

Hughes, Jones, Davies and Weaver

Part 2

Monington or Monnington - Wigmore

It's now time to skip back a generation to the family of Jane Monington, wife of Matthew Jones junior. When Matthew died in 1846, his daughter Priscilla described him as a farmer. However, when his wife Jane died the previous year, Priscilla described her father as a skinner:

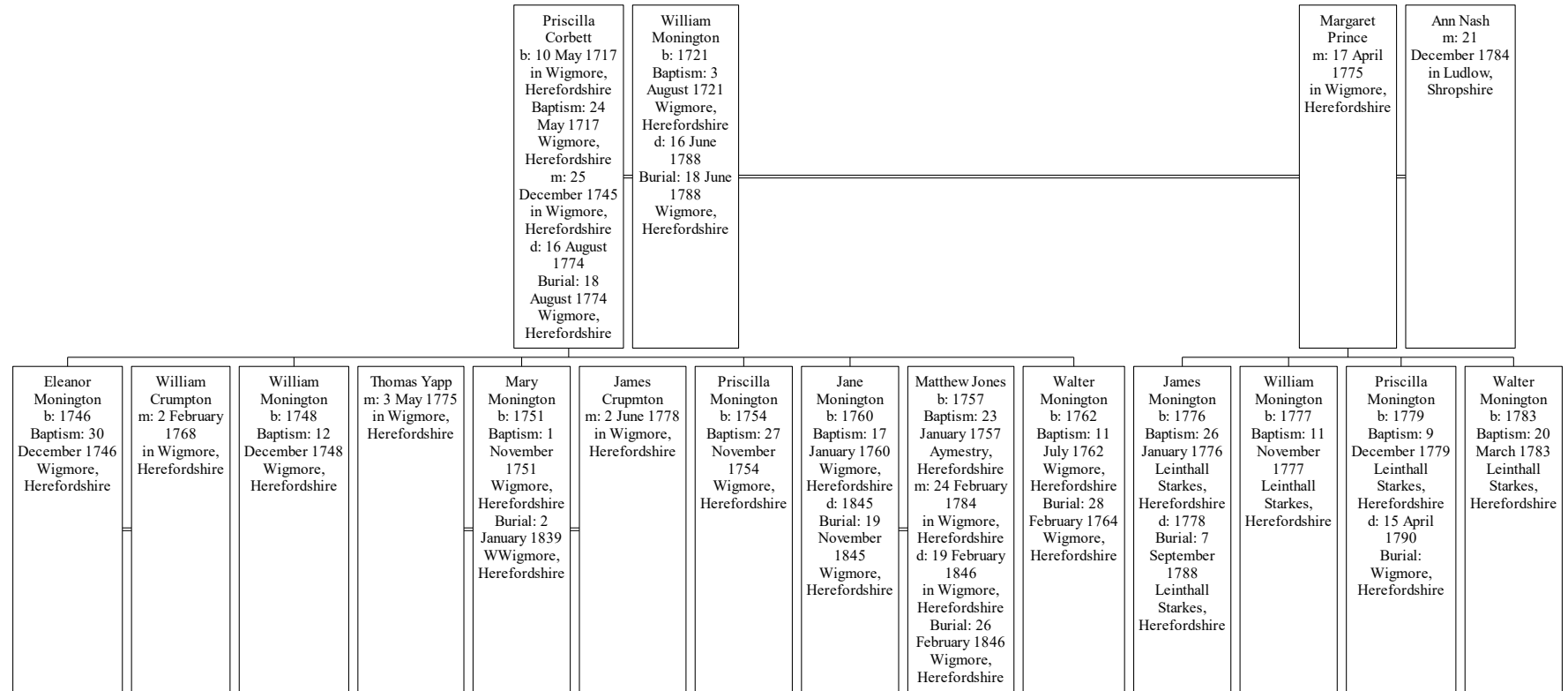
Thirteenth November 1845, Wigmore, Jane Jones, Female, 86 years,
Wife of Matthew Jones Skinner, Decay of Nature (not certified),
No medical attendant, Priscilla Symmonds Daughter present at the death

She was buried at Wigmore on 19th November with the register also recording her age as 86. *Beddow's Worcester Journal*¹ announced her death:

Nov. 13. At Wigmore, after a long illness, Jane Jones, aged 88, leaving a husband at the very advanced age of 91 to lament the loss of one who had been his faithful companion for 62 years.

¹ *Findmypast, Beddow's Worcester Journal*, 20.11.1845

Tree 11 - Family of William Monington



Jane was indeed nearly 86 when she died, not 88 as the newspaper said, having been baptised at Wigmore on 17th January 1760, the daughter of William and Priscilla Monington. This couple had married at Wigmore on Christmas Day 1745:

William Monington and Priscilla Corbett both of this parish were married
ye 25th day of Dec^{ber}

Their first child, Eleanor, baptised on 30th December 1746, married William Crumpton at Wigmore on 2nd February 1768 (**See tree 11, p. 97**). They settled in Aymestrey, baptising three children in Lenthall Starks and two in Aymestrey church. William was buried at Wigmore in 1818 but Eleanor's burial has not been found.

The next child was a boy, William – baptised on 12th December 1748, but nothing further is known about him. He was followed by Mary, baptised on 1st November 1751. She married Thomas Yapp at Wigmore on 3rd May 1775, but the marriage was short-lived, and she remarried on 2nd June 1778 to James Crumpton, who may well have been William Crumpton's brother. They baptised two daughters in Wigmore before moving to Leintwardine and baptising three more. Priscilla was baptised on 27th November 1754 but presumably died young, as her father gave the same name to a later child. The same was true of the boy who followed Jane. Walter was baptised on 11th July 1762 but buried on 28th March 1764.

Five years later, William was involved in what appears to be a combined act of civil disobedience. His lands were part of the Honor of Wigmore, a manor held by the Earl of Oxford. An estreat, that is a court record used to enforce fines, survives as part of the court roll of the said manor². The preamble reads:

An Estreat of the Fines and Amerements laid at Leets View of Frank Pledge with the Court Baron of the Right Honble the Earl of Oxford Lord of the said Honor held at the Court house in Wigmore within the said Honor the 27th October 1767 3rd May and 18th October 1768 and the 17th of October 1769 before John Sherburn Deputy to the Honble Robert Harley Esqr Chieff Steward of the said Honor.

The first two entries deal with tenants who have not cleared water from the highway or not put up a footbridge. Then there is a list of 19 people all fined 5/- for the same offence, namely:

for not effectually scouring his part of the Great Lake within the said Honor

One of those named is William Monington; another is the parish priest, and the whole document reads like a joint refusal to do something deemed unreasonable by the local residents. However, the authorities clearly weren't going to back down, as the document ends thus:

² HARC, R28 [LC] 11,292, Manor of Wigmore Court Rolls, 1769-1823

To Richard Prince Serjeant of the said honour.

These are to require and Authorise you the said Serjeant above named forwith to demand and receive of the several persons above named the several and respective sums of money appearing opposite to their several and respective names, and upon their or any of their refusal or Neglect to pay the same upon such demands, you are to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the person or persons so refusing or neglecting to pay, rendering to the Owner or Owners of such Goods the Overplus of the Value thereof if any such shall be, after the particular fines and charges of such distress is respectively deducted, and all and every such sums of money by you to be received and levied you are to pay to the said Lord of the Manor's Steward for the use of the said Lord.

Given under my hand and seal the 21st day of October 1769.

John Sherburn

No record survives of the outcome. Presumably, even if scoured on this occasion, the lake eventually silted up as it is no longer in existence. An information board on the hillside above reads:

If you had been standing here 20,000 years ago the scene would have been very different. You would have seen the basin filled with a large lake, which was frozen in winter.



View from Yatton Hill to Wigmore Glacial Lake

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William's wife Priscilla lived to see three of her six children to near adulthood at least before dying on 16th August 1774. She was buried at Wigmore two days later. After what might be considered a decent interval, on 17th April 1775, William Monington married again, to Margaret Prince. Despite their marriage being at Wigmore, their four children were baptised at Leinthall Starks, which was given as his abode on the marriage entry: James, baptised on 26th January 1776, was buried at Wigmore on 7th September 1788. William, baptised on 11th November 1777, married Sarah Haynes at Burrington on 19th February 1803, where he and his wife baptised

one daughter, with possibly two more at Leintwardine. Another daughter named Priscilla was baptised on 9th December 1779 but was buried on 18th April 1790. William and Margaret's final child, named Walter, was baptised on 20th March 1783. He grew up to marry Elizabeth Payne at Leinthall Starks on 29th April 1806, and fathered a son, John.



Headstone commemorating James and Priscillah Monington

To the Memory of
James and Priscillah
Son and Daughter of
William Monnington
By Margaret, his Wife
James died the 28th of May 1789
Aged 13 [sic] Years.
Priscillah died the 15th of April 1790
in the 11th Year of her Age.

There is no burial record for Margaret Monington, but she must have died shortly after Walter's birth, as, on 21st December 1784, William married for a third time, this time at Ludlow:

W^m Monnington of the Parish of Wigmore Ann Nash of this Parish
were married in this church by Licence this 21st Day of Dec^r 1784

The witnesses were Richard Bearttell and Elizabeth Nash. Presumably he needed someone to help raise his three very young children from his second marriage. It is

not clear whether he was still living in Leinthall Starkes. Land Tax³ seems to have shown him there in 1782:

An Assess^{mt} of the Land Tax on the parish of Leinthall Starkes in the County of Hereford for the Year 1782 at 4 in the pound

Rich ^d Knight Esq ^r	W ^m Monnington	1	2	9
Rich ^d Collins	W ^m Monnington	0	4	0

and there is a similar entry for 1783, but as there is also an entry in 1796 showing a William Monnington paying £1 2/9, which must refer to William's son, it is hard to know which entries refer specifically to William senior. It may be that he only occupied the smaller, 4/0 plot of land in Leinthall Starkes, or it may be that his son took on the tenancy after his father's death. There are also Land Tax entries for Wigmore⁴, in which William Monington is shown in 1782 and 1783 paying 3/2 on land which he both owns and occupies.

Although William seems to have had a foot in both parishes, Wigmore is where he left the more extensive trail as he was clearly active in parish matters. The churchwardens' accounts⁵ for that parish reveal numerous references to him. The first of these is on the flyleaf. Under a heading reading:

A Scheme of the Several Persons who have Served Churchwardens for the Years as are Hereunder Mentioned

is the entry:

Will ^m Monington	Rich ^d Morris	1781
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From 1760 he is regularly recorded paying church tax. In 1762 the list is headed as follows:

A copy of the Chuurch Lewn 1762 at 3^d in the pound

...			
W ^m Monington	0	1	3

The rate changes over the years, 2^d in the pound at its lowest and 8^d in the pound at its highest. The sums he paid ranged from 10^d to 3/4. He also, on occasions, carried out work for the church, first, for a task unspecified in 1764, when he was paid £ 3 4/11 by the churchwardens. In 1766 and 1768 he was paid £2 19/8 and 1/4 respectively for tiling, as well as another 1/- in 1766 for work at the church.

He was also a member of the parish vestry and as such, his signature appears in 1765 and 1767 with other vestry members approving the election of the

³ Q/REL/9/16/1 Land Tax Leinthall Starkes 1782

⁴ Q/Rel/9/30/1 & Q/Rel 9/30/2. Land Tax Wigmore 1782 & 1783

⁵ HARC, G46/23, Wigmore Churchwardens' Accounts 1760-1810

churchwardens. The accounts are full of little details about life in the village. For example, William signs off with others on the following entry dated 17th April 1781:

At a Vestry Meeting held this day it was agreed then that the Minister and Churchwardens are to have five shillings apiece towards their expenses at ye Visitation and likewise Turnpikes free in turn of the Bell=Ropes & when they decay they are to be sold to the best Bidder & the money for the use of the Church. And it is further agreed that John Winde during his Clarkship is to be freed from paying the poor & Church Lewn in leu of the Rope or Ropes
Chas Price Curate

...

William Monington

In 1782 his name appears first approving the accounts:

Novembr the 9 1782 At Vestry Meeting then heald the following accounts were Seene and Aloud bi Us

Will ^m Monington	17	2	10 ½
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and then as churchwarden, both setting and paying the Lewn:

1782 A copy of Wigmore Church Lewn for the yeare 1782 at 5 in the pound.
Will^m Monington & Richard Morris Church Wardens

Will ^m Monington	2	1
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William continued to pay the church lewn until 1787.

He probably also served as Overseer of the Poor. In the 18th century, parish officials were keen to avoid having to support children born out of wedlock, so a Bastardy Bond was often taken out with the putative father and his supporters having to agree to pay the parish £40 if insufficient contribution was made to the raising of the child. William's name appears on one of these bonds, dated 7th March 1768⁶. In it, three men, two, possibly brothers, from Eardisland, and a third from Kington, are bound to agree to pay £40 to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Wigmore if the child is not provided for. The child in question belongs to one Sarah Williams:

lately delivered of a female bastard Child which Child is now Chargeable to the said Parish

The four parish officials named are:

Robert Penny, Stephen Maund, Benjamin Hill and William Monington
Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Wigmore

⁶ HARC, CY35/1/16, Wigmore Overseers' Records

There were usually two churchwardens and two overseers, and the fact that William is the last-named suggests that he is there in the role of overseer rather than churchwarden. There are two earlier bonds including a William Monington as parish official, one in 1747 and one in 1748, but these probably refer to 'our' William's cousin, born in 1702.

William's final marriage was short-lived as he died on 16th June 1788, but not before he had made his will⁷ four days earlier. In it, he bequeaths all personal effects to his wife Ann for life, confirming:

the settlement for the Jointure made upon my dear wife

After her death, everything is to be divided equally between:

my four daughters (viz) Eleanor Crumpton the wife of William Crumpton, Mary Crumpton the wife of James Crumpton, Priscilla Monnington, and Jane Jones the Wife of Mathew Jones, to be equally divided between them share and share alike

His surviving son William is willed one shilling. John Oakley, mercer of Wigmore, was appointed executor, and the will was witnessed by three Thomases – Millichamp, Carter and Turner. William was buried at Wigmore on 18th June and the will proved on 7th October.



Headstone of William and Priscilla Monington

His memorial in Wigmore churchyard is a double-headed one, with his wife Priscilla's details on the other half. Next to this is another, similar stone to two of William and Margaret's children - Priscilla and James. These two were actually buried at Leinthal Starkes (Priscilla on 10th April 1790 and James on 7th September 1788), which may be why the dates are slightly awry. It does give a charming picture of William, Monington, however:

⁷ HARC, will of William Monington, 1788

In Memory of
Wm Monnington
He retired from his
Labor and fell asleep
in the Lord
the 16th of June 1788
in the 67th Year
of his life
An affectionate Husband
to his wives most kind
A tender parent

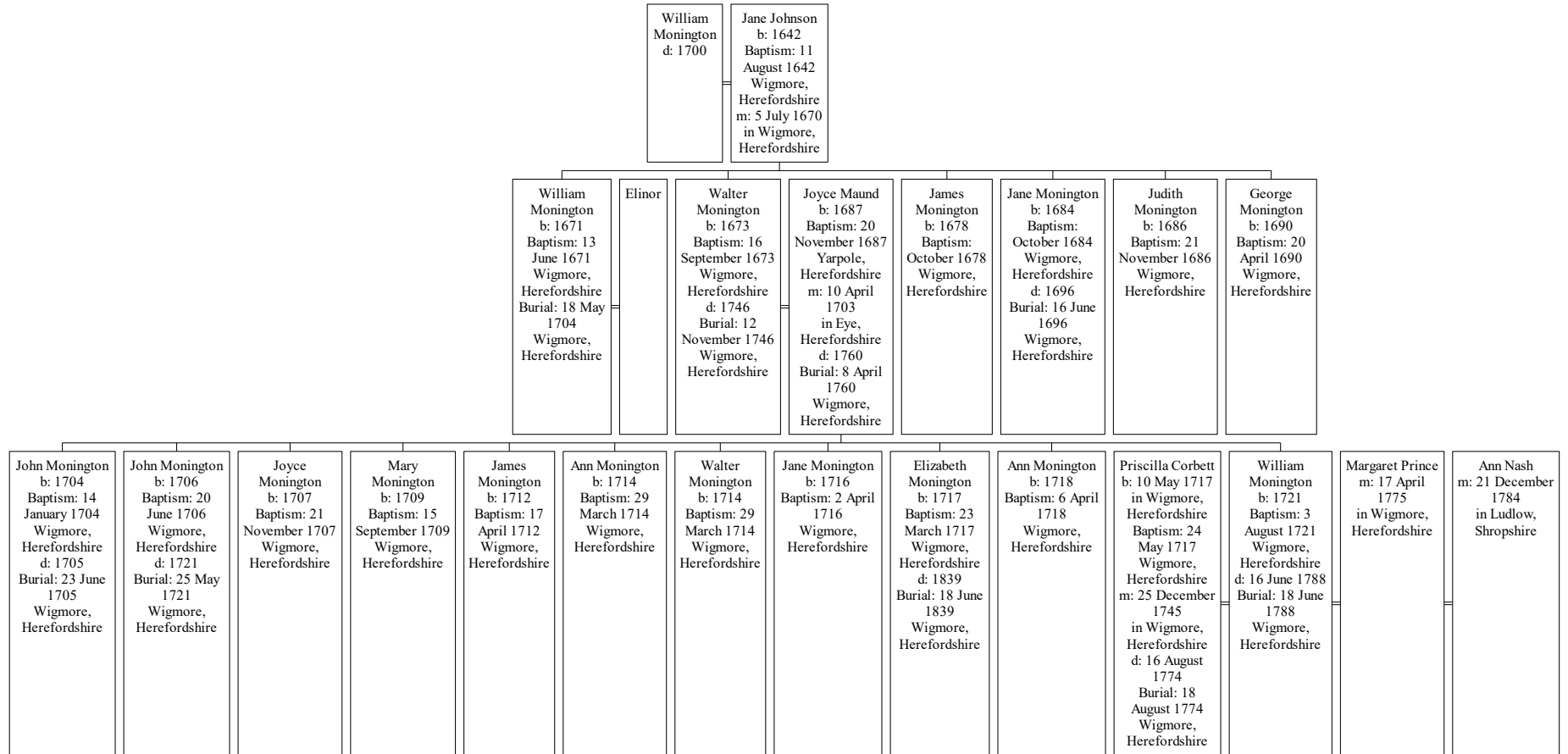
William Monington was baptised at Wigmore on 3rd August 1721, the youngest son of Walter and Joyce Monington (**See tree 12, p. 105**). The oldest, though short-lived, child of Walter and Jane, was John, baptised on 14th January 1704 and buried on 23rd June 1705. His baptism took place almost exactly nine months after the marriage of his parents. Walter Monington married Joyce Maund at Eye on 10th April 1705 – not, as the index on *Findmypast* suggests, 1703. The bride was a youthful 17 if she was the daughter of John and Elinor Maund baptised at Yarpole on 20th November 1687. If this is correct, then Joyce was the youngest child, with older siblings Mary – born 1677, Andrew – born 1679, another Mary – born 1680 and Ann – born 1684.

To return to Walter and Joyce: their next child was also named John and baptised on 20th June 1706. He reached his teens but was buried on 25th May 1721. A daughter named Joyce followed and was baptised on 21st November 1707 but then disappeared, as does Mary – baptised on 15th September 1709. James, baptised on 17th April 1712 seems to have reached adulthood and may have fathered a child of the same name in 1735 with a wife named Joan, but was probably buried on 6th September 1746.

Two years after James' birth, Joyce gave birth to twins, Walter and Anne, baptised together on 29th March 1714. Anne certainly died young, as her name was given to a later sibling, and I suspect that Walter died young as well unless it is his burial recorded on 28th March 1764. Jane is another mystery child, baptised on 2nd April 1716, and followed by Elizabeth – 23rd March 1717 (buried 18th June 1739) and Anne – 6th April 1718. Are these children just elusive or were William and Joyce largely unsuccessful in raising their children? Of their 11 children, only William, the last-born, baptised in 1721, seems to have left much of a paper trail.

Unless the entry refers to her daughter, Joyce Monington, née Maund, was buried at Wigmore on 8th April 1760. She would have been 72 years old. It is harder still to be certain about Walter. There are two possible burial dates at Wigmore: 12th November 1746 and 28th March 1764. The former seems more likely, as he would have been 73 then, whereas the 1764 date would make him 91. Maybe this is indeed the entry for his son named Walter, born in 1714. It is a shame that, unlike both his father and son, he did not leave a will.

Tree 12 - Descendants of William Monington and Jane Johnson



Walter Monington had been baptised at Wigmore on 16th September 1673, the son of William Monington and his wife Jane Johnson:

The xvth day was baptized the Son of William Monington and Jane his wife whose name was Walter

He leaves very little paper trail. Apart from the parish registers, only one sighting has been made, in a single sheet of a Wigmore Court Roll. The document is headed:

The presentment of the petty Constables of the parish of Wigmore for the great Law day holden the 27th of Aprill 1711.
We present as followeth

Part way down the list which follows is:

Ess Walter Monington

'Ess' stands for essoins, or excused, which means that Walter didn't appear at court that day but was absent with permission for some reason.



Wigmore Castle

Walter was the first Monington of our line to be baptised at Wigmore, arriving two years after his older brother and three after his parents had married there on 5th July 1670:

The vth day was married William Monnington of ye p'ish of Lingen & Jane Johnson of Wigmore

At one time I believed – on evidence from the IGI – that Jane was the daughter of John and Dorothy Johnson, baptised at Wigmore in 1647. However, that entry no longer appears in the indexes, and a careful scrutiny of the original parish register also suggests it was erroneous, as no such baptism appears. The only clue to

William's origin lies in a note beside the marriage entry which says he is of Lingen, a parish which lies between Wigmore and Presteigne.

No baptism for William Monington survives at Lingen, though there are snippets of information about a Monington family there. Anne Monington, widow of Walter, died on 19th January 1674 and was buried on 25th leaving three under-aged children, Mary – born in 1665, James – born in 1671 and Ann. Ann later married James Mason at Lingen in 1688, and there was clearly a connection, as James Mason was later an executor of William Monington's will⁸. The paperwork for the administration of the estate of Ann's mother, Anne Monington - who died intestate - includes an obligation⁹ binding their uncle James Clarke during the minority of the three children. It also includes an inventory of her goods, dated 21st January 1674, and taken by William Winde and William Monington, whose signature looks suspiciously similar to the one on our William's will.

Presumably William was not Walter and Anne's son, though this is a possibility. A more likely parent - though this is speculation - would be William Monington, who was buried at Lingen on 14th December 1669. I would also speculate that William and Walter were brothers, which would make the widow Anne our William's aunt.

Whatever the connection with the Lingen families, William Monington married Jane Johnson at Wigmore on 5th July and their first child, William, was baptised there on 13th June 1671. He married a woman named Elinor and fathered a child of the same name, who married at Lingen in 1728. William junior only outlived his father by four years and was buried at Wigmore on 18th May 1704. His widow signed the obligation¹⁰ to administer his estate as Elinor Manington. Walter followed in 1673, but it was another seven years before the baptism of James in October 1678. Another long gap occurred before Jane was baptised in October 1684, but she died young and was buried on 16th June 1696.

Judith was baptised on 21st November 1686. She married in her thirties, on 7th May 1719 at Wigmore, and she and Thomas Rawlings baptised one child, Elizabeth, at Kingsland the following year. The last child, George, was baptised at Wigmore on 20th April 1690. His mother, Jane, died four years later, and was buried on 28th July 1694.

