Cock-gate, in this county.

His two executors were sworn the same day, stating the value of the estate to be under £600, not enough to pay out fully on all the bequests made. The will was proved on 9th December.

Mary outlived her husband by four years and was buried on the last day of December 1804 at Aymestrey.

²⁶³ *Hereford Journal*, 29.10.1800