William Monington made his will on 21st May 1700, describing himself as a mason. To his eldest son William he bequeathed:

all that house I now live in with the backside barne and all other belonging
to it with all its rites members and appurtenances in as full and ample manner

⁸ HARC, Will of William Monington, Wigmore, 1700

⁹ HARC, Admon Anne Monington, Lingen, 1675

¹⁰ HARC, Admon William Monington, Wigmore, 1704

as I hold it And also one orchard joining to the one side to William Lewis and one the other side to ground of Mr Davies and now in the possion of Thomas Parry And also all that one burgage joining one the one side to the lane leading to Alminsty [Aymestrey] and between two burgages of Sir Edward Harley of late and Master Robert Harley Esquire now

His other bequests consisted of possessions rather than land. Walter received:

one bedstead and one Table board; one Coffe one pewter dish and one flaggon the bedstead and table board being in the middle chamber next the staires head

while James received:

one table board one bedstead being in the chamber over the hall one pewter dish and one flagon, one coffer

and to George went:

one mare one three years ould colt and one two yeare ould one and foure pound of money that now lieth in the hands of Thomas Phillips of Orleton

while Judith was given:

all my brass Iron Copper pewter linnens Chests and all my other household goods and Chattles except what is before mentioned or to be mentioned

He doesn't name the grandchild who was to receive:

One joined bed now standing in the parlour

but it must have been his oldest son William's daughter Elinor. He went on to appoint William Robinson (who was described as of Lingen when he supported Elinor Monington to gain administration of her husband's estate) and James Mason as executors, and to confirm that son William was to receive a table board from the parlour providing he contribute 16/- to his funeral expenses. The will was witnesses by Elizabeth Bird, John Owens and James Dowfall, and William signed his name.

William lived for a further three months but died on 4th September 1700. His son William and Walter Penny took an inventory of his goods on 9th September. William's clothing was valued at 10/-. Then the usual items were listed, brass and pewter worth £1 6/8, feather beds and bedsteads worth £2, napery and wooden furniture, along with implements for the fire and for cooking. The biggest sum was money owing to him - £11 10/- and the list ended with:

Small things out of sight and mind 00 01 00

The whole estate was valued at £19 16/-. The inventory was submitted on 23rd September and the will was proved the same day.

Corbett and Weaver – Wigmore

Priscilla Corbett married William Monington at Wigmore on Christmas Day 1745. She had been born on 10th May 1717 and baptised at Wigmore a fortnight later on 24th May. A typically florid, but rather touching memorial was erected to her after she died on 16th August 1774:

In memory of
Priscilla Wife of
Wm. Monnington
She died the 16th
of Aug. 1774
Aged 57 Years.
Also Walter they'r
Son died an infant.

Pale Death could hardly find another
So good a Wife, a tender Mother
In all her actions was so kind
She was not soon put out of mind.

She was buried at Wigmore on 18th August.



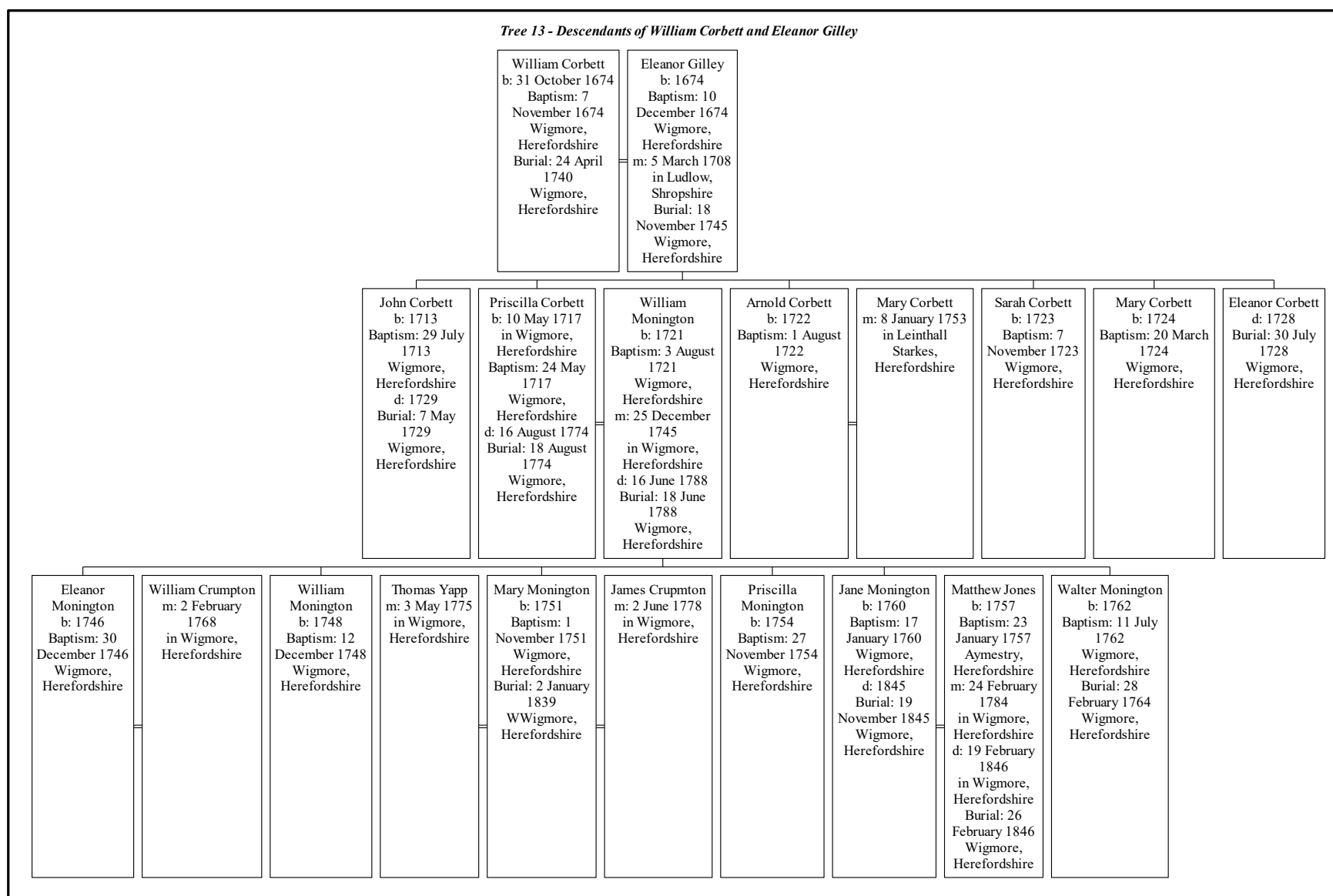
Ludlow St Laurence

Her parents were William Corbett and Ellenor Gilley, who married at Ludlow on 5th March 1708:

William Corbit and Elian^r Gilley, both of the parish of Wigmore

Why they chose Ludlow for their nuptials is unknown, but Ludlow Parish church is large and splendid, known as 'the cathedral of the Marches'. Maybe they wanted the kudos of a marriage there.

Tree 13 - Descendants of William Corbett and Eleanor Gilley



Two years after the marriage, the couple took part in a Lease and Release¹¹, a land transaction. The documentation was in the form of two indentures, dated a day apart. The first, the lease, is dated 5th June 1710, and helpfully gives William's occupation. It is between:

James Cooke of Connop in the parish of Aymestrey in the County of Hereford yeoman and William Corbett of Wigmore in the County aforesaid Joyner of the one part And Abraham Boukett of Connop aforesaid weaver

It goes on to say that as a result of five shillings paid by Boukett to James Cooke and William Corbett, the two latter have:

demised granted bargained and sold

a number of pieces of land mainly in the township of Connop, which are then listed in detail:

All those several pieces of meadow and pasture ground and Arable Land herein after particularly mentioned being part of the Lands of and belonging to that messuage wherein the said James Cooke doe now dwell and were heretofore the lands of Margery Carter wid^w deceased ... All that piece of meadow ground containing by estimation about two Acres called by the name of the Nookes adioyninge Southwards to Sr James Batemans Coppice and westwards to Land of Millborough Tyler wid^w All that piece of pasture and woodland called by the name of Hunters End conteyneinge by estimation about four Acres All those two Acres of arable land lying dispersedly in a field there called the Upper field the one Acre thereof shutts up to the Meare hill between Land of the said Millborough Tyler partly west and Land now in the possession of Richard Cooke partly east, the other Acre thereof shutts up to Adeley beetweene the Land of the said Richard Cooke east and west, All those two Acres of Arable Land lying dispersedly in the Gumm poole field shutting up to ?Lauzell consisting of four Ridges apiece All that acre of arable land lying or being in the Ryall field And also all that acre of Land lying and being next to Mortimers Crosse at or near a place there called the Broad Green and shutts up to the new Tinings

Boukett is to hold the land for a term of six months and then pay:

to the said James Cooke and William Corbett their heirs and assigns the rent of one peppercorn

This was part of the fiction of this kind of land transfer, as, the following day, another document, the release, was written – even wordier than the lease. This makes it clear that Abraham Boukett has paid both men for the land in question:

in consideration of the summe of five and fifty pounds two shillings and fore pence of Lawfull mony of Great Britaine to the said William Corbett by the

¹¹ HARC, G39/1/1/28A & G39/1/1/28B, Lease and Release, Cooke, Corbett & Bowkett, 1710

said Abraham Boukett in hand paid ... and of the further summe of four pounds seventeen shillings and eight pence of like lawfull money to the said James Cooke and Margery his wife by the said Abraham Boukett in hand well and truly paid beefore the ensealinge and delivery of these presents

and that William and James are confirming that Abraham Boukett is now in possession of this land. Margery Cooke makes her mark, but the other three sign the bottom of the document: James Cook, William Corbett, Ellinor Corbett.

On the back of the release, William Corbett signs a witnessed statement saying that he has received the money in full:

I the within named William Corbett and Elianor my wife have the day and yeare first within written had and received of the within named Abraham Boukett the within mentioned summe of five and fifty pounds two shillings and four pence in full of the Consideration mony within mentioned to bee paid to us Witness our hand hereunto -

The surviving baptism register would suggest that there was a five year gap between the marriage of William and Ellinor and arrival of a first child John, baptised on 29th July 1713 and buried on 7th May 1729 (**See tree 13, p. 110**). However, the burials note an Elinor, daughter of William Corbet, interred on 30th July 1728, and I suspect this may have been the first-born child.

Priscilla was followed by Arnold, baptised on 1st August 1722. He married Mary Corbett on 8th January 1753 at Leinthall Starkes, with the note that both were from Wigmore. I trust Mary either came to Wigmore from elsewhere, or that there are gaps in the register, as the only Mary baptised in the right time frame was Arnold's sister Mary, baptised on 20th March 1724. Another sister Sarah came between Arnold and Mary. Baptised on 7th November 1723, she married Thomas Jennings on 17th November either 1749 or 1750. Another Eleanor was baptised ten years later on 28th July 1734, but was buried as daughter of William and Eleanor, on 23rd July 1737.

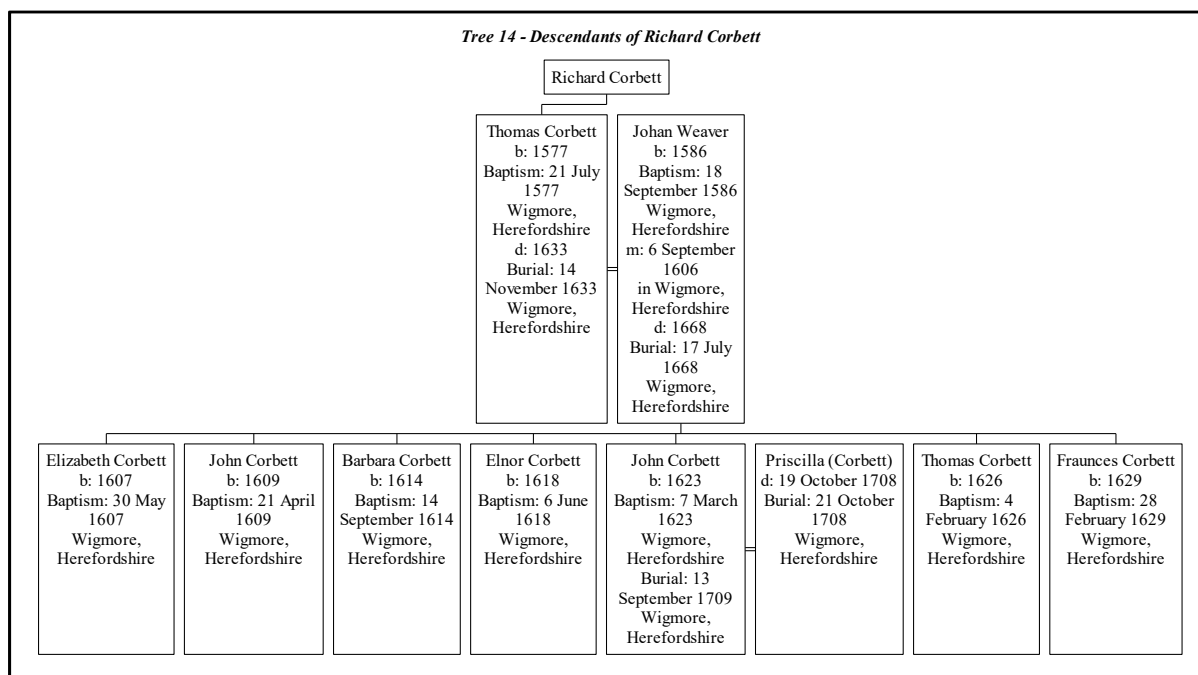
Not much else is known about William Corbett: he was born on 31st October 1674 and baptised at Wigmore on 7th November:

The xxxith day of October was borne William the son of John Corbet and Prissilla his wife and baptised the seventh of this Instant November 1674

and buried at Wigmore on 24th April 1740. However, he presumably served as parish clerk at some point, as when his wife Eleanor died, her burial record notes that she was the wife of William Corbett, parish clerk.

William's parents were John and Priscilla Corbett. No marriage has been found for them, but a first child, Priscilla, was baptised on 30th October 1655 and grew up to marry Samuel Hopkys on 8th February 1686. John was baptised at Wigmore on 6th July 1658. Thomas, born on 16th December 1661 and baptised on 1st

January, seems to have married a wife named Joane and raised a family at Wigmore. Margaret was baptised on 8th July 1667 but buried on 22nd July 1677 and a namesake was baptised on 27th April 1668. The last-born was William, in our direct line.



John Corbett leaves a tiny paper trail. He was baptised at Wigmore in March 1623 (See tree 14, p 113.):

The viith day was baptized the son of Thomas Corbett and Jhoan his wife whose name was John

He was assessed for one hearth in the 1665 Hereford Hearth Tax Assessment¹². His wife Priscilla died on 19th October 1708 and was buried on 21st; John followed on 13th September 1709. Beside the bare date of his burial is a smudged word which looks as if it reads 'clerk', so maybe, like his son William, John served as parish clerk for Wigmore. John had been baptised there on 21st April 1609, the son of Thomas Corbett and his wife Johan.

Thomas Corbett married Johan Weaver on 6th September 1606 at Wigmore. Their first child, Elizabeth, was baptised on 30th March 1607 and buried on Boxing Day 1608. John, baptised 21st April 1609 was also short-lived. Barbara, baptised on 14th September 1614 appears to have remained unmarried and was probably buried on 12th December 1657. Elnor, baptised on 6th June 1618, disappears from the records, and nearly five years passed before our ancestor John was born. Thomas, baptised on 4th February 1626 was buried on 29th April 1629, and of Fraunces, baptised on 28th February 1629, there is no further sight, so she, too, probably died as an infant.

¹² <https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/document/other/1665-hearth-tax-wigmore-wg28-witton-tripleton-wg29-wigmore-1>

The only other sighting of Thomas Corbett is in a single sheet document, a list of tenants with area and value of Burgages in Wigmore¹³. There is no date, but the names appearing would agree with the Record Office's placing of it between 1632 and 1661. Its first column is headed:

Ancient messuages in Wigmore Burrough

This column is headed, I presume, by the owner of the burgage, while the second, headed just 'Burgages' has a number and sometimes a comment. The third column, which is partly torn, seems to be headed:

meadow, arable, pasture

must refer to acreage held associated with each property. However, this doesn't seem easily to relate to the number in the second column. So, all we can really glean from this is that Thomas Corbett was living in a tenement, probably on the High Street, or at least in the centre of Wigmore the year before he died:

John Madocks gent 5 4 whereof		
b	- his dwelling house	1)
b	- Margaret Pope	1)
b	- Thomas Corbett	1)----- 14 & a third pte --- 31 3
b	- Widow Davys	1)
b	- Richard Lawrence	1)

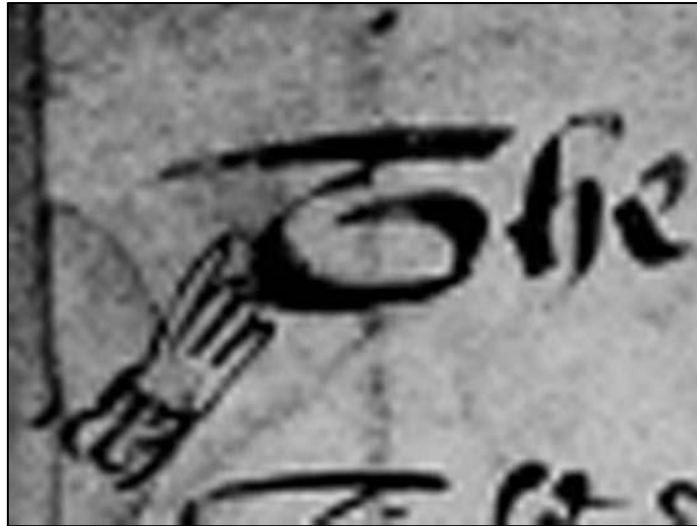
Thomas Corbett was buried at Wigmore on 14th November 1633, but his wife Joan, or Johan, outlived him by 35 years, and was buried at Wigmore on 17th June 1668.

The Corbett line goes back one more generation. Thomas was baptised at Wigmore on 21st July 1577, apparently the only child of Richard Corbett and an unknown wife:

The xxith daie was baptized the Sonne of Ric^d Corbett whose name was Thomas

The entry in the register is the top one on the page, under the heading Julie [July]. Beside the word 'The' is a drawn, pointing hand of unknown significance. This system of highlighting, called a manicule, was occasionally used either to denote someone of status, or someone who was illegitimate. Unfortunately, no clarification is possible in this instance.

¹³ HARC, 098 LC Deeds 5422, Burrough of Wigmore Ancient Messuages and Burgages, N D



Manicule beside the baptism entry for Thomas Corbett

There is no further reference to Richard, so his origins are obscure. The only thing which is certain is that he did not belong to the Corbett family of Morton Corbet in Shropshire. *Ancestry* is littered with trees which assert that Thomas' father Richard was Sir Richard Corbett of Morton Corbett; a prestigious connection - if it were true - but as Sir Richard died without issue, it is presumably false. Even if he was an illegitimate son, why would he be taken for baptism around 40 miles away from the Corbett's seat at Morton Corbet? Corbet and its variations was a very common surname in 16th century Shropshire, so there is no reason to connect our Richard to the armigerous family further north.

Johan Weaver, Thomas Corbett's wife, was also a local girl, as her father, William Weaver, may appear on the same list of burgages as Thomas Corbett, albeit as a very old man:

Thomas Harley Esq. 3 Mess whereof

b	Thomas Davies	1)	
b	William Weaver	2)	-----8 -----170
b	John Hewes	1)	

'Mess' is an abbreviation for messuage - a house.

Jone Weaver, daughter of William, was baptised at Wigmore on 18th September 1589. Her mother's name remains unknown, but she had two older brothers: John, baptised on 18th July 1576 and Thomas - 5th May 1583. Four younger siblings followed: James - 1st October 1589, Audria - 1st April 1592, another John - 22nd December 1594 and Jane - 21st June 1596.

Gilley – Wigmore and Richards Castle

William Corbett's wife, Elianor or Ellinor Gilly, was baptised on 10th December 1674 at Wigmore and was buried in the same parish on 18th November 1744 (**See tree 15, p. 120**). Elianor's parents were Arnold Gilley and a wife named Ellinor, about whose origins nothing is known. She was a second wife for Arnold; his first, named Ann, was buried on 3rd June 1671. Arnold must have remarried fairly swiftly, as Bridget, daughter of Arnold and Ellinor, was baptised at Wigmore on 22nd October 1672. 25 years later, on 27th April 1697, she married William Roberts at Croft. Eleanor was born two years after Bridget, but it was another four before Anne was baptised on 20th March 1678. Arnold was buried on 14th August 1694:

The xiiiith day was buried Arnoll Gilley

Unfortunately, he left no will. However, he makes two other appearances in the records which shed some light. The first is in the Herefordshire Militia Assessments¹⁴ where at Wigmore he was assessed at £2 10/-. A note under the entry explains that he was charged with Richard Hopkins in the 1663 subsidy on lands valued at £3. He also appears on the 1665 Hearth Tax Assessment¹⁵, where he was charged for one hearth. So, he was reasonably comfortably off. When his wife Ellinor died her daughters Elianor and Ann took out an administration on her estate, which was valued at £187 16/2, a considerable sum in the early 18th century, probably approximating to around £25,000 today.

The inventory which accompanies the administration makes fascinating reading. It begins with the livestock: oxen, cows and calves, a bullock, a mare, nag and colt and two pigs, together valued at over £25. There are £6-worth of wheat, rye, barley, oats and pease growing, adding another £18, all of which suggests a substantial farm. However, it is the contents of the house itself which are most interesting. As well as feather beds and bedding, and the usual kitchen utensils, there are:

Six Table Cloathes and 18 Napkins

valued at £1 10/-. Kettles, pots, pans, a skillet, a warming pan and two candlesticks, all of brass, add up to around £2 10/-. There are 17 pewter dishes and two pewter salts, four spinning wheels and wheat and rye in the house worth 16/- along with:

Butter Cheese and other household provisions

valued at £2. Her clothing and the money in her purse added up to £10. Finally, and perhaps most surprisingly there is a line reading:

Money due by Bond	£100
-------------------	------

¹⁴ SoG, *Herefordshire Militia Assessments*, Camden 4th series, vol 10, London, Royal Historical Society

¹⁵ <https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/document/other/1665-hearth-tax-wigmore-wg28-witton-tripletton-wg29-wigmore-1>

suggesting that she had been in a position to stand surety in some transaction.

Presumably, Elianor decided to use her mother's money to invest in land. I suspect she didn't plan to farm it herself, as the property she bought was all in Aymestrey rather than Wigmore. The year after her mother's death in 1705, she entered into a Bargain and Sale¹⁶ with James Cook of Aymestrey and his wife Margery. This very wordy document opens as follows:

This indenture made the fifth day of June in the fifth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady by the Grace of God Queen of England Scotland Scotland [sic] France and Ireland Defender of the Faith Anno Dmni 1706 Between James Cook of Aymestrey in the county of Herefordshire Yeoman and Margery his wife of the one part and Elianor Gilley of Wigmore in the said county of Herefordshire spinster of the other part

It goes on to say that Elianor has paid the Cooks a 'consideration' of five shillings, which suggests that, despite the repeated use of the phrase:

Grant bargain and Sell

throughout the indenture, what is being recorded is a lease. According to the University of Nottingham website¹⁷:

If you find a document which uses the stock phrases of a bargain and sale, but which is made out for a limited term of 6 months or 1 year, with a consideration of 5 shillings, and a rent of one peppercorn per year, then it is probably not a bargain and sale. It is probably the 'lease' part of a lease and release

The document, whatever it really is, scrupulously lists everything that Elianor is acquiring:

All that messuage or tenement Situate Lyeing and being in Connop in the said parish of Amestrey in the said county of Herefordshire and now in the possession of Edward Colerick as under tenant to the said James Cook And all that piece of Meadow ground and containing by estimation ab^t two Acres adjoining Southwards to Sir James Batemans coppice and Eastwards to lands of Millborough Tyler Wid^w And all that piece of pasture and woodland Called by the name of Hunters End Containing by Estimation about four Acres And all those two pieces of Pasture Land called Hassall containing by Estimation five Acres be the same more or less And all that piece of pasture Land Called Langley Bar containing by Estimation about one acre And all those three Acres of Arable land lyeing dispersedly in a Field there called the

¹⁶ HARC, G39/1/1/27, Bargain and Sale, James and Margery Cook to Elianor Gilley, 1706

¹⁷

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/deedsindepth/freehold/bargainsale.aspx#:~:text=A%20bargain%20and%20sale%20records,%5D%20Concessi%20vendi%20bargendisavi%20...&text=There%20will%20usually%20be%20a,property%20is%20conveyed%20for%20ever>

Upper Field And all the Four Acres of Arable Land lying dispersedly in the Gumm poole field And all that One Acre of Arable Land lyeing dispersedly and being in the Ryall fields And all those Two Acres and a half of arable land lying disperses Lee and being in the field next Mortimers Crosse And all houses out houses Edifices buyldings barns Stables Gardens Orchards Woods wayes waters water courses Commons profits privileges advantages and appurtenances whatsoever to the said messuage or tenem^t

The transaction was witnessed by William Matthews, John Eales and William Pinnie, probably the William Pennie who helped to take the inventory of Elianor's mother's possessions. Many of the parcels of land cited are the same as those which appear in the Lease and Release entered into by Eleanor after her marriage with William Corbett, which suggests that, although his name featured more fully in those documents, it was actually land Ellinor had brought to the marriage being sold. There is no sign of a township named Connop on modern maps. However, in 1858¹⁸, a place called Conhope was described as follows:

CONHOPE, a township, in the parish of Aymestrey, hundred of Stretford, union of Leominster, county of Hereford, 4½ miles (N. by E.) from Pembridge; containing 72 inhabitants.

Clearly, the Gilleys were a family of some consequence in the rural village of Wigmore. Eleanor Gilley, widow, was buried on 21st July 1705.



Richards Castle St Bartholomew

The story now moves to Richards Castle, on the Herefordshire-Shropshire border where Arnold was baptised on 20th April 1616:

Arnoldus filius Nicholas Gilley baptizatus erat vicesimo die Aprilis

¹⁸ <https://ukga.org/search.php> A *Topographical Dictionary of England*, Samuel Lewis, seventh edition, 1858.

The Latin is only one version of this man's name as recorded. He variously appears as Arnold, Arnoll, Arundel Gilley, Gylley or Gylle. The registers of Richards Castle also sometimes have entries for Giles – but these too are probably Gilleys in disguise. Arnold was the youngest child of Nicholas Gilley and his wife Margery Hoggins or Higgins. This couple married on 24th February 1600 at Richards Castle but her name isn't clear:

Nicolaus Gilley & margeria Hoggins nubebantur vicesimo quarto
die Februarii

This is another unstable surname. Despite the fact that the 'o' in Hoggins is almost a blot, there is no dot over the letter, so it should be an 'o'. However, the only baptism for a Margery in the right time frame is clearly written as Margeria Higgins.

Nicholas and Margery baptised six sons (**See tree 15, p. 120**). The eldest, Nicholas, was baptised on 7th December 1601, and married widow Elizabeth Gilley at Richards Castle on 24th November 1639. William was baptised on 20th July 1604 and buried on 10th January 1609. Twins John and Robert were baptised on 6th June 1607. Robert appears later in a lease¹⁹ dated 1615 but makes no further appearance in the records and John was buried on 26th September 1614. Thomas was baptised on 29th January 1613 but then drops out of sight; Arnold was born three years later.

When Nicholas junior was only around eight years old, he was named in a lease²⁰ taken out by his father. It was normal for a long lease to be for three lives, and the third life was always that of the person likely to live longest. On the back of the document, it says:

Vel 31st May 8th June 1610 Rowl: Bradshawe
Nicholas Gilley his Counterparte of Lease Beane acre and Lady Wall etc for
99 years if he Margery his wife and Niclas their sonne live
iiij s per Ann
To commence on the termination of a former lease on the premises Granted to
Roger Crumpe for term of 30 years.

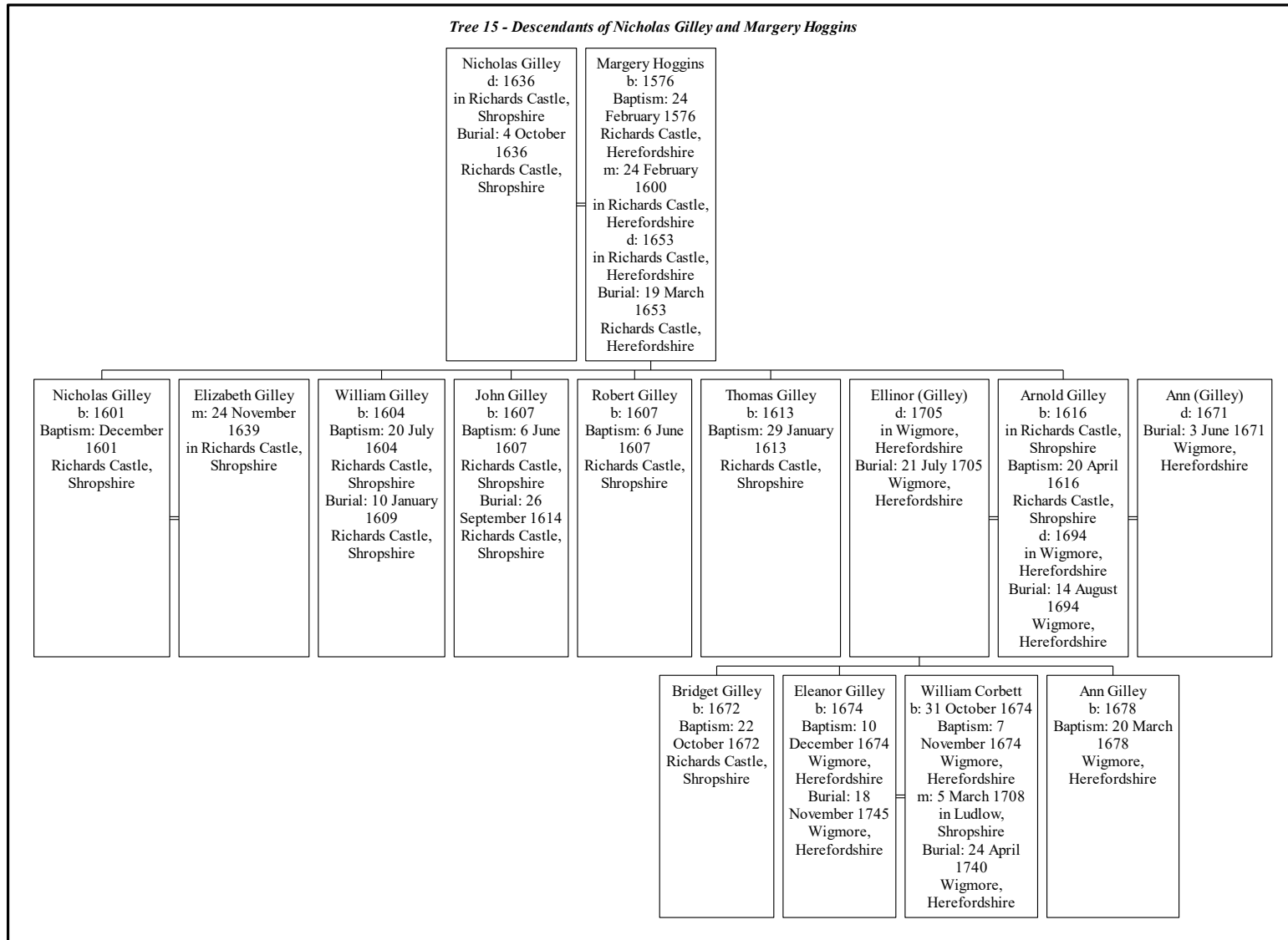
Rowland Bradshawe was the landowner. The deed cites earlier history of the land, and then states that Bradshawe:

for and in consideration of the some of xx pounds of lawful money of
England unto him well and truly paid aforesaid by the said Nicholas
Gilley for and in the name of a fine whereof the said Rowland
Bradshawe ... to beyeth fully satisfied and paid and the said Nicholas
Gilley... forever discharged by these presents ... hath demised ... unto
the said Nicholas Gilley ... all that the several meadows closes pastures
and arable lands parcell of the said lands and premises belonging to the
said messuage...

¹⁹ SA, 1005/152 Richards Castle, Counterpart lease 18/28.2.1615, Thomas and Eleanor
Gilley/Nicholas and Marjorie Gilley

²⁰ SA, 1005/149, Richards Castle, Covenant, 31.5.1610, Rowland Bradshawe and Nicholas Gilley

Tree 15 - Descendants of Nicholas Gilley and Margery Hoggins



As these documents often do, they place the land in question by naming the neighbouring tenants. So, we hear of Simon and John Higgins, John Cook the elder and John Cook the younger, John Hoggins deceased and several others. As well as the messuage in Richards Castle, Bean Acre and Lady Wall Meadow, Nicholas acquires other parcels of land – a close called Lords Close, land in Carters Field and Upper Mindfield, and two parcels in Sidmares field. Some of the parcels of land seem to be in the township of Moore and Batchcot. All in all, the total comes to around 6 acres.

Nicholas senior was not done yet. A few years later, he was involved in another land transaction²¹, between Thomas Gilley – probably Nicholas' brother – and his wife Eleanor, and Nicholas, Margery and their son Robert, who was eight years old at the time. This is a less detailed document, and the payment by Nicholas to Thomas was for only £3. The Shropshire Archive catalogue sums it up thus:

Counterpart lease of 2 half burgages with appurtenances in the borough or township of Ricards Castle co Heref (Nicholas Gilley), for 3 lives.
Rent: 9s and a couple of good capons at Christmas and 2s 6d chief rent at Michaelmas payable to the chief lord.
Proviso for re-entry if the rent is behind 14 days.
Covenant for maintenance of the property.

A final transaction undertaken by Nicholas senior is dated 2nd December 1615²². This is described in the catalogue as a:

Lease of the pastures or leasowes called Tinckyeld (Ann Hoggins widow) from Michaelmas 1624 for term of 99 years or lives of William Cooke, Johan his wife and Nicholas Gilley the yr son of Nicholas the elder (party).

The actual document describes the land as containing 12 acres of land in Richards Castle:

in the tenure or occupation of John Hoggins deceased and now in the occupation of Anne Hoggins widow

Research shows that John and Ann Hoggins were Margery Gilley's parents and that William and Joan Cooke were Margery's brother-in-law and sister. So, this looks like a family affair ensuring that Tinckyeld stayed in the tenure of John Hoggins' descendants.

Nicholas junior was clearly the heir-at-law as eldest son. This is emphasised in a transaction he and his parents entered into in 1631²³. The indenture, having

²¹ SA, 1005/152 Richards Castle, Counterpart lease 18/28.2.1615, Thomas and Eleanor

Gilley/Nicholas and Marjorie Gilley

²² SA, 1005/125, Richards Castle; Lease 2.12.1615, William Cooke & Nicholas Gilley

²³ HARC, N53 LC 1377, Bargain and Sale, Thomas Tomkies to Nicholas Gilley et al, 1631

stated that it was made on 10th May in the sixth year of Charles I's reign, i.e. 1631, explains that it is:

between Thomas Tomkies of Richards Castle in the County of Hereford
Yeoman ... and Nicholas Gilley the elder Margerie his wife and Nicholas
Gilley the younger sonne and heire apparent of the said Nicholas Gilley
and Margery of Richards Castle aforesaid

The property being transferred involves:

all that burgage or ancient messuage wherein they now dwell together
with the backside orchard and garden thereon belonging adjoining to the
churchyard of the parish Church of Richard's Castle and also one Close or
parcel of land commonly called Potters Close containing by estimation
about half an acre be it more or lesse adjoining to the sayd messuage and
now in the possession of the sayd Nicholas Gilley the elder

It is to be to the use and behoof of the older Nicholas for his natural life, then Margery, and after her death it is to go to Nicholas junior. The consideration paid was £30 10/-, a fair sum. Normally, a burgage had some prestige attached. Burgage plots were laid out in the centre of towns, had a plot of land attached called a Portland, and also often gave the right to vote in parliamentary elections to the holder. So presumably Nicholas was a citizen of some standing. However, Richards Castle seems to have been very well-endowed with burgages for a relatively small town. The *Hereford through Time*²⁴ website notes:

1364: At the death of Hugh de Mortimer Richard's Castle held 103 burgage plots, which was a good number for those days, but how many were occupied is unclear.

The indenture is extremely wordy and repetitive, ensuring that there is no legal loophole. There are also references to ensuring no:

lawfull lett suite or trouble of John Cooke or James Cooke his sonne

No doubt the reason for this was clear when it was written but is now lost in the mists of time. However, there do seem to be some links between Margery's family and people named Cook, so maybe there was a family dispute.

A year before he died, on 30th March 1635, Nicholas wrote his will²⁵. In it, he describes himself as a yeoman and requests that his body be buried in the church at Richards Castle. His first bequest is to:

²⁴ <https://htt.herefordshire.gov.uk/herefordshires-past/the-medieval-period/castles/gazetteer-of-herefordshire-castles/parishes-r/richards-castle/#:~:text=1301%3A%20Hugh%20de%20Mortimer%20was,many%20were%20occupied%20is%20unclear>

²⁵ HARC, Will of Nicholas Gilley, Richards Castle, 1635

Marjorie my wife all my lands both freehold and leasehold lying and being
in the parish of Richards Castle

After her death they are to descend to his eldest son Nicholas with the proviso that
he pay his siblings Elizabeth, Thomas and Arnold £24, with Elizabeth receiving £12
and Thomas and Arnold £6 each. In addition, the two sons are to share a

yearling beast

Daughter Elizabeth is to receive a fair proportion of the household goods, including
a bed, pillow, sheets and blankets, pewter dishes, a brass candlestick, a chest, a
joined form and:

my best pot my best pan the pan to be decided at the decease of Margery
my wife

Elizabeth is also to receive a cow, two ewes and lambs.

Goods to son Nicholas included a pair of andirons, the board and frame and a
joined frame in the hall, as well as a bed. Each of his children, Nicholas, Elizabeth,
Thomas and Arnold are bequeathed a coffer and Arnold receives a joined table and
frame. The rest of his goods go to his wife Marjorie, who is also named executrix.
He names kinsmen Richard Gilley the elder and his brother Edmund as overseers
but unfortunately doesn't make the relationship explicit, although they were
probably cousins. John Yapp, Richard Gilley senior and 'Mare' wife of John Coke
witnessed the will while Nicholas made his mark.

Nicholas was buried on 4th October 1636:

Nickholaus Gilley senior sepultus erat quarto die mensis Octobris

Probate was granted on 8th November with Nicholas' estate valued at £46 13/8.



Richards Castle St Bartholomew

His eldest son Nicholas appeared in the Militia Assessments²⁶ at Richards Castle:

Nich: Gilley £6 10 0

There are a number of other Gilley entries in this document, though relationships aren't clear. One, Richard Gilley, was assessed as Chief Constable of Wolphy Hundred, in which Richards Castle was situated, and was assessed at £16.

There is no entry for a baptism of Nicholas Gilley senior, but looking at the scant, tantalising clues offered by the parish register and various deeds, we can speculate that Edmund Gilley and Thomas Gilley, buried in 1576 and 1579 respectively, were probably brothers. It also seems likely that the brothers Edmund and Richard Gilley, named as 'true kinsmen' to Nicholas when he appointed them as overseers to his will²⁷ were Edmund's sons. Likewise, the Thomas Gilley who with his wife Eleanor took out a lease²⁸ on Eastham Hall in Richards Castle in 1594 and then leased two half burgages to Nicholas senior in 1615²⁹, were perhaps sons of the older Thomas. In all these transactions, the Gilleys are given the status of yeoman.

A little more information can be gleaned about this family from the will of Arnold's brother Nicholas Gilley. Nicholas junior married when he was close to 40. When he wrote his will in 1676³⁰, his wife was already dead and there were evidently no children from the union. So, his first bequest, and a delightful one, was to his brother Arnold:

I give and bequeath unto my brother Arnold Gilley one flaxen tablecloth
which was my mother's

He then made bequests to Arnold's daughters. Bridget, the eldest, received £10 and Ellinor £5. (Anne was not yet born.) There is also a bequest to Anne, daughter of Charles Towne, but no relationship given. He makes provision for 2 shillings to be raised from freehold land willed to his:

son-in-law

William Gilley and paid annually to the churchwardens of Richards Castle:

for the use of the poor of the Township

²⁶ SoG, *Herefordshire Militia Assessments*, Camden 4th series, vol 10, London, Royal Historical Society

²⁷ HARC, Will of Richard Gilley, Richards Castle, 1636

²⁸ HARC, **N53/1375** Lifehold lease of property from John Booth to Thomas Gilley of Richards Castle 1594

²⁹ SA, 1005/152 Richards Castle, Counterpart lease 18/28.2.1615, Thomas and Eleanor Gilley/Nicholas and Marjorie Gilley

³⁰ HARC, Will of Nicholas Gilley, Richards Castle, 1676

The land in question, near the church at Richards Castle was on a 99-year lease and was to devolve to Arnold and his heirs after William's death. The rest of his possessions went to William, who, I suspect, was his wife Elizabeth's son. William was also named executor.

An inventory shows that Nicholas was worth £74 13/4 at the time of his death, and again, the items show a degree of sophistication. Along with the usual range of livestock and crops are listed his:

wearing apparel and books

worth £3:

one long flaxen tablecloth

presumably the one willed to Arnold, and worth 6/- as opposed to the 10/- jointly for four others. There are napkins, pewter dishes and salts, along with candlesticks, a brass pan, cushions and household provisions. Also listed is:

one lease of several parsells of land taken of Richard Sawley Esq for certain years unexpired

valued at £1. All in all, Nicholas clearly deserved the title of yeoman he gave himself at the beginning of his will.

Hoggins and Mascoll – Richards Castle

Nicholas Gilley senior's wife seems to have been baptised as Higgins. As explained above, there is massive confusion around whether the Higgins and Hoggins entries refer to the same clan. It is possible, even in a fairly small parish like Richards Castle, that there were two separate families – one named Higgins and one Hoggins. Indeed, there seem to have been two separate men – one John Higgins and one John Hoggins – baptising children at the same period. Although the entry in 1576 for Margery reads:

Margeria filia Johannis Higgins baptizata vicesimo quarto die Februarii

I am still inclined to believe she was a Hoggins (**See tree 16, p. 125**), partly because of the lease outlined above³¹ with its references to John and Ann Hoggins and also as her parents' marriage had taken place two months previously:

Johannes Hoggins & Anna Mascoll nubebantur decimo tercio die decembris

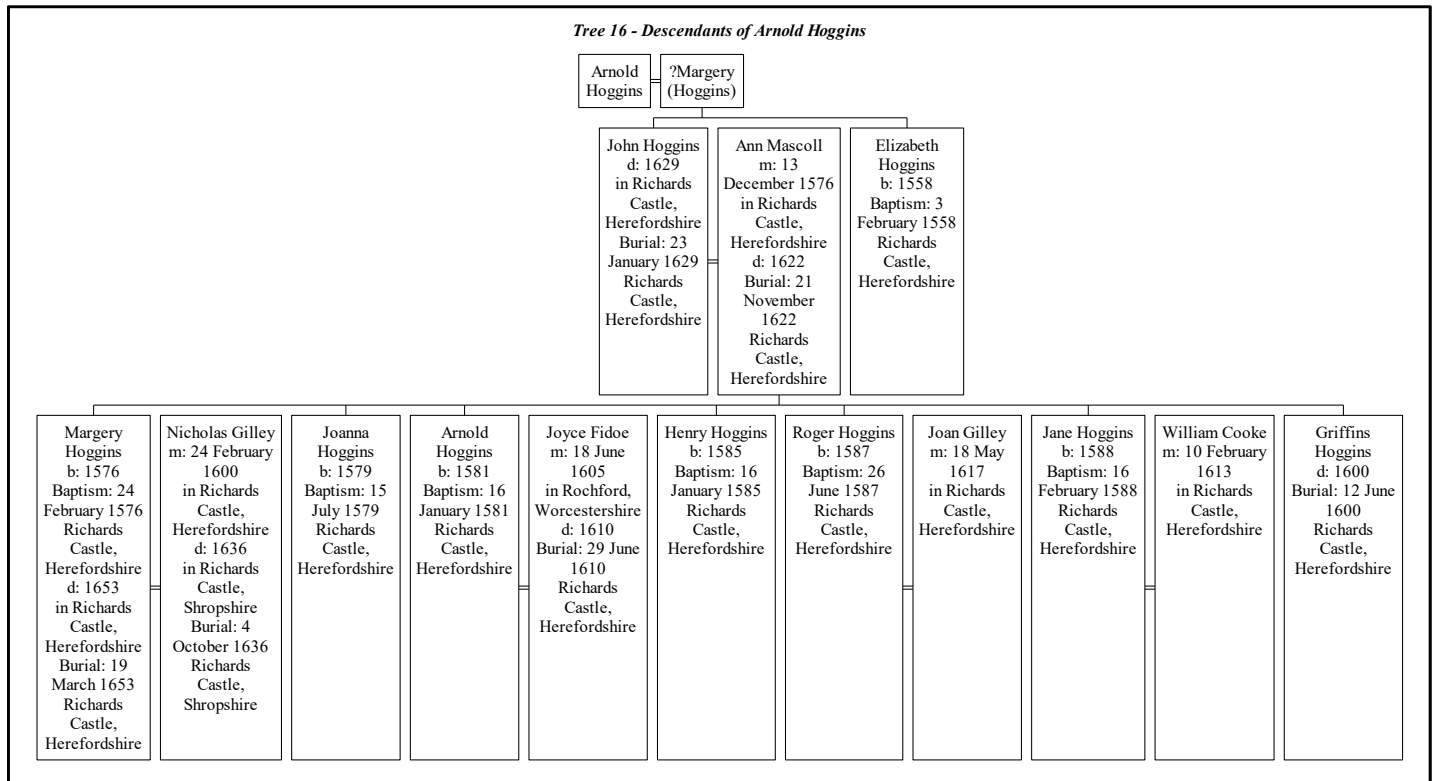
³¹ SA, 1005/125, Richards Castle; Lease 2.12.1615, William Cooke & Nicholas Gilley

John Higgins had already baptised Margaret and Simon by this time, and two of his other offspring are too close to Hoggins baptisms to realistically be part of the same family.

Margery died in 1653, by which time the register was recorded in English:

Margery Gilley widow buried 19 day of March 1653

Tree 16 - Descendants of Arnold Hoggins



Margery's purported parents, John and Ann Hoggins, baptised four further children – all as Hoggins. A short-lived Joanna was baptised on 19th July 1579, followed by Arnold on 16th January 1581. This was an unusual Christian name and given the fact that it also belonged to John's father and to Margery's son, strengthens the likelihood that this is Margery's family. Arnold married Joyce Fidoe at Rochford, over the border in Worcestershire on 18th June 1605, but she died five years later. Henry was baptised on 16th January 1585 and Joan on 16th February 1688. She married William Cooke on 10th February 1613, and so was one of the parties to the lease of 1615³², again, suggesting a family connection. There was also a son named Griffins, who was buried as the son of John Hoggins on 12th May 1600.

No baptism has been found for John Hoggins, who was probably born before the register began. An entry close to the beginning of the register does exist, however, for Elizabeth Hoggins, daughter of Arnold, on 3rd February 1558, and the demise of a close in 1598³³ actually names Arnold as John's father. This lease was

³² SA, 1005/125 Richards Castle; Lease 2.12.1615, William Cooke & Nicholas Gilley

³³ SA, 1623/33 Richards Castle; Demise of a close, 15.7.1598, James Walter, John Hoggins

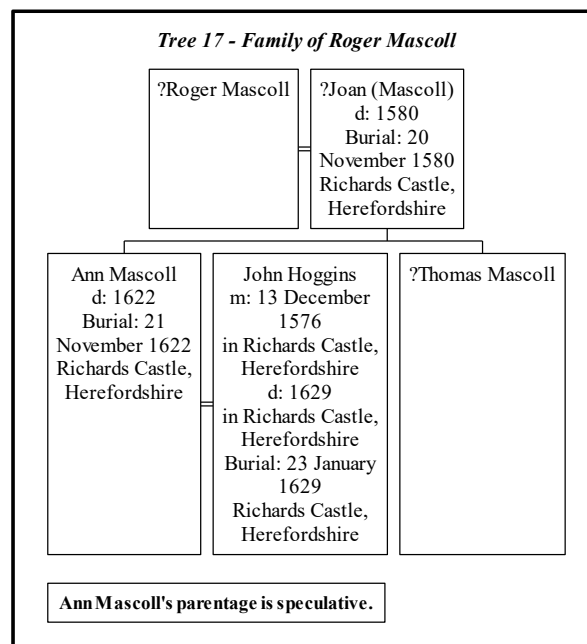
taken out on the lives of John Hoggins, his wife Ann and their son Henry on a field called Smalidall field, along with parcels of land in Mearefield. According to the catalogue, some of this land was:

demised ... to Arnolde Hoggins, father of John Hoggins, deceased

on 28th October 1583. Arnold's wife was probably named Margery, as she, too, is named in the catalogue entry:

Demise of a close or inclosure (3 acres) taken out of a field called Smalidall fielde (late William Newman, now Margery Hoggins widow)

There is a strange entry in the Richards Castle register recording the burial of Anna 'servans' Arnold Higgins on 4th September 1570, but why she is recorded that way remains a mystery.



Ann Mascoll's origins are even more obscure. However, a Roger Mascoll leased lands in Overton in Richards Castle in 1562³⁴, and in 1580, Johanna, wife of Roger Mascoll was buried. Given the choice of the names Joanna and Roger for Ann's children, this seems a likely set of parents for her (**See tree 17, p. 127**). Ann predeceased her husband and was buried on 21st November 1622 as:

Anna uxor Johanni Hoggines sepulta erat vicesimo primo die mensis
Novembris

The entry makes it clear that John was alive, and trawling through what looks to be a very well-kept 17th century register, the only feasible entry for John's burial is for 'an old man' on 23rd January 1629:

³⁴ SA, LB/4/1/56, Lease of lands in Overton, 1562

Johannes Higgins Senex sepultus erat vicessimo tercio die mensis Janij

thus maintaining the confusion over the surname to the last!

William Thomas Hughes & Mary Ann Davies – Herefordshire, Shropshire, Wales

Jumping forward nearly 200 years, it is time now to tell the story of Elsie Hughes' parents, William Thomas and Mary Ann Hughes. When William Thomas was born at Hatfield in Herefordshire on 19th August 1865, his father was still farming, presumably at Bilfield Farm:

Nineteenth August 1865; William Thomas; Boy; William Hughes: Charlotte Hughes formerly Jones; Farmer; William Hughes Father Hatfield

William was baptised at Hatfield on 31st December, and the register notes the address as Bilfield, Hatfield. By 1871³⁵, the family had moved to Cockshutt in Bitterley presumably close to Asbach in the same parish, where the Hughes grandparents lived.



Hatfield St Leonard

A decade later³⁶, William was living with his grandparents at Asbach, recorded as:

Gr^d Son 15 Farmer's Assistant

but by 1891³⁷ he had decided agricultural labour was not for him, possibly due to the extended agricultural depression which had begun in the early 1870s and lasted

³⁵ RG10/2726. 1871 census, Bitterley

³⁶ RG11/2616, 1881 census, Bitterley

³⁷ RG12/4403, 1891 census, Cardiff

until 1896. So, he had migrated to St Fagans, Cardiff where he was enumerated as a Railway Signalman:

At Signal Cabin

presumably either working a night shift or actually bunking down there. He must have kept in contact with home, though, as two years later he had met and married Mary Ann Davies, who was in service in North Herefordshire in 1891³⁸. The wedding took place in Culmington, where Mary Ann's parents were living:

William Thomas Hughes	27	Bachelor	Labourer	Roath Cardiff
William Hughes			Labourer	
Mary Ann Davies	23	Spinster		Norton Culminton
James Davies			Labourer	

Roath is on the other side of Cardiff, so it is not clear whether he was working on a different part of the railway or working as a general labourer.

William and Mary Ann's first child, named William James in honour both grandfathers, as well as his father, was born in Cardiff on 23rd March 1894 (**See tree 18, p.130**). However, by the time his sister was born two years later, they were back in Herefordshire, in Leominster, and it seems that William James spent most of his life there. In 1911³⁹ he was 17 and working as a clothier's assistant; however, in the slump following World War I, he was enumerated⁴⁰ as employed by Bradleys Clothiers, but out of work. Nevertheless, he married Mabel Annie Davies in 1922. She was the daughter of an auctioneer, born in Leominster of Welsh parents. Two boys were born to William and Mabel – William Henry in 1922 and Reginald Leonard in 1924. In 1939⁴¹ the family was living on Bridge Street in Leominster and William James was now a railway porter. He died in Hereford County Hospital at the end of June 1955. According to the local paper⁴², he:

had been a member of the Leominster branch of the Ancient Order of Foresters for many years and was also a member of Leominster Priory Church

The *Ancient Order of Foresters* was a friendly society.

William and Mary's second child was Elsie, whose story has already been told. The third was Reginald Thomas, born in Leominster on 14th January 1900. He was enumerated in 1901⁴³ with his father – now a railway carter – and mother at 2, Pinsley Road along with his siblings, aunt Fanny Davies and her son Fred.

³⁸ RG12/2079, 1891 census, Elton

³⁹ RG14/15810, 1911 census, Leominster

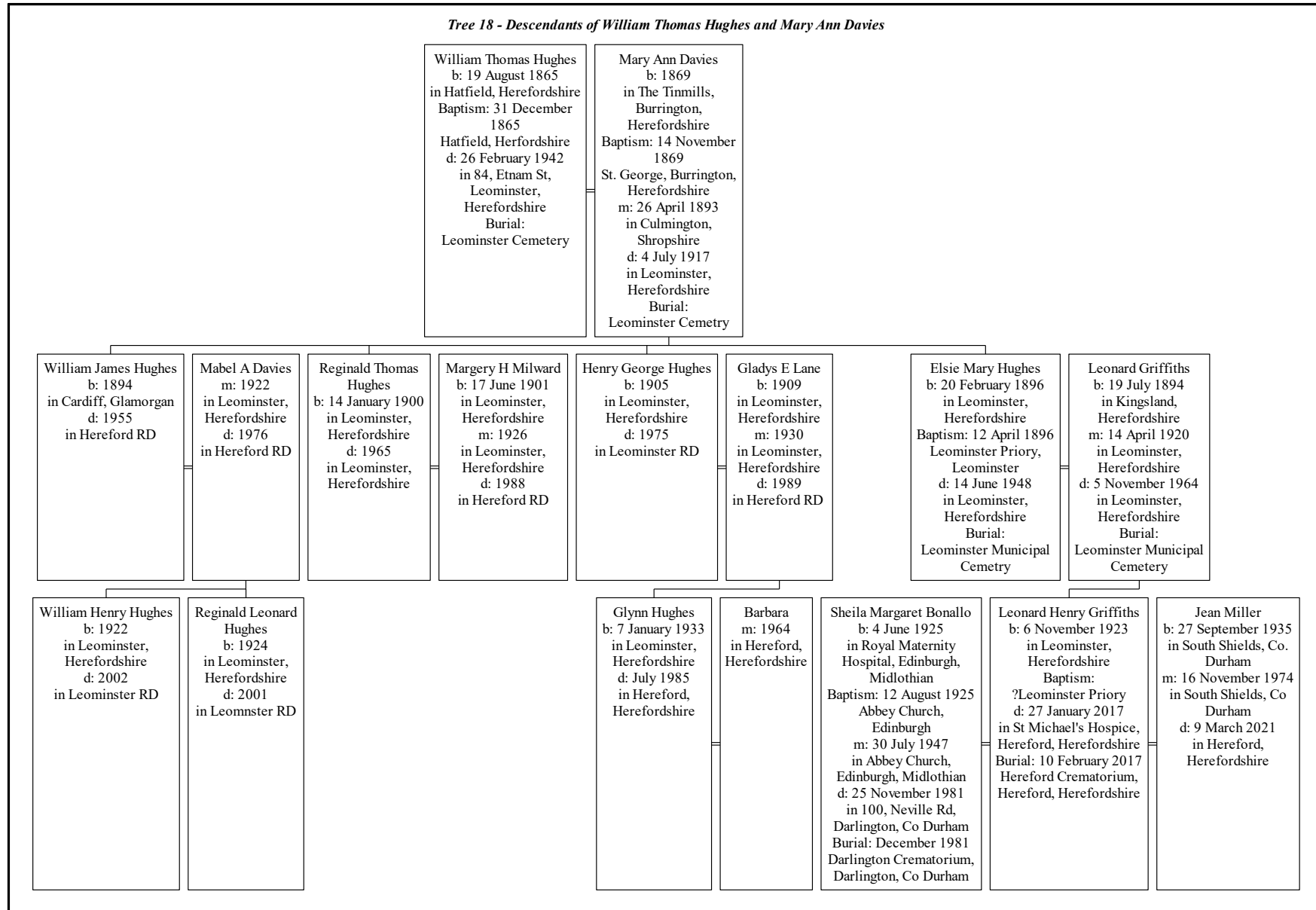
⁴⁰ RG15/12266/20, 1921 census, Leominster

⁴¹ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 England and Wales Register, Leominster

⁴² *Kington Times*, 1.7.1955

⁴³ RG13/2493, 1901 census, Leominster

Tree 18 - Descendants of William Thomas Hughes and Mary Ann Davies



In 1911⁴⁴ Reg was still at school and living at home, as he was in 1921⁴⁵, but by then he was employed as a law clerk with Messrs Easton and Gregory Solicitors, Corn Square, Leominster. In 1926 he married Margery Milward. The couple had no children but moved into one of the bigger houses at 84 Etnam Street, just down the road from Elsie, and in 1939 Reg was listed as a Solicitor's Managing Clerk.

Reginald died on 2nd December 1965. His older brother had already died by this time, but in his will Reg left £200 to his younger brother Henry:

in recognition of the many kindnesses shewn by him to me

along with any items of clothing Henry would wish to have. The next clause deals with a bequest he had himself received:

under the will of William Henry Graves late of "Churchill" Kimbolton

William Graves died in 1958, leaving a third share of his property at Kimbolton to Reginald. The reason is not explicit, but the fact that he was one of the executors, and recorded as solicitors clerk⁴⁶, suggests that maybe he had served Graves in some legal capacity, and maybe become a friend. Initially, the money inherited was to be invested and the interest to go to his wife Marjory, but after her death, it was to be divided between his nephew Leonard's children. When she died in 1988, a small bequest was paid out to her great-nephews and niece.

The youngest of William and Mary Ann's family was Henry George, born on 9th June 1905. Like his brother Reginald, he was at school in 1911⁴⁷ and like his brother William, out of work in 1921⁴⁸. In 1930 he married Gladys Lane and they had one son, Glynn, born in 1933. In 1939⁴⁹ the family was living at Newtown Lane in Leominster and Henry was listed as a gardener. Harry died on 28th December 1975. His wife outlived him, but their names were both added to Harry's parents' memorial in Leominster Cemetery⁵⁰:

HENRY GEORGE HUGHES
who died December 28 1975
GLADYS ELIZABETH HUGHES
Wife of HARRY
who died 1989

⁴⁴ RG14/15810, 1911 census, Leominster

⁴⁵ RG15/12266/20, 1921 census, Leominster

⁴⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, England and Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995

⁴⁷ RG14/15810, 1911 census, Leominster

⁴⁸ RG15/12266/20, 1921 census, Leominster

⁴⁹ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 England and Wales Register, Leominster

⁵⁰ HARC, AS88/523, Leominster Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions



Harry and William Thomas Hughes



**William, Elsie and Glynn outside
No. 20 Cranes Lane**

Elsie, William and Len



**William Thomas Hughes with
Len and Leonard Griffiths**





Marriage of Harry Hughes and Gladys Lane

Elsie and William – possibly celebrating George V's coronation in 1911



William Thomas Hughes would never have been a rich man. He was an employee of the railways all his adult working life, but photos show a genial character and I suspect he was big-hearted. In 1901⁵¹, with a wife and three children to maintain at Pinsley Road, he was also giving shelter to his unmarried, 19-year-old sister-in-law, Fanny, a housemaid by occupation, and her 2-week-old son Frederick. Ten years on⁵², at 6 Cranes Lane, Fred was still part of the family household. Fanny had gone but in her place was her sister Jane, also a domestic servant, aged 34. It is possible she was there to help out, as, according to Elsie's son Len, Mary Ann:

went to bed and stayed there.

No date or reason was given for this, but it was apparently a long-term thing, and she died in 1917, so her time as an invalid may have stretched back to any time after the birth of her last child.

Her early death may explain why, when Elsie married Leonard Griffiths in 1920, the couple settled in William's house. The 1921 census shows William, head, widowed, 55 years 10 months, a carman with the London and North Western Railway Company, working at Leominster station, presiding over a household containing all four of his children and a son-in-law. He retired in 1930, and in 1939 was to be found at 20 Cranes Lane in Leominster, a retired GWR carter, along with Elsie, Len and his grandson Len.

William Thomas Hughes outlived his wife by 25 years. He died on 26th February 1942:

Twenty sixth February 1942, 20 Cranes Lane, Leominster, William Thomas Hughes; Male; 76 years; Railway Carter (Retired); 1(a) Congestive Heart Failure, (b) Cardio vascular degeneration; RJ Hughes Son Present at the death 84 Etnam Street Leominster

He was buried at Leominster Municipal Cemetery⁵³ and his details added to his wife's memorial:

Also of the above
WILLIAM THOMAS HUGHES
who died Feb 26, 1942 aged 76 years

Once again, the local press⁵⁴ filled in much detail about his life:

Mr. W.T. Hughes, of 20, Cranes Lane, Leominster, whose death was recorded last week at the age of 76 years, was born at Hatfield and for many years was a carter employed by the L.M. & S. Railway at Leominster. He began to work for the Railway Company at Dowlais in 1890. In 1891 he moved to Ludlow

⁵¹ RG13/2493, 1901 census, Leominster

⁵² RG14/15810, 1911 census, Leominster

⁵³ HARC, AS88/523, Leominster Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions

⁵⁴ *Kington Times*, 7.3.1942

and the next year to Cardiff, and in 1895 he came to Leominster. During his residence in the town he was naturally a familiar figure and was well liked by all with whom he came into contact.

On his retirement in 1930 Mr. Hughes had the usual presentation from the Leominster and District Railwayman's Voluntary Sick, Death and Retiring Fund and on that occasion many tributes were paid by his colleagues to his ability and genial disposition.

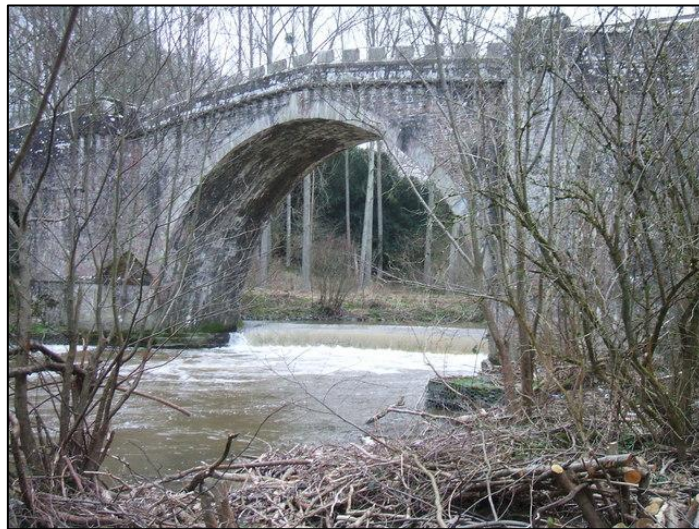
The article goes on to list numerous mourners, both family and friends, and a large number of wreaths.

William's wife, Mary Ann, is a much shadowier figure, and there are no photos of her to give any clues. She was born in a remote area of Burrington. The baptismal register calls it The Tin Mills, but her birth certificate says Forge. This would be Bringewood Forge, which was apparently surveyed as far back as 1662, but which stopped smelting iron with charcoal in 1814 or 15, one of the last forges to do so. According to *Historic England Research Records*⁵⁵:

The ruins of the forge and Tin Mill have disappeared

The same source states that:

'Tin Mill' applies to the remains of a roofless stone building standing at SO 46007532 in dense undergrowth, and possibly of 18th or 19th c construction. The mill race which runs to this spot from Forge Bridge to rejoin the River Teme, is largely marshy and in its lower course is contained by a retaining bank.



The River Teme crossing at Bringewood Forge

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⁵⁵ https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=9eb25db2-2a0f-45e5-a509-8a4387868acb&resourceID=19191

Mary Ann was the oldest child of James Davies and his wife Emma Weaver, baptised at Burrington on 14th November 1869, and in 1871⁵⁶ she was the only child enumerated with her parents at Lawn Well Cottage, Marlow, near Craven Arms. By 1881⁵⁷ she and her parents had been joined at Lawn Barn, Leintwardine by four more children. It was probably not long after this that she went into service, and in 1891⁵⁸ she was working as a servant in Elton Hall, the home of William Vale King, a retired East India Merchant with a staff of five servants.

Where and how she and William Hughes met is unknown, but in 1893 banns were published in Culmington, on 9th, 16th and 23rd April. After the wedding, she moved to Cardiff with William and then settled in Leominster with him. After the birth of her last child, she seems to have retired from life and died on 4th July 1917 at:

6 Cranes Lane Leominster UD; Mary Ann Hughes; 47 years; Wife of William Thomas Hughes a Railway Drayman; (1) Asthma (2) Heart Failure; William Thomas Hughes Widower of the deceased present at the death 6 Cranes Lane Leominster

She was buried in Leominster Municipal Cemetery⁵⁹ with a memorial as follows:

In loving memory of
MARY ANNE HUGHES
Beloved wife of
WILLIAM T. Hughes
who died July 4th 1917, aged 47 years
Also of the above
WILLIAM THOMAS HUGHES
who died Feb 26, 1942 aged 76 years

James and Emma Davies – Shropshire - Herefordshire borders

Davies is another of those Marcher-county surnames which is all too prevalent: it also has a habit of morphing into Davis on occasions. In addition, the Davies ancestors seem to have been fairly mobile. As a consequence, Mary Ann's Davies antecedents cannot be traced back very far.

Her father, James Davies, was baptised at Burrington in the north of Herefordshire on 5th July 1846, the vicar recording his surname as Davis. The baptisms of his own children took place variously in Burrington and Leintwardine in Herefordshire and Hopesay, Clun, Clunbury and Culmington in Shropshire. James

⁵⁶ RG10/2703, 1871 census, Marlow

⁵⁷ RG11/2613/7, 1881 census, Leintwardine

⁵⁸ RG12/2079, 1891 census, Elton

⁵⁹ HARC, AS88/523, Leominster Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions

died in yet another Shropshire parish, Onibury. To this list of residences should be added Stokesay and Duxmore.



Burrington St George

James Davies and Emma Weaver married after banns published on 5th, 12th and 19th September 1869. The banns register reads:

James Davies from the Tinmills of this parish and Emma Weaver also of this parish

The marriage was solemnised at Burrington on 24th September, and the register noted that James was 23 and Emma 22. It also recorded the fathers' names: Samuel Davies and John Weaver. They had left the wedding until the last minute, or even later, as Mary Ann was born the same day (**See tree 19, p. 138**).

The next child, William George, was born two years later and baptised at Leintwardine on 8th October 1872. He appears on the 1881 census⁶⁰ as a scholar and on the 1891 census⁶¹ as a general labourer but presumably decided that rural Shropshire had little to offer him as, by 1901⁶² he was boarding in Hindley where he was working as a railway goods guard. He and Alice Grundy married there two years later on 9th May 1903. Three children were born in Hindly, but by 1911⁶³ the family was at Ince in Makerfield where William was a railway brakesman. He, Alice and the children were still there in 1921⁶⁴. By 1939, it seems that Alice had died, but two of his children – Elizabeth and Stanley – were living with him at Crompton Street, Ince in Makerfield. William died in 1954.

⁶⁰ RG11/2613, 1881 census, Leintwardine

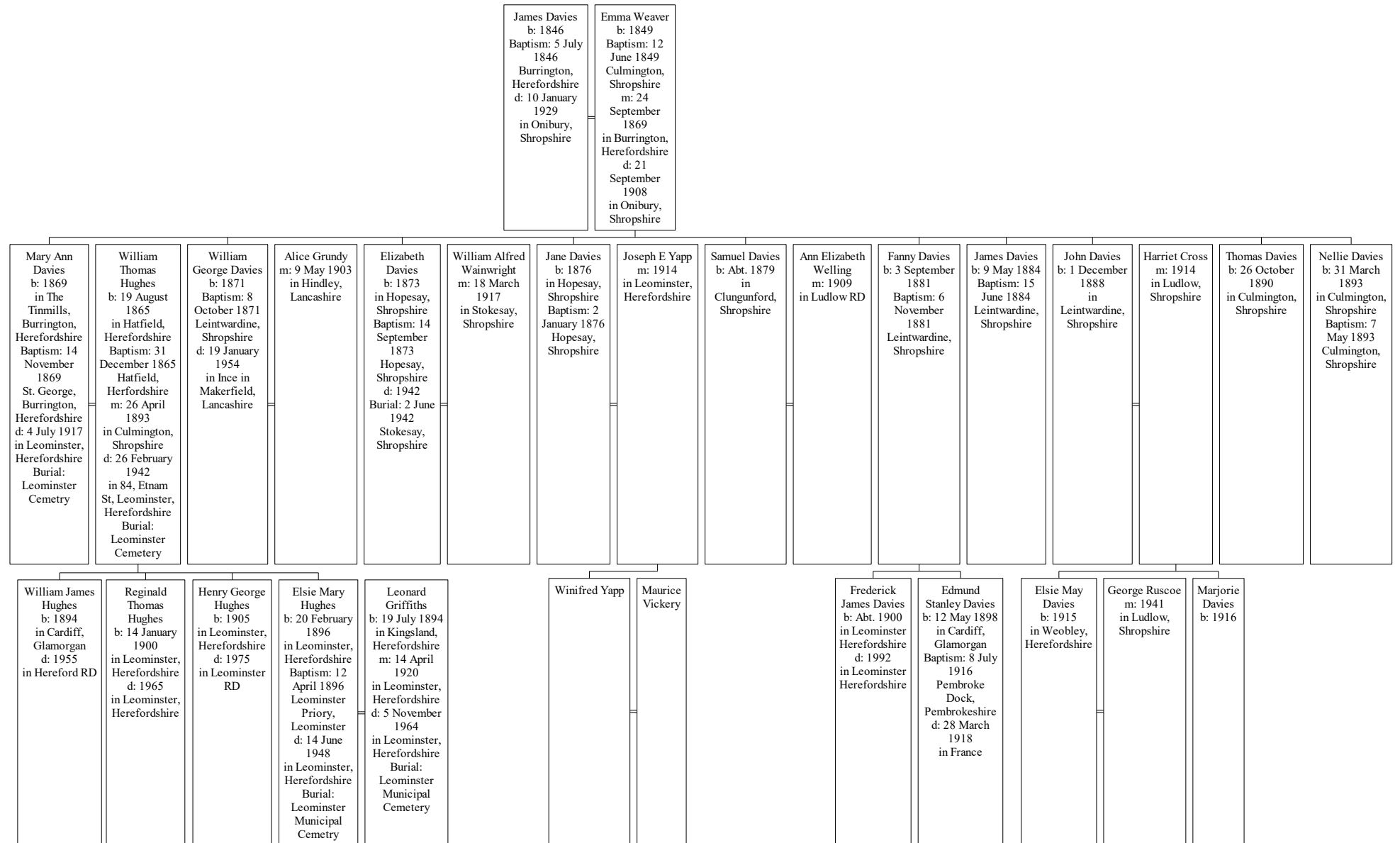
⁶¹ RG12/2085, 1891 census, Culmington

⁶² RG13/3562, 1901 census, Hindley

⁶³ RG14/458/4/26, 1911 census, Ince in Makerfield

⁶⁴ RG 15/18272, 1921 census, Ince in Makerfield

Tree 19 - Descendants of James Davies and Emma Weaver



Elizabeth, baptised on 14th September 1873 at Hopesay, was at home in 1881⁶⁵ but was probably already in service in 1891⁶⁶, although no place of birth is given to confirm this is the right entry. However, an Elizabeth Davies, born 1873, was employed as a general domestic servant at the home of a farmer, Charles Edwards, in Clunton, and it seems reasonable to suppose that this was James and Emma's daughter. In 1901⁶⁷ she was in service to the La Touche family at Stokesay, but in 1911⁶⁸ she was back with her parents, describing herself as a Cook Domestic, so clearly still considering herself in service. However, she was not destined for permanent spinsterhood, as, in 1917 she married William Alfred Wainwright, a plate layer with the Great Western Railway, at Stokesay on 18th March 1917, and in 1939⁶⁹, she and William were recorded living at The Cedars, Market Street, Craven Arms. She died in the summer of 1942. An article in *Shrewsbury Chronicle*⁷⁰ notes:

DEATH OF MRS. E. WAINWRIGHT

The death took place at 5, The Cedars, Market Street, of Mrs. Elizabeth Wainwright, aged 68.

It goes on to describe her as the widow of Mr. W. Wainwright, for many years a plate layer. Mourners at the funeral at Stokesay included her sisters, Mrs Yapp and Miss N. Davies, brothers Mr. T. Davies and Mr J. Davies, Mr and Mrs L Griffiths [Len and Elsie] and Mr and Mrs R Hughes [Reg and Marg]. Also present was a Miss M.D. La Touche, suggesting that her one-time employer had kept in touch and had enough regard for her former employee to attend her funeral.

The Mrs Yapp mentioned above was Elizabeth's sister Jane, baptised at Hopesay on 2nd January 1876. She was enumerated with her family in 1881 and 1891⁷¹. She was probably in service shortly after, though she has not been found in 1901. In 1911⁷² she was part of the household of her brother-in-law, William Thomas Hughes at 6, Cranes Lane in Leominster, described as a domestic servant, at home. She, too, made a late marriage, in 1914 to Joseph Edward Yapp. In 1921, Joseph and Jane were living at 32 New Street in Leominster, along with their nearly 2-year-old daughter Winifred May, and Jane's nephew Frederick James Davies. Joseph was a carter working for Alton Court Brewery and Fred was a railway porter at Leominster station. By 1939⁷³, Jane was a widow but Win and Fred were still living with her at New Street, and Fred continued to do so until her death in 1966. A family story insisted that 'Aunt Jane' had a TV set with a spider living in it, which could be seen crawling across the screen from time to time!

⁶⁵ RG11/2613, 1881 census, Leintwardine

⁶⁶ RG12/2085, 1891 census, Clunbury

⁶⁷ RG13/2507, 1901 census, Stokesay

⁶⁸ RG14/15863, 1911 census, Craven Arms

⁶⁹ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 England and Wales Register, Craven Arms

⁷⁰ *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 5.6.1942

⁷¹ RG11/2613, 1881 census, Leintwardine & RG12/2085, 1891 census, Culmington

⁷² RG14/15810, 1911 census, Leominster

⁷³ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 England and Wales Register, Leominster

Samuel was the fifth child of James and Emma Davies, born in the Clun Registration District in 1878. He, or rather his parents, variously give Clunbury, Hopesay and Culmington as his place of birth in the 1881, 1891 and 1901⁷⁴ censuses, for all of which he was living with his parents, apparently working as a navvy in the Waterworks in the last of these. He married Ann Elizabeth Welling somewhere in the Ludlow Registration District in 1909, and a daughter Violet was enumerated with the couple in Onibury, where Samuel was working as a farm labourer in 1911⁷⁵. Samuel gives his place of birth as Beckjay, which is a hamlet in Clungunford but in 1921⁷⁶, by which time there was also a son named Samuel, born in 1911, he gives Clungunford as his birthplace. Although Violet married locally in 1930, the rest of this family group has not been found after 1921.

Fanny came next, born at Leintwardine in 1881. She was at home with her parents in 1891⁷⁷, but no doubt went into service a few years later, possibly over the border in Wales, where, aged around 17, she gave birth to a son named Edmund Stanley. His birth was registered in Cardiff, so maybe she had taken shelter during her pregnancy with connections of her brother-in-law William Thomas Hughes. The baby grew up with his grandparents, being with them in 1901⁷⁸ at Stokesay and at Onibury in 1911⁷⁹, though he was now recorded as Stanley Edmund. As a private in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, he was reported missing in action on 23rd March 1918. He was 20 years old. His grandfather was named on the Pension Ledger Card⁸⁰ as next of kin. Curiously, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission⁸¹ has him listed as the son of Mrs Yapp, which may be the family trying to cover up his illegitimacy, but is more likely an administrative error, especially as he is listed as Stanley Edward rather than Edmund Stanley.

Fanny, though, had another son, when she was still only 19. In 1901⁸² she was enumerated living with her sister Mary Ann and her family at Pinsley Road in Leominster. Baby Frederick James, born in Leominster, was just two weeks old. Fred was still part of the Hughes household in 1911⁸³, but Fanny had moved on, and was back home with her parents⁸⁴, and still described as a housekeeper domestic. By 1921⁸⁵, still with her father and four siblings in Onibury, she was just described as doing home duties. In 1939⁸⁶ she was living at Church Street, Clun, with brothers

⁷⁴ RG11/2613, 1881 census, Leintwardine, RG12/2085, 1891 census, Culmington, RG13/2567, Stokesay

⁷⁵ RG14/342, 1911 census, Onibury

⁷⁶ RG15/12299, 1921 census, Clungunford

⁷⁷ RG12/2085, 1891 census, Culmington

⁷⁸ RG13/2567, 1901 census Craven Arms

⁷⁹ RG14/15863, 1911 census Craven Arms

⁸⁰ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK WWI Pension Ledgers and Index Cards

⁸¹ <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1579732/stanley-edward-davies/>

⁸² RG13/2493, 1901 census, Leominster

⁸³ RG14/15810, 1911 census, Leominster

⁸⁴ RG14/15863, 1911 census, Craven Arms

⁸⁵ RG15/342/3/14, 1921 census, Craven Arms

⁸⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 *England and Wales Register*, Clun

Thomas and James and sister Nellie. Beside Fanny's name, under occupation, is written:

incapacitated

So maybe, like her elder sister, she suffered from poor health over a long period. Despite this, she lived on until 1966.



River Teme at Leintwardine

James was James and Emma's seventh child, also born while the family was living at Leintwardine - on 9th May 1884. He was with his family in 1891, 1911 and 1921⁸⁷ but must have been away at the time of the 1901 census. As was stated above, in 1939 he was living with his siblings in Clun and was a farm worker. After that, it has not been possible to trace him definitively, though he was probably the J. Davies at Elizabeth Wainwright's funeral. He was followed by John, born at Leintwardine on 1st December 1888. He was enumerated with his family in 1891 and 1901⁸⁸ but by 1911⁸⁹ was working as a cowman at William Tudge's farm at Onibury. John married Harriet Cross in June 1914 at Leintwardine, and they had two daughters, both of whom were living at home in 1921 at Clifford, hard up against the Welsh border. In 1939⁹⁰, this family unit was at Whitlingslow Cottages, Marshbrook, where John was a cowman. Given his name, it is not surprising that no record of his death has come to light.

⁸⁷ RG12/2084, 1891 census, Culmington, RG14/15863 & RG15/342/3/14, 1911 & 1921 census, Craven Arms

⁸⁸ RG12/2084, 1891 census, Culmington; RG13/2567, 1901 census, Craven Arms

⁸⁹ RG14/15896, 1911 census, Onibury

⁹⁰ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> , 1939 England and Wales Register, Marshbrook

The final two children of James and Emma were Thomas – born 25th September 1890 and baptised on 26th October at Culmington, and Nellie, born 31st March 1893 and baptised on 7th May, also at Culmington. Thomas just made it onto the 1891⁹¹ census and both were there with their parents in 1901⁹² but by 1911, although Thomas was at home⁹³ Nellie was in service at the Vicarage in Lydbury North⁹⁴. In 1921⁹⁵, both were living with James in Onibury, and Thomas had set up as a boot and shoe repairer. He was still working at this trade in 1939⁹⁶ when he was living with siblings James, Fanny and Nellie in Clun. It seems likely that the death registered in Clun in 1981 was his. Thomas died unmarried, and it seems likely that Nellie did too, though no record of her death has been found.

As has been said, James and Emma's family was large and mobile, but also, it seems, close-knit. James was an agricultural labourer for most of his life and presumably had to move where the work was. By the time Mary Ann was born, the home was at Lawn Well Cottage, Marlow, in Leintwardine. With only three in the household, it was the smallest number James ever seems to have lived with. At its largest, the household living at Norton in Culmington consisted of nine people. With ten children, it is not surprising that they were sent into service or agricultural employment as soon as possible, although, when they were living at Stokesay, James and Emma ended up more or less adopting Fanny's son Stanley.

Raising ten children of her own and then bringing up a grandson must have taken a heavy toll on Emma. Nonetheless, she lived to be 60, not a bad age for the start of the 20th century. She died in 1908:

Twenty first September 1908 Duxmore Onibury RD; Emma Davies; Female; 60 years; Wife of James Davies Farm Labourer; Double Mitral Disease, Pulmonary Embolism, Heart Failure; J Davies, Widower of deceased Present at the death Duxmore, Onibury

Despite leaving for work from time to time, the children also kept returning. In 1911⁹⁷, Fanny, aged 29, had returned to the family home at Wetmare Barn in Onibury. James, enumerated this time as a:

Cattleman on Farm

was now 64 and widowed, but as well as Fanny, 25-year-old James and 20-year-old Thomas were at home – a Victorian boomerang generation.

⁹¹ RG12/2084, 1891 census, Culmington

⁹² RG13/2567, 1901 census, Craven Arms

⁹³ RG14/15863, 1911 census, Craven Arms

⁹⁴ RG14/15923, 1911 census, Lydbury North

⁹⁵ RG15/342/3/14, 1921 census, Onibury

⁹⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1939 England and Wales Register, Clun

⁹⁷ RG14/15863, 1911 census, Onibury

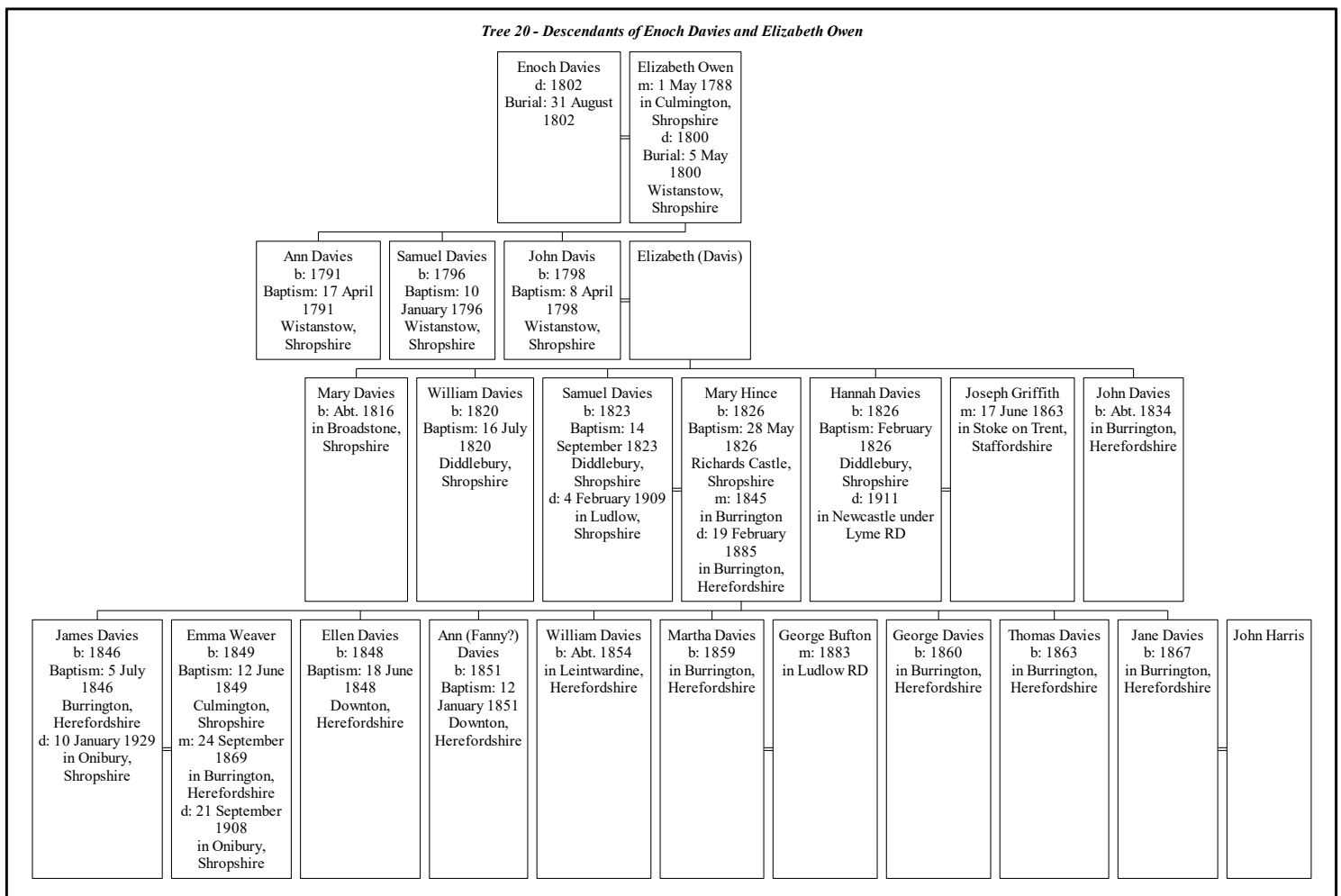
By 1921⁹⁸, at 75 and an OAP, James might have welcomed support from the younger generation at 68, The Green, Onibury. However, it probably didn't need James junior, Thomas, Fanny and Nellie to help out.

James lived to the ripe old age of 82. dying at the beginning of 1929; daughter Elizabeth registered the death:

10th January 1929 The Green Onibury; James Davies; Male; 82; Farm Labourer; 1(a) Chronic Bronchitis (b) Prostatic Enlargement (no P.M.).
E Wainwright Present at Death Market St. Craven Arms

Davies or Davis – Burrington, Diddlebury and Wistanstow

Tree 20 - Descendants of Enoch Davies and Elizabeth Owen



Before exploring Emma Weaver's family, it is worth discovering what else is known about the Davies family. James Davies, born in 1846 at Burrington, was the eldest child of Samuel Davies and Mary Hints (**See tree 20, p. 143**). The entry in the marriage register on 30th August 1845 seems to record their surnames as Davis and

⁹⁸ RG15/342/3/14, 1921 census, Onibury

Hince. Despite marrying in Burrington, both were Shropshire-born, though they stayed in Herefordshire for the rest of their lives.

A second child, Ellen, was baptised at Burrington on 18th June 1848. Like many in this family, she went into service and in 1871⁹⁹ was working as a general servant on a farm in Leintwardine, but after that, she slips from view. Ann, or Fanny, was baptised at Downton on 12th January 1851, but may not have lived to adulthood. The next child, William, is almost as elusive. He was baptised at Leintwardine on 1st January 1854, and was still living at home in 1881¹⁰⁰, aged 27, when he was described as a brickmaker, but after that, he, too, disappears. John was baptised at Leintwardine on 4th January 1856. Still at home, he followed his brother into the brickworks, where he was described as a labourer in 1881. Like his siblings, he has also been impossible to trace after this date. Maybe these older children left the area or emigrated to look for work, but the name Davies is so ubiquitous that there is no way of being certain which of the many bearers of the name might be part of the family.

However, Martha, baptised on 24th October 1858, did leave a trail. In 1881¹⁰¹, she was in service in Ludlow as a general servant, working for an architect. On 11th July 1883, she married George Bufton at Ludlow and in 1891¹⁰² she and George, a groom, were living in Ludlow with four children. Ten years later¹⁰³, she had been widowed but was living as the wife of John Morgan in Ludlow with him and three of her Bufton children. By 1911¹⁰⁴, she had moved to Bristol, still apparently married, but living with two of her Bufton daughters. She died sometime in the next ten years, and three of her daughters were living with their step-father in Bristol in 1921¹⁰⁵.

George, baptised at Burrington on 6th May 1860, is another of the elusive children. He appears in the 1861 and 1871¹⁰⁶ censuses with his family and then disappears. Maybe he died before reaching adulthood. If so, his two younger siblings were luckier. Thomas, baptised at Burrington on 12th July 1863, was living at home in 1881 but enumerated as a labourer in the brickworks, following the example of his brothers. By 1891¹⁰⁷, he too seems to have felt the pull over the border and appears to be working in Eglwysilan in Glamorgan as a haulier, boarding with a family named Smith. After that, he too goes awol.

Jane, the youngest of James and Mary's brood, was baptised at Burrington on 3rd March 1867 and married John Harris on 30th April 1894. He was a waggoner on

⁹⁹ RG10/2723, 1871 census, Leintwardine

¹⁰⁰ RG11/2613, 1881 census, Burrington

¹⁰¹ RG11/2615, 1881 census, Ludlow

¹⁰² RG12/2080, 1891 census, Ludlow

¹⁰³ RG13/2504, 1901 census, Ludlow

¹⁰⁴ RG14/319, 1911 census, Clifton

¹⁰⁵ RG15/11610, 1921 census, Clifton

¹⁰⁶ RG9/1834, 1861 census, Burrington & RG10/2723, 1871 census, Burrington

¹⁰⁷ RG12/4411, 1891 census, Eglwysilan

farm when the 1901¹⁰⁸ census was taken. As well as his wife Jane at an address simply given as Forge, were four children, the youngest only three weeks, and then:

Samuel Davies Father-in-law widow 77 Salop, Diddlebury

It is probably Jane's death which was registered at Ludlow in 1905, as in 1911¹⁰⁹, John Harris was widowed, living with two of their children in Burrington.

To complete the story of Samuel Davies, we must cross into Shropshire, where he was baptised at Diddlebury on 14th September 1823:

Samuel, son of John and Elizabeth Davis, Corfton, Labourer

He was the couple's middle child, sandwiched between Mary, born around 1816 at Broadstone in Shropshire, William, baptised at Diddlebury on 16th July 1820, Hannah, baptised on 26th February 1826 also at Diddlebury and John, born sometime around 1834 at Burrington.



Diddlebury St Peter

For a long time, I knew little of this family. However, Hannah, missing like her parents from the 1841 census, appeared first in service at Adforton in 1851¹¹⁰ and then in Staffordshire. In 1861¹¹¹, as Anna Davis, she was enumerated in Chesterton. On both occasions, the birthplace given is Diddlebury. In 1863, she married Joseph Griffith at Stoke on Trent, giving her father's name as John. All this might be considered circumstantial, given how common a surname she bore, but in 1871¹¹² she gave her place of birth as 'Corfon' in Shropshire, almost certainly Corfton, where John and Elizabeth were living when she was baptised. Then, finally, in 1881¹¹³,

¹⁰⁸ RG13/2502, 1901 census, Leintwardine

¹⁰⁹ RG14/342, 1911 census, Burrington

¹¹⁰ HO 107/2493, 1851 census, Adforton

¹¹¹ RG9/1921, 1861 census, Chesterton

¹¹² RG10/2833, 1871 census, Newcastle under Lyme

¹¹³ RG11/2700, 1881 census, Newcastle under Lyme

when she was a 56-year-old retired grocer, she was enumerated with one Jane Davies, aged 34, a visitor and domestic servant, born in Burrington. The Burrington parish register for 1847 confirmed that Jane was Hannah's daughter – father unknown. Hannah continued to live in the Newcastle under Lyme area, dying there in 1911.

The knowledge of Jane's birth in Burrington gave me the breakthrough for Samuel's parents, John and Elizabeth, who had apparently disappeared after Hannah's baptism at Diddlebury. In 1851¹¹⁴, they were found in Burrington with granddaughter Jane as follows:

Burrington, The Common						
John Davies	H	M	54	Ag Lab		Salop
Elizabeth Davies	W	M	62		"	Corfton
Mary Davies	Dau	U	35	Ag Lab	"	Broadstone
John Davies	S	u	17	Ag Lab	"	Burrington
Thomas Davies	g'son	u	8		"	Burrington
Jane Davies	g'dau	u	3		"	Burrington
Henry Preece	lodger	u	16	Ag Lab	"	Wigmore

The only Mary Davis or Davies found in Broadstone was baptised in 1813, which would make John Davis a very young father. While it is possible, I do wonder whether, like her daughter Hannah, Elizabeth bore a child out of wedlock. She may also have been a widow when she married John Davies. Who Thomas' parent was is as yet unknown.

By 1861¹¹⁵ there were only three in the Davies household in Burrington village, Jane was still there, aged 13, a scholar, along with her grandmother Elizabeth, born in Diddlebury parish, now aged 72, and John, aged 63 and giving his place of birth as Wistanstow in Shropshire. This allowed me to take this branch back one step further, to the baptisms of Ann Davies, baptised on 17th April 1791, Samuel Davies, baptised on 10th January 1796 and their brother John, baptised 8th April 1798, all at Wistanstow and the offspring of Enoch and Elizabeth Davis. This couple had married at Culmington on 1st May 1788 after banns, with the groom's abode given as Wistanstow. The bride's surname was Owen. It is likely that two burials in Wistanstow – one for Elizabeth Davis on 5th May 1800 – and one for Enoch Davies on 31st August 1802 belong to this couple. Burials for their son John and his wife Elizabeth have not been found.

Samuel senior, born 1796, clearly decided work on the land was not for him and went in to service; by 1851¹¹⁶ he was working as a butler in the vicarage in Welshpool. However, his nephew Samuel, born at Diddlebury in 1823, was an agricultural labourer all his life and it has not been possible to trace him for certain, either as Davies or Davis, in 1841 as he was probably lodging somewhere as a

¹¹⁴ RH 107/1982, 1851 census, Burrington

¹¹⁵ RG9/1834, 1861 census, Burrington

¹¹⁶ HO 107/2498, 1851 census, Welshpool

servant or agricultural labourer – and there were many such Samuel Davies. He married Mary Hince on 30th August 1845 at Burrington. He was 22; she was 19. He described himself as a labourer – as did both fathers, John Davis and Thomas Hince – but Mary called herself a housekeeper, so was presumably still in service. (The 1841 census¹¹⁷ had recorded her as a female servant in the household of John Price in Burrington.)



Wistanstow Holy Trinity

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After his marriage, Samuel is easier to track. In 1851¹¹⁸, he and Mary were at Downton with James, Ellen and Fanny. He gives – and does so consistently – Diddlebury as his place of birth. Mary is from Richards Castle.

He also appears in the Church Rates¹¹⁹, on one occasion at least:

A Church Rate of one penny and a halfpenny in the Pound made and assessed this Seventh day of December in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight Hundred and Fifty Nine on the Several Inhabitants of the Parish of Burrington in the County of Hereford.

Annual Value		£	s	d
3 - 5 - 0	Samuel Davies			5

A fairly modest sum, but it seems he wasn't poor enough to escape the taxation net completely.

In 1861¹²⁰ the family was living at Tinmill Cottage, and along with Ellen, Ann (Fanny), William, Martha and George, there is Mary's niece Clara, aged 12, daughter

¹¹⁷ HO 107/428, 1841 census, Burrington

¹¹⁸ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Downton

¹¹⁹ HARC, N27/1, Burrington Parish Book – Church Rate, Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts, 1833-1912

¹²⁰ RG9/1834, 1861 census, Burrington

of her sister Catherine, and enumerated as a servant. There are also two lodgers, Samuel Davies, unmarried and aged 57, born in Onibury, and William Skinner, a widowed ag lab from Hertfordshire aged 46. There doesn't immediately appear to be a family connection between the two Samuels, although the common name might suggest a link. A little further digging showed that the Onibury-born Samuel was living at Tin Mill in 1851¹²¹ with brother William and niece Fanny. In 1841¹²² Samuel was at Tin Mill with his father William, step-mother Ann (also at Tin Mill in 1851), two siblings and two half-siblings. Father William was born somewhere between 1778 and 1783 and probably married at Leintwardine in 1810. The combination of names and address – Burrington as a whole only had 45 households in 1851 – strongly suggests a family connection.

Our Samuel appears once again in the Burrington Parish Book, on 24th May 1864, this time paying 4^d in the pound on a property valued at £1 12/6. Samuel was assessed at 6 ½^d.

By 1871¹²³ the lodgers had gone, but William, Martha, George, Thomas and Jane were all living at home at Tin Mills. Samuel and Mary had aged appropriately and were now 47 and 45 respectively. Ten years later¹²⁴ Martha had gone and a boarder, Elizabeth Johnson, aged four and born in Macclesfield, had taken her place. Mary Davies died in 1885, and in 1891¹²⁵ the widowed Samuel was living at Forge in Leintwardine with daughter Jane and boarder Elizabeth Johnson. He was now 67 but still described himself as an agricultural labourer.

By 1901¹²⁶, Jane had married and Samuel was living with her and her husband John Harris and their children, still at Forge, aged 77 and still giving Diddlebury as his place of birth. True to form for this family, Samuel's death has been hard to prove. He doesn't appear in the 1911 census, so probably died sometime after 1901. The only entry for a Samuel Davies in the Ludlow Registration District between 1901 and 1911 is for an inmate of Ludlow Workhouse, and this may well be where he ended up:

Fourth February 1909 Union Workhouse Ludlow; Samuel Davies; Male;
82 years; A Road Labourer, Stokesay RD; Epithelioma of Lip; F L Dawson
Master Union Workhouse

If this is the right Samuel, the discrepancy in age could be explained by the Master not actually knowing how old he was, and, as the Workhouse expected its inmates to work, it is possible that he had been put to road-mending. A sad ending to what had probably been a hard life. However, it is possible that, once again, a Davies has slipped through the record net without notice.

¹²¹ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Burrington

¹²² HO 107/ 428, 1841 census, Burrington

¹²³ RG10/2723, 1871 census, Burrington

¹²⁴ RG11/2613, 1881 census, Burrington

¹²⁵ RG12/2079, 1891 census, Leintwardine

¹²⁶ RG13/2502, 1901 census, Leintwardine

Hints or Hince – Richards Castle

Samuel Davies' wife, Mary Hints, died at Tin Mills, Burrington on 19th February 1885:

Mary Davies; Female; 58 years; Wife of Samuel Davies Farm Labourer;
Carcinoma of Liver; + The mark of Samuel Davies Widower of Deceased
Present at the Death Tin Mills Burrington

She was buried at Burrington from The Tin Mills on 22nd February, but she had been born in Richards Castle - a parish which straddles the border between Herefordshire and Shropshire - and was baptised there on 28th May 1826:

Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann Hints, Batchott, Labourer

Thomas Hints and Anne Powell married at Richards Castle:

Thomas Hints of this Parish Batchelor and Ann Powell of this Parish
Spinster were married in this church by Banns this 29th Day of December
in the Year 1808

Thomas and Anne made their marks and the ceremony was witnessed by William Powell senior, probably Anne's father, and Mary Williams, who possibly was Ann's Aunt.

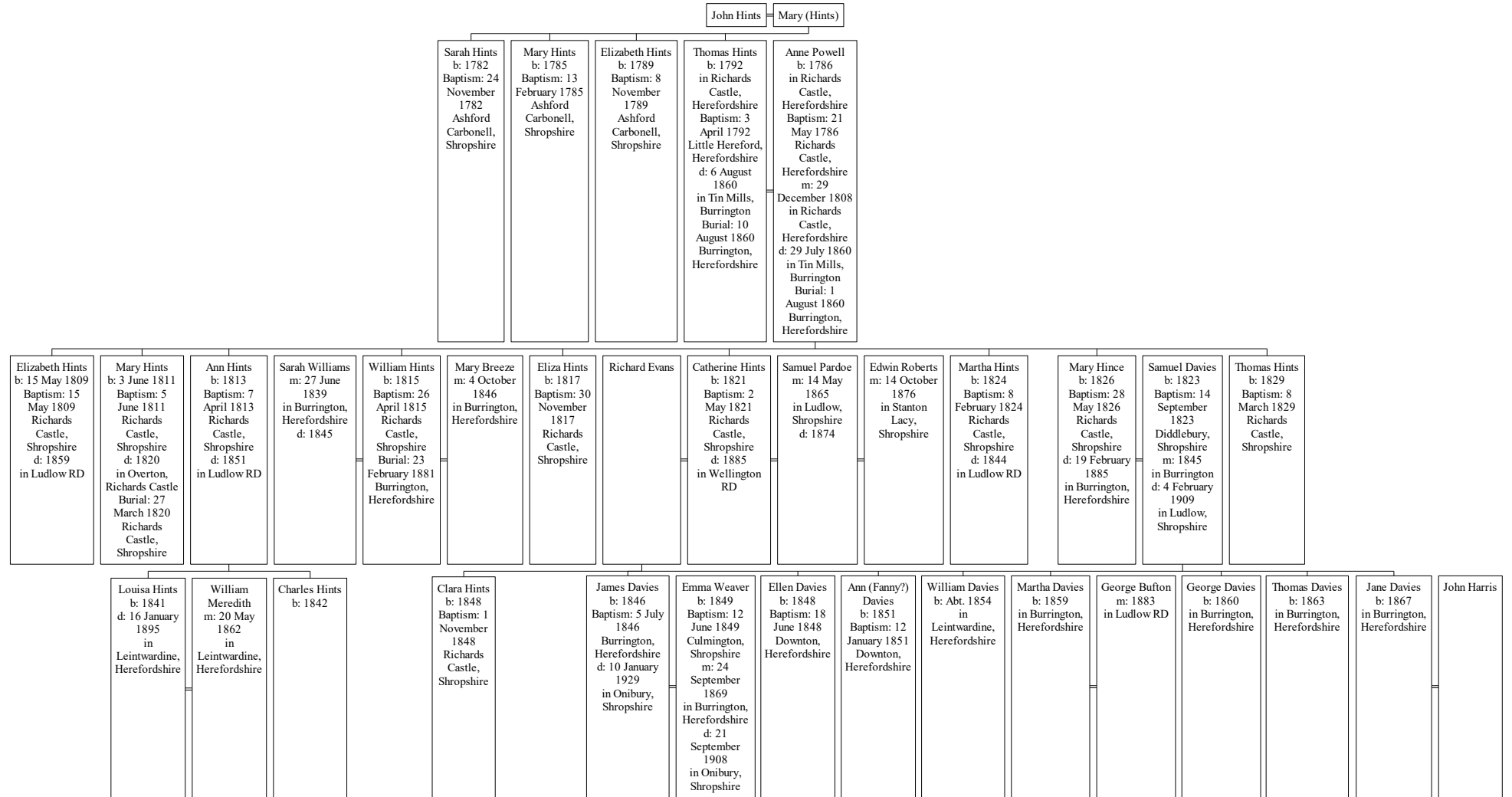
The couple's first child was named Elizabeth (**See tree 21, p. 150**) and was both born and baptised at Richards Castle on 16th May 1809, suggesting maybe that she was not expected to survive. However, she lived until 1859, spending much of her life in service. She first appears in the census at Burrington in 1841¹²⁷, aged 30, in the household of farmer John Price. Her sister Mary (the second so-named, later wife of James Davies) was also in his employ. Elizabeth was still with John Price at Bringewood Hall in 1851¹²⁸ as housekeeper, suggesting a degree of responsibility. Her sister Mary, baptised on 5th June 1811, was less robust and was buried at Richards Castle on 27th March 1820. Ann was another survivor, baptised on 7th April 1813. Presumably she too ended up in service, though she has not been found in 1841. In 1851¹²⁹ she was at home with her parents, age 37, no occupation given. It is probable that the two older grandchildren in the house – Luisa aged 9 and Charles aged 8 – were hers, although Luisa gave her father's name as William Hints when she married William Meredith in 1862, possibly in an attempt to avoid mentioning illegitimacy. She and William raised a family in Leintwardine and she died there on 16th January 1895. Nothing more is known about either Charles or his supposed mother, Anne.

¹²⁷ HO 107/428/11, 1841 census, Burrington

¹²⁸ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Burrington

¹²⁹ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Batchcot

Tree 21 - Descendants of John and Mary Hints



The afore-mentioned William came next, baptised on 26th April 1815. He married Sarah Williams at Burrington on 27th June 1839, and in 1841¹³⁰ they were enumerated with a one-year-old daughter Harriot. Another daughter, Eliza, was born the following year but probably died young. Sarah died in 1845 and William remarried on 4th October the following year to Mary Breeze, née Williams – Sarah's sister. William and Mary were still in Burrington when the 1851¹³¹ census was taken with their five daughters, Harriet, Eliza and Ann, Margaret and Mary. Also in the household was Mary's widowed father, Edward Williams and William's step-daughter Mary Breeze. Although it can't be proved, it seems reasonable to suppose that Mary had been a Williams by birth, and possibly the sister of William's first wife Sarah, whose father was also called Edward Williams. William Hince and his growing family appear in the 1861 census¹³² with their name recorded as Hinds, and this instability in the recording of his surname has made him hard to trace in the 1871 census. However, his burial at Burrington on 23rd February 1881 gave him the spelling Hince.

Eliza was the next of Thomas and Ann Hints' brood. She was baptised at Burrington on 3rd November 1817 but immediately disappears from view, so probably died young, with her burial unrecorded.

Catherine, baptised on 2nd May 1821, was at home when the 1841¹³³ census was taken. She has not been found in 1851, but was probably in service somewhere, leaving two-year-old Clara with her parents. Catherine was almost certainly the mother, as an item in the *Hereford Journal*¹³⁴ under the heading Ludlow noted:

An order of affiliation was made on Richard Evans of Whitbach, for 1s 6d. per week for the maintenance of Catherine Hint's illegitimate child.

She was in service as a cook in Ludlow in 1861¹³⁵, giving Overton as her place of birth, but on 14th May 1865, at Ludlow, she married a bootmaker, Samuel Pardoe. He was younger than she, so she gave her age as 40 in 1871¹³⁶ when she was actually 49. Even so, Samuel predeceased her, dying in 1874 at the County Asylum. It seems likely that she subsequently remarried at Stanton Lacy on 14th October 1876 to one Edwin Roberts, a widower somewhat older than her. If that is correct, she settled with her coachsmith husband in Wellington¹³⁷, and died there, (still claiming she was born in 1831) in 1885.

Thomas and Mary's next child was Martha, baptised on 8th February 1824. However, she died in 1844. Mary, who married Samuel Davies came next, the

¹³⁰ HO 107/428/11/1841 census, Burrington

¹³¹ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Burrington

¹³² RG9/1834, 1861 census, Burrington

¹³³ HO 107/913/4, 1841 census, Richards Castle

¹³⁴ *Hereford Journal*, 23.5.1849

¹³⁵ RG9/1835, 1861 census, Ludlow

¹³⁶ RG10/2725, 1871 census, Ludlow

¹³⁷ RG11/2678, 1881 census, Wellington

penultimate child, baptised on 28th May 1826. Finally, there was Thomas, baptised on 8th March 1829, but buried at five weeks old on 24th March.

With a large family to be fed, it is not surprising that the offspring probably went into service at a fairly young age. Thomas was a farm labourer for most of his life, though he designated himself waggoner on one of the baptisms. The early entries don't give an abode, but from 1813 to 1821, the family home was at Overton. Subsequently, it was Batchcott. Both are hamlets in Richards Castle parish. The 1841 census¹³⁸, in which the household consisted of Thomas, Ann, Catherine and Luisa, gives the address as simply:

Township of Moor & Batchcott

In 1851¹³⁹, Thomas was 60, his wife Ann 64, daughter Ann 37, and the three grandchildren (Luisa, Charles and Clara) were nine, eight and two respectively. Their address was simply Batchcott: Cottage. How much longer they lived there is unknown, but, as old age and infirmity caught up with Thomas and Ann, they moved closer to their grown-up children. They died within a few days of each other, and both from the same cause, suggesting an infection passed from one to the other.



Batchcott Common

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Anne died first, on 29th July 1860; her certificate records:

Twentyninth July 1860 Tin Mills Burrington; Ann Hints; Female; 73 years;
Wife of Thomas Hints Farm Labourer; Paralysis Diarrhoea 5 days Certified;
x The mark of Catherine Hints Present at the death Tin Mills Burrington

Thomas followed on 6th August:

Sixth August 1860 Tin Mills Burrington; Thomas Hints; 73 years; Farm

¹³⁸ HO 107/913/4, 1841 census, Richards Castle

¹³⁹ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Richards Castle

Labourer; Diarrhoea Certified; x The Mark of Maria Dyke Present at the death Tin Mills Burrington

Both were buried at Burrington, Ann on 1st August and Thomas on 10th. In the burial register, both have their surname spelled Hince.

If the age on Thomas' death certificate is correct, then he was born around 1787, and the baptism of Thomas, son of Benjamin and Ann Hints in 1787 at Hopesay, around 18 miles away would seem a good bet. More likely is the baptism of Thomas, son of John and Mary Hints at Little Hereford on 3rd April 1791, which would match better with the age of 60 he gave on the census. Little Hereford is only around four miles from Richards Castle, so is a better fit. Three daughters were baptised by this couple at Ashford Carbonnel, even closer to Richards Castle, so I think this is probably our Thomas. John and Mary's daughters were Sarah - 24th November 1782, Mary - 13th February 1785 and Elizabeth - 8th November 1789. It may be significant that Thomas named his first two daughters Elizabeth and Mary, but both are very common names. There has been no further sighting of either John and Mary or their daughters.

Powell and Williams - Richards Castle

The family of Thomas Hints' wife Ann can be traced a little further. She was baptised at Richards Castle on 21st May 1786, the daughter of William and Ann Powell and was their eldest child. William and Ann married at Richards Castle on 13th November 1785:

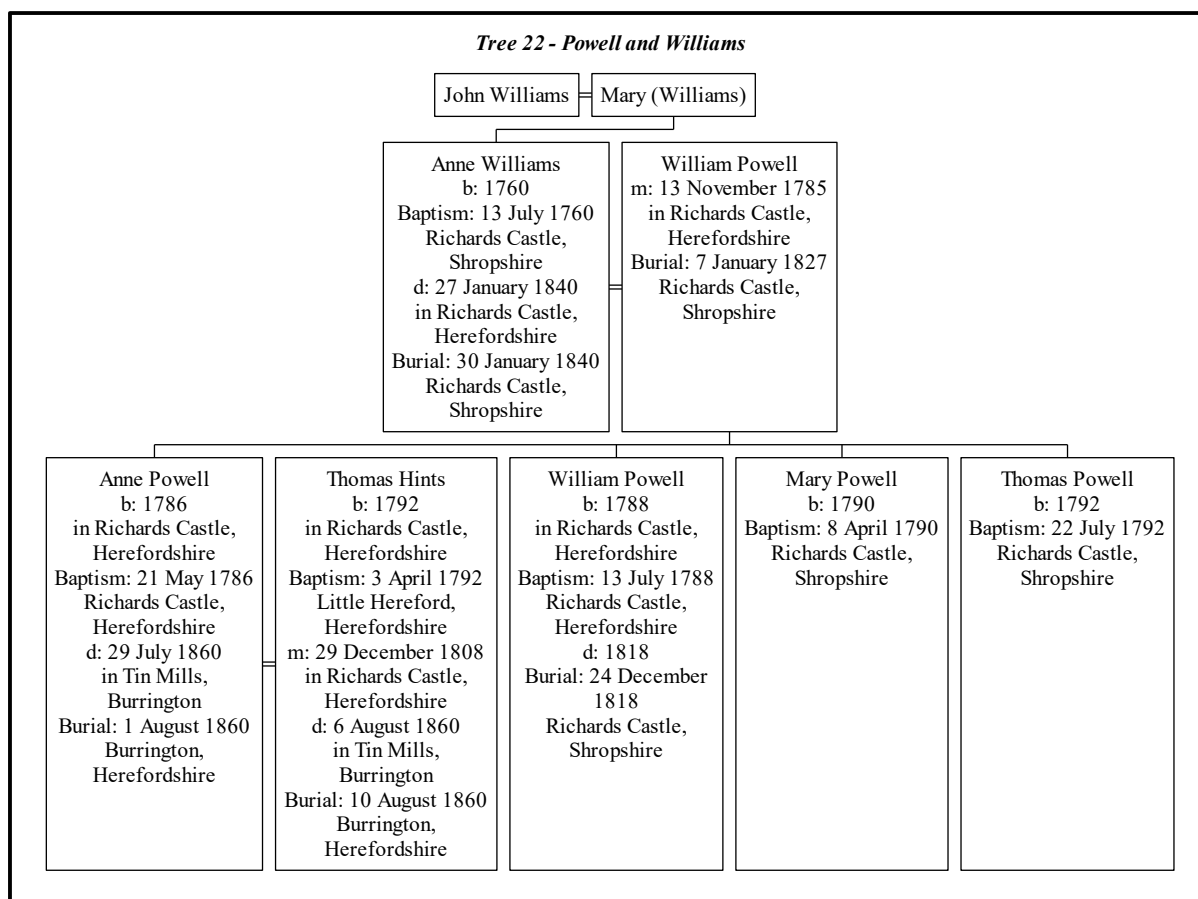
William Powell of this Parish and Ann Williams of this Parish were married in this church by Banns this thirteenth day of November

William and Ann both made their marks, as did the witnesses, John Williams - who was possibly Ann's father - and Ann Brown.

Their second child was named William and baptised on 13th July 1788. Although he reached adulthood, he was buried at Richards Castle on 24th December 1818, aged 30. Mary was baptised on 8th April 1790 but then disappears from the records, and finally, a son Thomas was baptised on 22nd July 1792, but he too is elusive. So really, the only other fact known about the Powells is the date of William senior's burial at Richards Castle on 7th January 1827. His age is given as 71, which would suggest a birth around 1756.

His wife Ann was four years younger and was baptised at Richards Castle (See tree 22, p. 154) on 13th July 1760 as:

Anne y^e daughter of John and Mary Williams



Ann outlived her husband by 13 years. She was buried at Richards Castle on 27th May 1840 aged 80. Her death certificate records the cause as:

decay of nature

and the informant was her granddaughter Catherine Hints. Ann was buried at Richards Castle on 30th January.

The only other trace of her family seems to be in the baptisms of her siblings at Richards Castle. Elizabeth was baptised on 13th August 1742, John on 13th November 1744, Mary on 30th August 1747, another John on 1st January 1760, Martha on 13th October 1754 and finally Ann in 1760.

Weaver and Smallman- Culmington and Stokesay

When Emma Weaver married James Davies in 1869, unless hers was a late baptism, she was 20 years old, not the 22 she claimed (**See tree 23, p.157**). Maybe she didn't have parental consent to marry James despite being pregnant with his child. The entry in the register only gives one address, *The Tin Mills*, for both parties. This was sometimes a way of saving money as only one set of banns needed to be called,

but maybe they were already sharing a home. The witnesses were John Williams and Annie Davies – perhaps James' sister Fanny.

Emma raised ten children of her own and one grandchild before dying aged 60 at Duxmore in Onibury on 21st September 1908. The cause of death was given as:

Double Mitral Disease, Pulmonary Embolism, Heart Failure

and James was the informant, present at the death.

She had been baptised at Culmington in 1849:

Janry 12th Emma Daughter of John & Elizabeth Weaver Vernolds Common Sawyer



Road sign at Vernolds Common

Vernolds Common is a hamlet in the parish of Culmington. It was in this parish that Emma's parents had married on 5th April 1835:

John Weaver bachelor of the parish of Stokesay and Elizabeth Moyle spinster of this parish were married by banns

Both parties made their marks, and the ceremony was witnessed by John's brother Edward and Sarah Price.

It was four years before they baptised their first child James (at Culmington, as with all their children) on 17th February 1839. He married Susan Hardwick on 6th May 1862 but died of consumption, or T.B., two years after on 29th June 1864. He was buried at Culmington five days later. His grave¹⁴⁰ at Culmington apparently

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/>

describes him as a carpenter and joiner. His daughter Emily was living with her aunt, Mary Williams, in 1871¹⁴¹. Susan remarried in 1870 at Puddleston to Thomas Brown.

The next child, Edwin, had a longer life. He was baptised on 26th June 1842 and married Elizabeth Yates at Culmington on 26th March 1868. He was remarkably vague about his place of birth on the census returns and seems to have entered his residence instead between 1871 and 1891¹⁴², giving Rock Lane, Stanton Lacy and Hayton Bent respectively. It was only when he had moved some distance away, still working as a farm labourer in Knossington in Leicestershire that he finally put Vernolds Common as his place of birth¹⁴³. He did the same in 1911¹⁴⁴, when he and Emma were still living in Knossington. He died two years later, and his death was registered in Rutland.

John and Elizabeth's next child, Sarah, was baptised on 21st January 1844 but buried aged two on 15th October 1846. Mary, baptised on 28th June 1846, was more successful. She grew up to marry John Williams at Culmington on 27th June 1869. They appeared in that parish with their family in a run of censuses from 1871 to 1911¹⁴⁵, but although she hasn't been found in the 1921 census, neither has her death registration. Emma came next and a final child, Ann, was baptised on 2nd February 1851. She married Robert Morton at Collyhurst in Manchester on 9th September 1882 and was living there with her husband in 1891 and 1901¹⁴⁶. By 1911¹⁴⁷ she and Robert were living with their grown-up son John, still in Manchester, but her movements after this have not been traced.

To return to the parents, John and Elizabeth Weaver appeared on the 1841¹⁴⁸ census at Burley, Vernolds Common, both aged 26, with two-year-old James. John was enumerated as an agricultural labourer, and both were born in county. By 1851¹⁴⁹, the household at Burley had expanded considerably, with 37-year-old John as head of household, a sawyer born in Stokesay, with wife Elizabeth, a year older and born in Culmington. James was now 11, Edwin eight, Mary four, Emma two and baby Ann just four months old. There was also a lodger, William Meyrick, aged 26 and born in Richards Castle. Ten years later¹⁵⁰, only the two youngest children, Emma and Ann were still at home.

¹⁴¹ RG10/2728, 1871 census, Vernolds Common

¹⁴² RG10/2725, 1871 census, Ludford, RG11/2614, 1881 census Bromfield, RG12/2080, 1891 census, Stanton Lacy

¹⁴³ RG13/3014, 1901 census, Knossington

¹⁴⁴ RG14/19392, 1911 census, Knossington

¹⁴⁵ RG10/2728, RG11/2618, RG12/2084, RG13/2507, RG14/15892, 1871-1911 censuses, Culmington

¹⁴⁶ RG12/3246, RG13/3753, 1891 and 1901 census, Manchester St Augustine.

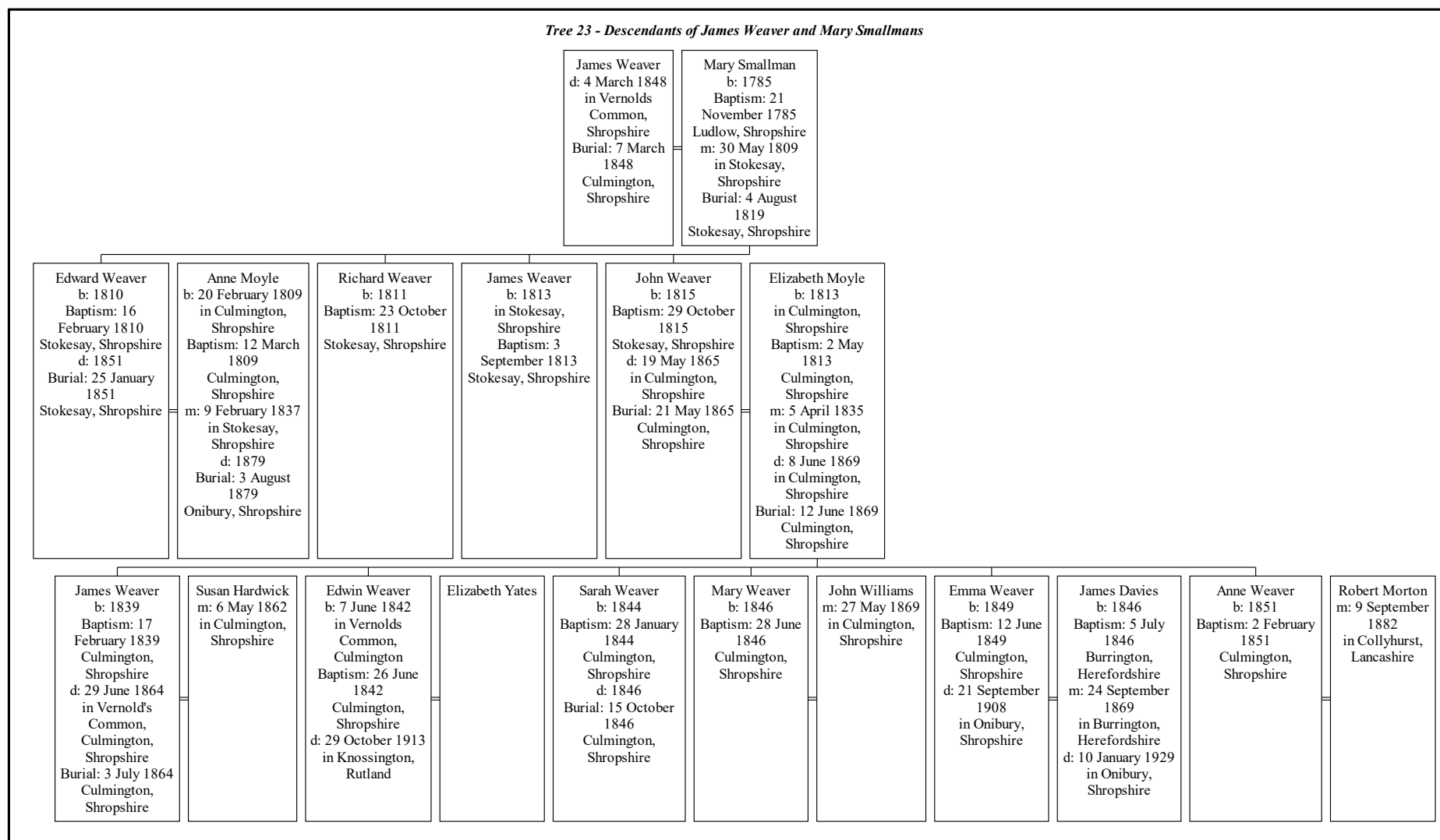
¹⁴⁷ RG13/ 467/5/14, 1911 census, Newton Heath

¹⁴⁸ HO 107/912/7, 1841 census, Vernolds Common

¹⁴⁹ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Vernolds Common

¹⁵⁰ RG9/1839, 1861 census, Vernolds Common

Tree 23 - Descendants of James Weaver and Mary Smallmans



John Weaver made one other brief appearance in the records. In 1863, he appears on a valuation record¹⁵¹ as a tenant of the Earl of Craven, paying a gross estimated rental of £3 on 2 rods and 35 perches of land in Burley, described as house and garden. Two years later, he was dead. He died at Vernolds Common on 19th May 1865, recorded as a farm labourer. The cause of death is given as:

Enteritis 42 hours & Exhaustion

His son Edwin was in attendance and registered the death but slightly inflated his father's age to 51. The entry for his burial at Culmington on 21st May puts his age as 50. In fact, he was probably only 49. Elizabeth outlived him by only four years, dying in 1869.



Stokesay – St John the Baptist

John had been baptised on 29th October 1815 at Stokesay, with his family's abode given as Wettleton Hill. His father, James Weaver, was a labourer, and John was the youngest child of James and his wife Mary. Both James and his bride Mary Smallman described themselves:

of this parish

when they married by banns at Stokesay on 30th May 1809. Of their four children, Richard, baptised on 23rd October 1811, and James – 3rd September 1813 – died as children. Richard was buried on 12th May 1817 and James on 3rd September 1818. Edward, the eldest, was baptised at Stokesay on 16th September 1810 and married Anne Moyle (older sister of John's wife Elizabeth) there on 9th February 1837. The witnesses were his brother John – returning the favour from his own marriage - and

¹⁵¹ SA, PL/9/32/3/11, Culmington; Bundle of Valuation and supplementary valuation lists 1863-79

Anne and Elizabeth's sister Mary. The entry is the final one on the page, and curiously, on the next page is pasted the following message from the celebrant:

Through a much regretted oversight on my part I unconsciously omitted to request the parties to and witnesses of the above marriage to affix their signatures to the above 2nd duplicate entry and Registration of the said marriage at the time of its solemnisation on 10th Oct^r 1838 in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
Day of
In the presence of W Johnstone ... Rector of Culmington

Given the date of this missive, it presumably doesn't refer to Edward's wedding and has been pasted into the register on the wrong page.

In 1841¹⁵², Edward and Ann were living at Wettleton Common in Stokesay, with sons Richard (whose baptism wrongly calls his mother Jane) and George – aged three and one - and Edward's father James, aged 80. Both men were agricultural labourers. Edward survived long enough to father four children (the younger two were Mary and Herbert) but was not destined for a long life. He was buried at Stokesay on 25th January 1851. When the census¹⁵³ was taken a few months later, Anne was still living at Wettleton Common with her three younger children and described as a:

Labourer Receiving Parish Relief

Richard was already in service. By 1861¹⁵⁴ she was living alone in Stokesay, but in 1871¹⁵⁵ she was found living with her daughter Mary Humphrey, also widowed. Ann Weaver née Moyle was buried in that parish on 3rd August 1879.

James' wife Mary (née Smallman) had died quite young. She was buried at Stokesay in 1819:

Mary Weaver, Wettleton Hill, 4th Aug, 38

Her son John would have been just under four years old, and Edward only nine. In three years, James had lost two sons and a wife and was left to bring up two small boys alone. It is perhaps testament to how he managed this that he was found living with older son Edward in 1841 but he must also have been supported in later life by his younger son, as he died at Vernolds Common, presumably in John's home. His certificate records:

Fourth March 1848 at Vernolds Common Parish of Culmington; James Weaver; Male; 80 Years; Labourer; Old Age not certified; x The mark of John Weaver present at the death Vernolds Common

¹⁵² HO 107/913/21, 1841 census, Stokesay

¹⁵³ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Stokesay

¹⁵⁴ RG9/1839, 1861 census, Culmington

¹⁵⁵ RG10/2724, 1871 census, Onibury

His entry in the burial register pushes his age higher:
James Weaver, Vernols Common, March 7th, near 90 years

which seems unlikely, and it is more feasible that he was born around 1760 – place unknown. However, if the burial record is correct, then he might have been the child baptised to a John and Elizabeth Weaver in Bishops Castle in 1751.

Although James' birth is a mystery, his wife Mary was baptised as:

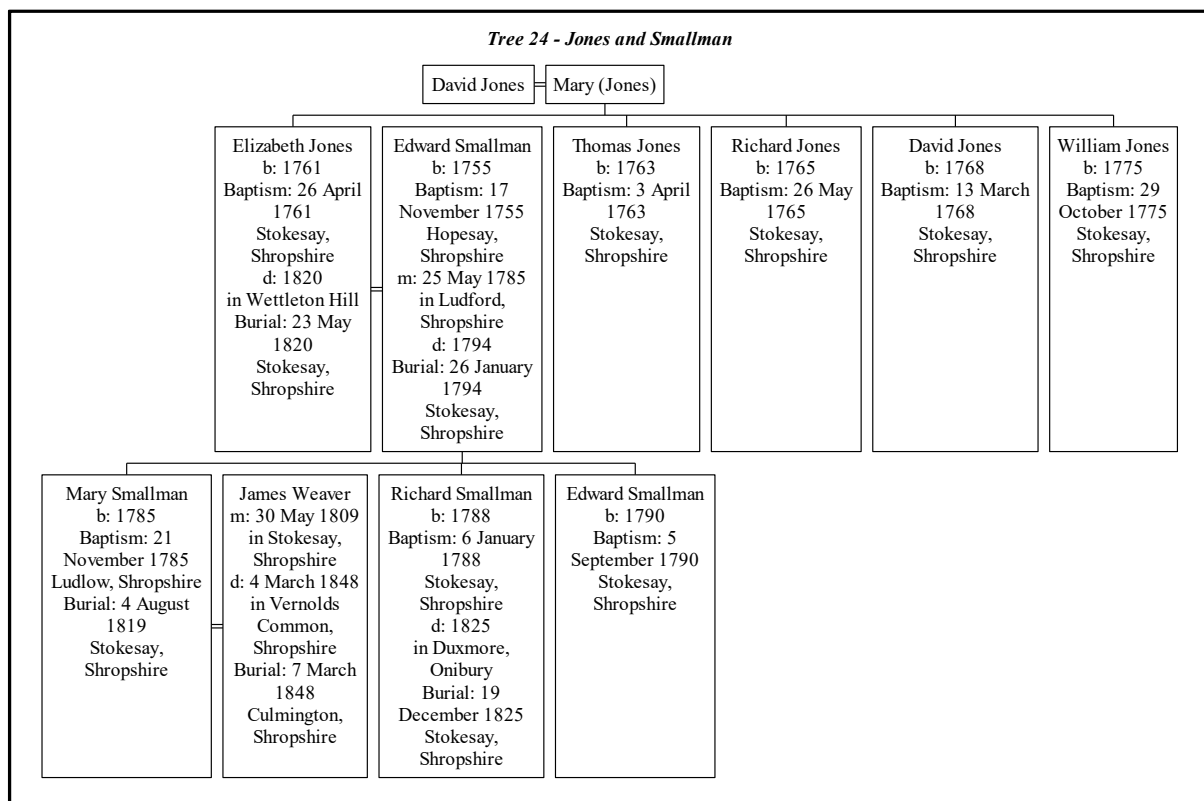
Mary Dau of Edward Smallman and Elizabeth

at Ludlow on 21st November 1785 (**See tree 24, p. 160**). Her parents had married at Ludford six months earlier:

Edward Smallman and Elizabeth Jones, both resident in this parish married in this church by banns twenty-second May 1785.

The mark + of me Edward Smallman; the mark + of me Elizabeth Jones

The witnesses were Thomas and Elizabeth Jones; the relationship – if any – is unclear.



They went on to have two further children, both baptised at Stokesay: Richard on 6th January 1788 and Edward on 5th September 1790. It seems likely that it is Richard's burial which was recorded at Stokesay on 19th December 1825, aged 37, although he was living at Duxmore. There is no further sighting of Edward junior.

Edward senior was probably the son of yet another Edward Smallman and his wife Elizabeth, who baptised a son named Edward on 17th November 1755 at Hopesay, the parish next to Stokesay. He was buried on 26th January 1794 at Stokesay but his wife lived until 1820. The entry in the burial register reads:

Elizabeth Smallman, Wettleton Hill, 23rd May, 59

Her age would suggest a baptism in 1761, and if she was a Stokesay lass, she may have been the daughter of David Jones and Mary Pinches and baptised at Stokesay on 12th April 1761. If so, she was the eldest child of parents who had married, one suspects, rather hurriedly at Hopton Castle:

David Jones of the Parish of Stokesay and Mary Pinches of Hopton Castle
were Married in this church by banns this twelfth day of January in the year
one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one.

He signed; she made her mark. Elizabeth was baptised at Stokesay a short three months later, on 26th April, and was followed by: Thomas – baptised 3rd April 1761, Richard – 26th May 1765, David – 13th March 1768 and William – 29th January 1775.

Moyle – Culmington

It is now time to backtrack to the paternal family of Elizabeth Moyle, wife of John Weaver and mother of Emma. Elizabeth outlived her husband John by four years but was quite probably living alone in her final years as her death was registered by a neighbour, Thomas Pritchard, who managed to get her husband's name wrong. So, the death certificate reads:

Eighth June 1869 Vernolds Common Culmington; Elizabeth Weaver; Female;
55 years; Wife of Edward [sic] Weaver – Labourer; a) Paralysis b) Apoplexy;
x The Mark of Thomas Pritchard Present at Death Vernolds Common
Culmington

He got her age almost right, though, as she had been baptised on 2nd May 1813:

Elizabeth daughter of Thomas and Mary Moyle, Vernolls Common,
Wheelwright

The Moyle family can be traced back two generations in Culmington.
Elizabeth's parents married at Ludford on 16th August 1808 (**See tree 25, p.164**):

Thomas Moyle and Mary Hardwick both having residence in this parish
were married in this parish by banns published Sepr 25th, Octr 2nd and
9th this 16th day of October 1808...

The mark x of Thomas Moyle
The mark x of Mary Moyle formerly Hardwick
In the presence of: The mark of x Ann Moyle, E Grubb

However, all their children were baptised at Culmington. The first was Anne, born on 20th February and baptised on 12th March 1809. Her arrival so soon after the wedding might explain why it took place in Ludford. As has already been shown, she later married Edward Weaver.

Joseph, born on 15th and baptised on 23rd June 1811 was still living with his parents at the time of the 1841 census¹⁵⁶ where he was described as an 'idiot', a vague term which would not be used today. He was buried in his home parish on 30th July 1847 from The Ludlow Union, so presumably had been consigned to the workhouse. Maybe after his mother's death in 1843 there was no one at home able to see to his needs, whatever they were.

After Elizabeth came Mary, baptised on 1st October 1815. She moved away from rural Shropshire and married Matthew Tolley in Droitwich on 15th April 1838. She and Matthew were enumerated there in 1841¹⁵⁷ with two sons. They haven't been found in 1851 but by 1861¹⁵⁸ they were still in Droitwich with six children ranging from 22 to five and Matthew was a tanner. Matthew died in 1867 and in 1871¹⁵⁹ Mary was still in Droitwich working as a washerwoman and supplementing her income from two lodgers. The family next door was named Tolley, so maybe they were related. There is no obvious death registration for her, unless hers is the entry in 1878 giving an age of 79 – which is way out, but there is no sign of her in the 1881 census either.

Thomas was baptised on 28th March 1819. He, too, was unfortunate; the 1841 census¹⁶⁰ calls him a cripple, but whether from birth or as the result of some accident is not known. Presumably he always lived at home as when he was buried at Culmington on 21st January 1847, it was from Burley.

John, baptised on 20th May 1821, was the son who followed in his father's footsteps and became a wheelwright. He married Jane Bradley at Culmington on 7th June 1855 and they began to raise a family. By 1861¹⁶¹ John was sufficiently established to record himself as a wheelwright employing 1 boy, presumably the 16-year-old boy listed as a wheelwright's assistant at the end of the household. In 1871¹⁶², still in Burley, both he and his 14-year-old son Thomas are listed as wheelwrights, but by 1881¹⁶³ the position of second wheelwright in the household is

¹⁵⁶ HO 107/912/7, 1841 census, Culmington

¹⁵⁷ HO 107/1207/4, 1841 census, Droitwich

¹⁵⁸ RG9/ 2111, 1861 census, Droitwich

¹⁵⁹ RG10/3069, 1871 census, Droitwich

¹⁶⁰ HO 107/912/7, 1841 census, Culmington

¹⁶¹ RG9/1839, 1861 census, Culmington

¹⁶² RG10/2728, 1871 census, Culmington

¹⁶³ RG11/2618, 1881 census, Culmington

taken by a younger son, Edwin. John died six years later and was buried at Culmington on 9th January 1887. He rented a house and garden in Burley from the Earl of Craven and appears in the surviving valuation rolls¹⁶⁴. In 1863, he paid a gross estimated rental of £4 10/- on one acre, one rod and 22 perches. In 1875, he was still there, but the rent had gone up to £5, and his landlord was now one J.D. Allcroft.



Burley Lane, Vernolds Common

The last child in Thomas and Mary's family was Sarah, baptised on 29th May 1825. Her husband, Thomas Price, was born in Onibury, but had lodged with the Moyles working as a journeyman carpenter. The couple married at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Ludlow on 8th February 1855 and by 1861¹⁶⁵ they were settled at Vernolds Common and raising a family; Thomas was now a master carpenter, and they were able to afford a young, live-in house servant. She has disappeared by 1871¹⁶⁶, and Thomas has dropped the 'master' from his title. Sarah died the following year, in 1872. Thomas continued to live at Vernolds Common and was still working as a carpenter in 1901¹⁶⁷ when he was 74.

The family association with woodworking lasted for well over a century. Thomas Moyle was the eldest son of another Thomas Moyle and his wife Joanna Turnley and was baptised as the first of six children at Culmington on 27th August 1775. His father was a carpenter and trained his son to follow in his footsteps, formally taking him on as an apprentice in 1794:

23rd March Tho^s Moyle Culmington Co Salop Carpenter Tho^s Moyle junior

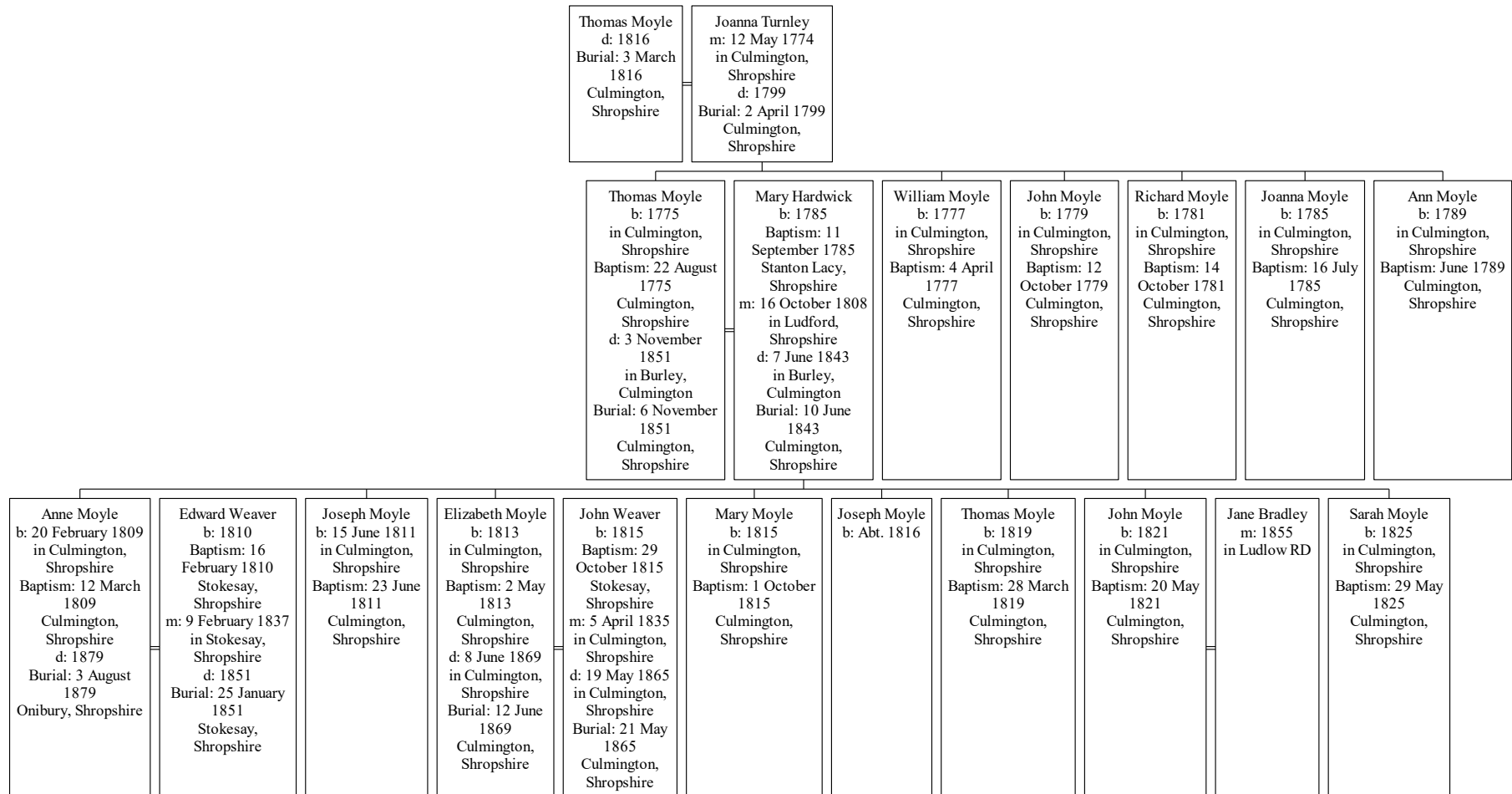
¹⁶⁴ SA, PL/9/32/3/11, Culmington; Bundle of Valuation and supplementary valuation lists 1863-79

¹⁶⁵ RG9/1839, 1861 census, Culmington

¹⁶⁶ RG10/2728, 1871 census, Culmington

¹⁶⁷ RG13/2507, 1901 census, Culmington

Tree 25 - Descendants of Thomas Moyle and Joanna Turnley



Thomas junior took things a stage further and called himself a wheelwright as the 1841 census¹⁶⁸ shows:

Burley			
Thomas Moyle	65	Wheelwright	y
Mary Moyle	64		y
Joseph Moyle	26	Idiot	y
Thomas Moyle	23	Cripple	y
John Moyle	20	J Wheelwright	y
Sarah Moyle	16		y

Burley was the hamlet in which the family was living. The J in John's entry stands for journeyman and the letter y means they were born in county. The wheelwright was an important figure in any village as good wheels were essential given the state of the roads. As well as making and repairing the wheels, they often were involved in making the carts they were fixed on. *Rural Historia*¹⁶⁹ sums it up as follows:

In a time when roads were rough and transport options were limited, the reliability of a wheel could mean the difference between profit and loss, success and failure, life or death.

Wheelwrights crafted each wheel with precision, ensuring they could withstand long journeys on uneven terrains. This was not just about forming the perfect circle; it involved selecting the right materials, understanding seasonal wood expansion and contraction, and mastering techniques that had been honed over centuries.

Wheelwrights worked with a variety of woods, each chosen for its specific properties. Oak, known for its toughness and resilience, was commonly used for spokes, while elm was preferred for hubs due to its ability to resist splitting under heavy loads. Ash, flexible and strong, was ideal for creating the curved parts of the wheel.

Being a skilled craftsman didn't necessarily ensure a comfortable old age. By 1851¹⁷⁰, by which time Thomas had been a widower for eight years; he was recorded as a 77-year-old pauper formerly wheelwright. His youngest two children were in the household at Burley, but now it was John who was the wheelwright and Thomas' future son-in-law Thomas Price who was the journeyman carpenter. He died a few months after the census was taken:

Third November 1851 Burley Culmington; Thomas Moyle; Male; 77 Years; Wheelwright; Old Age not certified; x The mark of John Moyle present at the death Burley Culmington

He was buried three days later at Culmington:

¹⁶⁸ HO 107/912/7, 1841 census, Culmington

¹⁶⁹ <https://ruralhistoria.com/2024/04/30/the-wheelwright-a-crucial-person-in-the-village/>

¹⁷⁰ HO 107/1982, 1851 census, Culmington

Thomas Moyle, Vernols Common, Nov 6th, 76 years

Burley and Vernolds Common are adjacent hamlets.

The final member of the Moyle direct ancestor clan who has been identified is Thomas Moyle senior. He was probably born around 1749, but his baptism has not been found. However, his marriage to Joanna Turnley at Culmington in 1774 has:

Thomas Moyle of this Parish and Johanna Turnley of the same were married
in this Church by Banns this 12th Day of May in the Year One Thousand
7 hundred and 74

This marriage was solemnised between us

Thomas Moayle [sic]

Johanna Moyle x late Turnley

Witnesses: John Littleford, Thomas Pearce

As has been said, Thomas junior was the first-born, followed by William, baptised on 4th April 1777 and married to Sarah Morris on 24th November 1811 in Ludlow. The couple returned to Culmington and had three daughters.



Culmington All Saints

The next two children – John, baptised on 12th October 1779 and Richard – baptised on 14th October 1781 – both died relatively young. John was buried on 26th February 1793 and Richard on 24th December 1794. Joanna, the next child, baptised on 16th July 1785, reached adulthood and married Edward Morgan on 21st May 1812 – again at Ludlow. Presumably they settled in Ludlow as it was from there that Joanna was buried in Culmington, aged 30, on 15th September 1814 as the wife of Edward Morgan. The last child, Anne, was baptised on 7th June 1789, but no more is known about her.

The only other things known about Thomas Moyle senior are the date of his burial at Culmington in 1816, his occupation and abode:

Thomas Moyle, Wheelwright, Township of Burley, March 3rd, 67

Thomas' wife Joanna is also a shadowy figure. All that can really be added about her is her burial at Culmington in 1799:

Joanna Moyle aged 56 of this parish, wife of Thomas Moyle bur April 2nd,
Registered April 4th.

Both Thomas Moyles seem to have been settled in Culmington parish, variously in Burley and Vernold's Common. Although Thomas senior's baptism is lacking, it seems feasible that he had a connection to one John Moyle, yeoman, who leased a cottage from Lord Craven on Vernold's Common in 1745. The Shropshire Archives catalogue¹⁷¹ sums it up as follows:

Indenture dated 26 December 1745. Between 1) Fulwar Lord Craven;
2) John Moyle of Burley (Culmington) yeoman; Lease of a cottage on Vernalls Common (Culm.) for 99 years for the lives of Moyle (45), Catherine his wife (55) & John their son (14); at a Rent.

The consideration was £10 and the rent 1/- per annum. Catherine would have been too old to be Thomas' mother, but I still suspect a family link somewhere.

Hardwick – mainly Stanton Lacy and Bitterley

Mary Hardwick's family is less elusive than that of her husband Thomas Moyle. She was baptised at Stanton Lacy on September 11th 1785 as:

Mary daughter of Joseph and Susanna Hardwick

With a note to the effect that tax had been paid. Between 1783 and 1794, a tax of 3^d was charged on all baptisms, marriages and burials under the Stamp Duties Act. It was extremely unpopular which is why it was repealed after such a short time. After banns at Ludford called on 25th September and 2nd and 9th October 1808, she married Thomas Moyle on 16th October and settled with him in Culmington where she bore him eight children before dying at Burley on 7th June 1843, aged 58, of:

Palpitations of the heart

She was buried at Culmington on 10th June (See tree 26, p.169).

Mary's parents had been married for over 20 years by the time Mary came along:

Joseph Hardwick of the Parish of Stanton Lacy and Susanna Nash of this

¹⁷¹ https://www.shropshirearchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/CCA_X6000_41_2_12977, 6000/10957

parish were married by licence in this church this ninth day of December
[1764]

Their first child arrived four months later and was baptised Thomas in Susanna's home parish of Bitterley on 21st April 1765. After that, all baptisms took place at Stanton Lacy; it was here that Thomas married Eleanor Griffiths on 20th July 1801 and here that he was buried on 19th June 1830. John was baptised on 28th December 1766 but was buried on 19th February 1770. The next child, William, who had been baptised on 6th November 1768 had been buried 11 days before his brother, on 8th February, which suggests that they both may have succumbed to the same infection. Another John was baptised on 23rd December that year and grew up to marry Susanna Prothera at Culmington on 30th July 1799. He was buried at Stanton Lacy on 31st December 1846.

The next child, Benjamin, baptised on 14th April 1772, also died young and was buried on 5th May 1791. His sister Betty, baptised on 14th April 1776, married Joseph Perks on 5th November 1799 and died in 1842. Susanna, baptised on 20th September 1778, married Richard Hall at Diddlebury on 2nd July 1802 and was buried there on 18th August 1862. The penultimate child was given his grandfather's name, Vincent, and was baptised on 1st December 1782. He married Sarah Woodhouse at Stanton Lacy on 22nd June 1807, dies on 28th April 1853 and was buried there on 3rd May.

Joseph Hardwick only left a paper trail in the parish registers, but his burial notes the township where he was living until 1823:

Joseph Hardwick; Hayton's Bent; May 9; 86

and the inclusion of his age reassures us that the baptism in 1737 at Stanton Lacy of:

Joseph the Son of Vincent and Elizabeth Hardwick February 16

is indeed our man.

Joseph's parents are even more shadowy. There is no marriage recorded for a Vincent Hardwick and Elizabeth, so her origins are unknown. Vincent's burial at Stanton Lacy on 23rd June 1782 gives his age as 76 which would suggest a birth around 1706, but no baptism has come to light. There are, however, a couple of sightings of Vincent in the Churchwardens' Accounts¹⁷², the first in 1757:

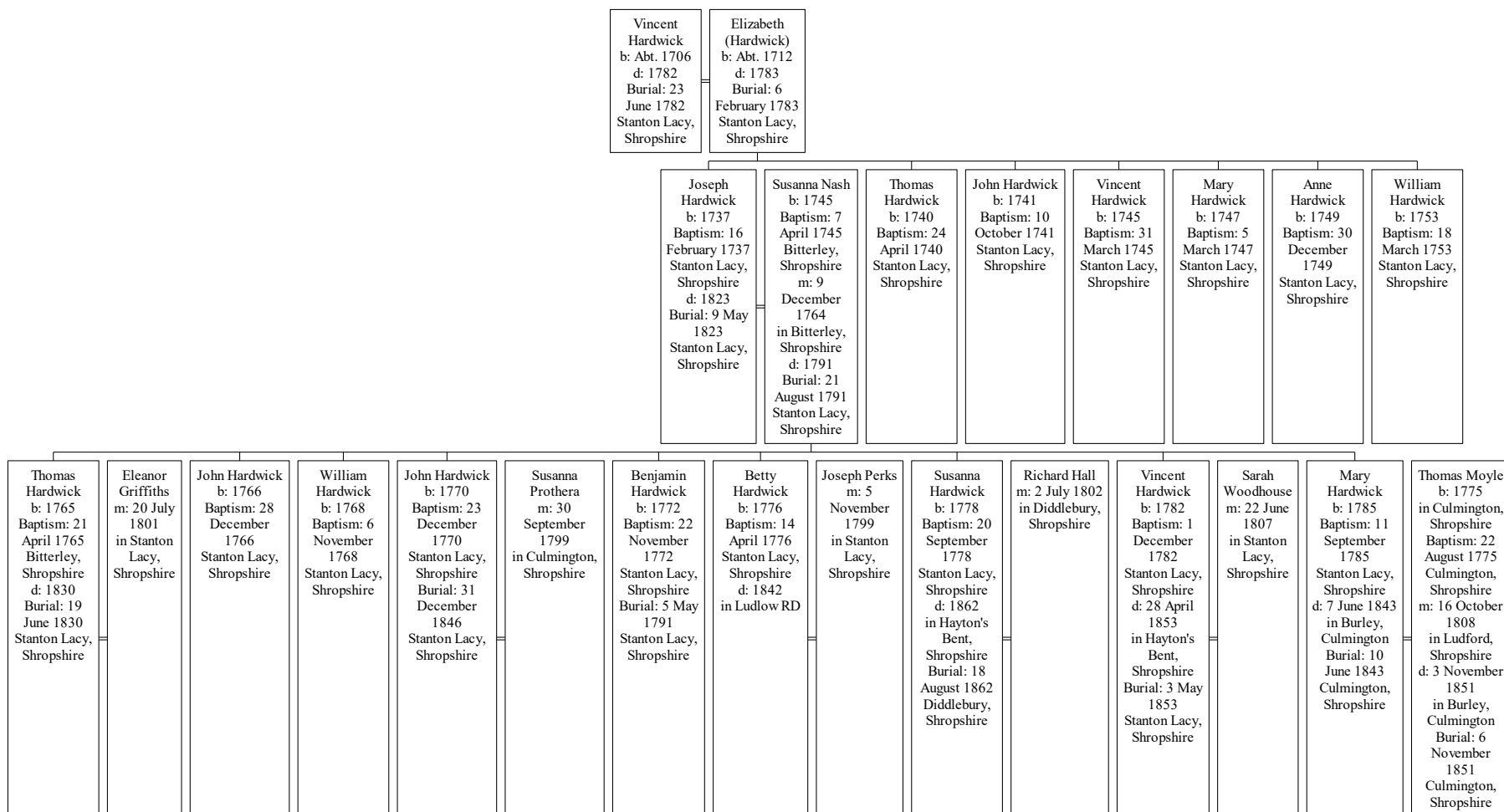
The Account^s & Disburst^s of Willm Davis and Rob^t Ellis Church Wardens
of the Parish of Stanton Lacy for the year 1757

July 20th 1757

...	£	S	D
paid Vincent Hardick for a fox	0	1	0

¹⁷² SA, P265/B/1 Stanton Lacy, Churchwardens' Account Book 1745-1785

Tree 26 - Descendants of Vincent and Elizabeth Hardwick



Presumably, he had trapped the animal, as, if agility was required, the entry might more probably refer to his son. The second occasion could also refer to father or son, as, in 1765 an entry reads:

...	£ S D
pd Vin: Hardwick for Repairing the church	0 10 11



Stanton Lacy St Peter

Vincent senior and Elizabeth baptised seven children at Stanton Lacy, of whom Joseph, born in 1737, was the eldest:

Joseph the Son of Vincent and Elizabeth Hardwick February 16

Of Thomas, only his baptism date survives: 24th April 1740. However, the next son, John was baptised on 10th October 1742, married Anne Carter on 23rd May 1774 at Stanton Lacy and was buried there on 16th January 1815. He also left a will¹⁷³ naming his wife Ann, six daughters and a son also named John who receives only a shilling on the grounds that his father has already advanced him £200. Everything else goes to Ann for life, but then each daughter is willed a specific sum dependant on what has already been received or, in one instance, loaned to her. Margaret and Jemima, the youngest, are willed:

...the residue of my property including stock in trade household goods and property of every description to be equally divided between them

John's brother Vincent was baptised on 31st March 1745 and married Mary Coates on 6th May 1779, but the couple moved to Coreley, to the east of Ludlow to raise a large family. He must have died sometime after their last child – also a Jemima - was born in 1796. His burial has not been found.

¹⁷³ Prob 11/1570, will of John Hardwick of Stanton Lacy, 26.7.1814

Vincent's sister Mary, baptised on 5th March 1747, also reached adulthood and married John Butcher at Stanton Lacy on 20th May 1786. She was buried there on 7th July 1822. The last two of Vincent and Elizabeth's brood were Anne - baptised on 30th December 1749 about whom no more is known - and William, baptised on 18th March 1753 but buried on 8th February 1770.

Vincent Hardwick was buried on 23rd June 1782, with a note giving his age as 76. His wife Elizabeth died a year later and was buried on 6th February 1783, aged 71. Hardwick was not an especially common name in Stanton Lacy in the mid-18th century, so it is possible that the 'Widow Hardwick' receiving 8^d a week from the overseers¹⁷⁴ in 1761 and 1762 was related to Vincent, but there is not enough evidence to be sure.

Nash and Wood - Bitterley

Joseph Hardwick's wife was Susanna Nash. Her family can be traced back a little further than Joseph's, mainly in Bitterley but with offshoots into Stanton Lacy and Stoke St Milborough. Susanna was baptised at Bitterley in 1745:

Susanna Daught^r of Thomas and Susanna Nash baptizd Apr^l 7th

She followed tradition by baptising her first child in her own home parish but presumably lived in Stanton Lacy from the time of her marriage until her death. She was buried there at a relatively young age in 1791 (**See tree 27, p 172**):

Susanna Hardwick Aug^t 21 Ag^d 47 Tax p^d

with a note in the register to the effect that:

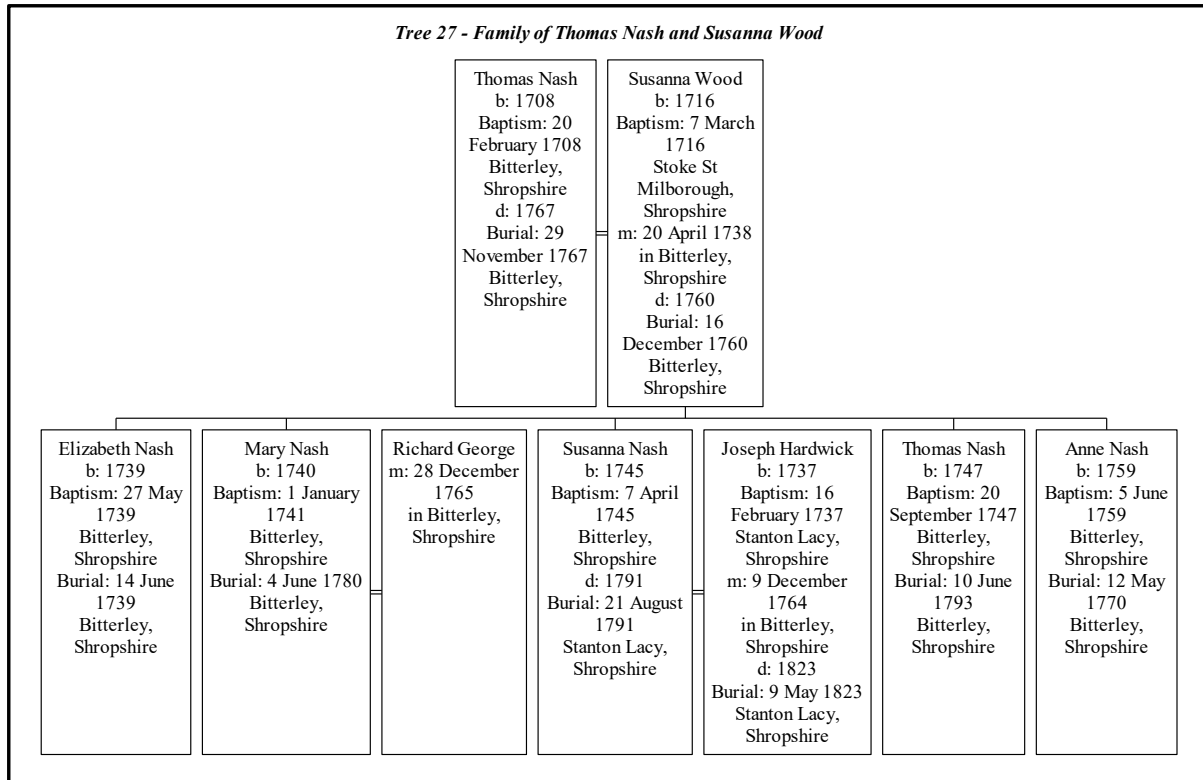
Duty [was] paid to J Owen

Susanna had been the third child of Thomas Nash and Susanna Wood, who had married at Bitterley on 24th April 1738, and baptised five children there. Elizabeth, baptised on 25th May 1739, was buried less than a month later. Mary, baptised on 1st January 1741, married Richard George on 28th December 1765 and was buried in her home parish on 4th June 1780. Susanna was followed by Thomas on 20th September 1747 but his probable burial was recorded on 10th June 1793. Anne, baptised 12 years later on 5th June 1759, was buried on 12th May 1770.

Susanna Nash née Wood was buried on 16th December 1760 at Bitterley. Maybe the late pregnancy resulting in Anne contributed to her death. There is no baptism for her in that parish but it is feasible that she was baptised on 7th March 1716 at Stoke St Milborough, four miles away, to another Thomas and Susanna Nash.

¹⁷⁴ SA, P265/C/1/1 Stanton Lacy, Vestry Minute Book and Overseers' Account Book 1722-1861

Tree 27 - Family of Thomas Nash and Susanna Wood



This couple had four more children at Stoke St Milborough: Anne in 1719, Elizabeth in 1721, Mary in 1723 and Thomas in 1726. There is no more sign of the girls, but Thomas married Mary Malpass in Bitterley in 1749 – four years after his sister Susanna had married there, another clue suggesting this is indeed Susanna's family.

Thomas Nash was eight years older than his wife Susanna, having been baptised at Bitterley on 20th February 1708 to another Thomas Nash and his wife Hannah Lumbard or Lumbart. He was buried at Bitterley on 29th November 1769. His parents, who had married at Bitterley in 1703:

Nuptia inter Thomas Nash et Hannah Lumbart decimo die Augusti

had two other children, a son John, born in 1705 who married Ann Knot at Bitterley in 1730, and Eleanora, baptised 30th November 1712 and buried on 9th September 1718 as:

Eleanora Nash puella

It seems likely that this Thomas was a carpenter, or at least had some skill in woodwork as an entry in the churchwardens' accounts in 1714 notes:

Pd to Wm Rudd and Tho: Nash for putting up the frames and weatherboard
in ye steeple 00 = 12 = 00

He seemingly makes an appearance in the Overseers' Accounts in 1698, where the entry reads simply:

For going with Nash 00 01 00

The two entries for Thomas in the register are in Latin – his baptism in 1669 shows him to be the son of John and Ann:

Thomas filius Johis Nash per Anna uxorem baptizatus ultimo Augusti

while his burial was recorded in 1718:

Thomas Nash sepultua fuit vigesimo primo die Februarij

Thomas' father John was buried on 15th March 1693 but his mother almost outlived him and was buried on 25th May 1717 as:

Anna Nash vidua

It is hard to be certain, but it seems likely that several references in the Bitterley Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts¹⁷⁵ refer to Anna. The first Churchwardens' Account reference in 1710 is cryptic, just the entry Widow Nash followed by a 1 as part of a long list of names and amounts, but there is nothing to say whether this is money given out or received. A later entry is headed:

The Charity money of Old Serjeant Powys 1713

and again Widow Nash is one of a long list with a number 1 beside her entry. So here, she is clearly the recipient. In the same year, listed under the heading:

Disposed likewise of the Interest of the Poors Stock as followeth
Ann Nash vid - 01 = 06

The overseers' accounts also make reference to her, although both the spelling and the maths seem a little suspect:

The accounts of Thomas Bowen which is the other overseer of y^e poore in y^e parish of Bitterley for y^e yeare 1717 beginning upon the fift day of May

Paid to y^e widd Nash for two weeks pay at 12^d per week 0 - 2 - 6

The last twig on this branch of the tree belongs with the Lumbards (**See tree 28, p. 174**). Hannah was baptised at Ludford – a small settlement on the other bank of the River Teme from Ludlow – on 6th January 1676:

Hannah y^e daughter of Thomas Lumbard & Margaret wife bap

No marriage has been found for the parents, who may have baptised a first child – named Margreat – at Hope Bagot in 1670. The other children in this family were all

¹⁷⁵ D3651/B/2/6/1 Bitterley: Salt Collection; Churchwardens' 1661-1721 and Overseers' account book 1659-1721

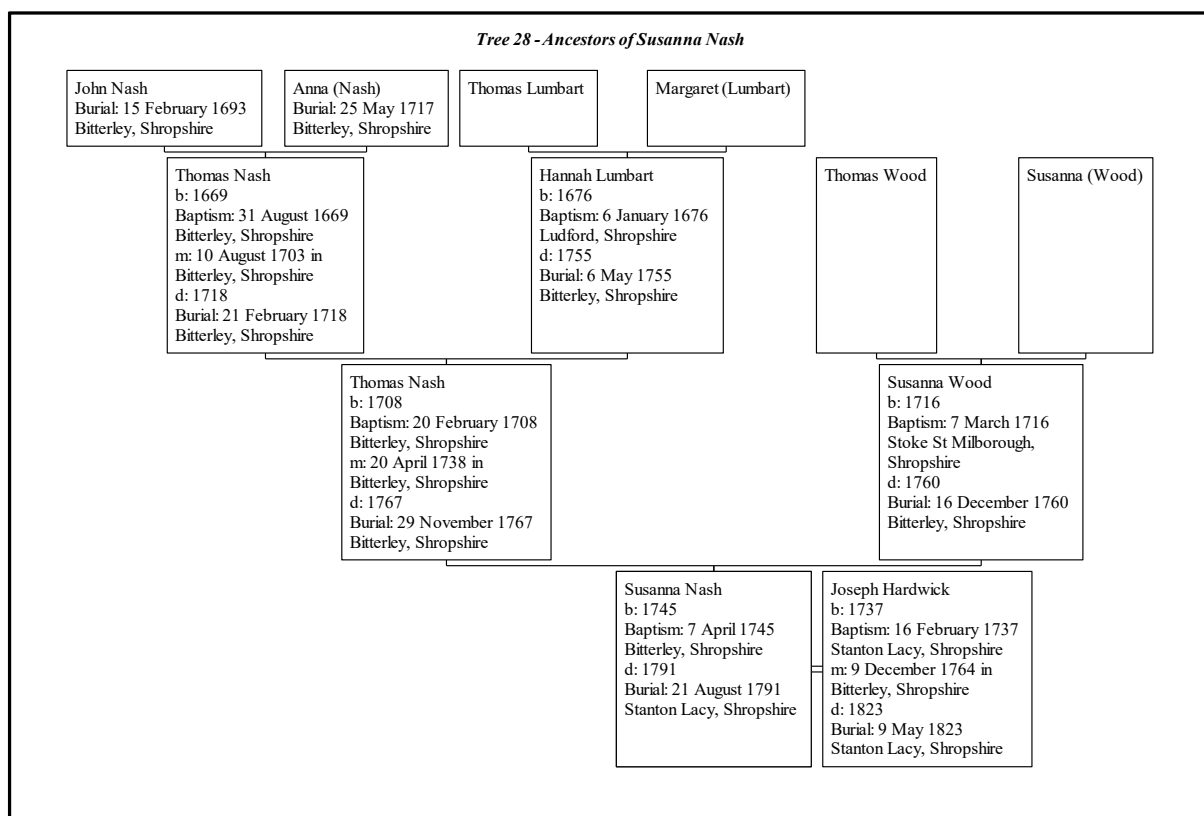
baptised at Ludford: Sarah in 1675, then Hannah, followed by Sarah in 1681, Samuel in 1684 and Mary in 1685. Thomas died in 1687 and was buried at Bitterley:

Thomas Lumbard sepultus fuit tricessimo die Junii

His wife lived less than three years longer and was also buried at Bitterley in 1690:

Margerita Lumbert sepulta erat undecimo die Martii

Her daughter Hannah, now Hannah Nash, was buried on 6th May 1755.



And here, this extensive ramble through Northern Herefordshire and Southern Shropshire, with its occasional foray into Wales, comes to an end.