

*Harris Families of  
Hasketon, Grundisburgh and Culpho  
and their kin*

*Farmers, Lawyers, Mariners and Clockmakers*

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November 2013*



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### **Acknowledgements and disclaimers**

I would like to thank the staff of the Suffolk and Essex Record Offices for their help and also Steven Ling and Clare Tooze for sharing their research on the Ling and Trott families with me. Any mistakes are my own.

### **Abbreviations**

SRO	-	Suffolk Record Office
ERO	-	Essex Record Office
NRO	-	Norfolk Record Office
TNA	-	The National Archive

## Alice Mary Harris – Little Bealings, Feltham, Fransden and Reigate



Hasketon village sign

Alice Mary Harris spent most of her adult life in Reigate, Surrey, but she was born and spent her early years in Suffolk where many of her family had been farming folk for generations. Her birth was registered in the Woodbridge registration district in 1887, but in successive censuses, although most of her siblings hailed from Hasketon, her birthplace was given as Little Bealings, a small village lying in the Fynn Valley between Woodbridge and Ipswich.

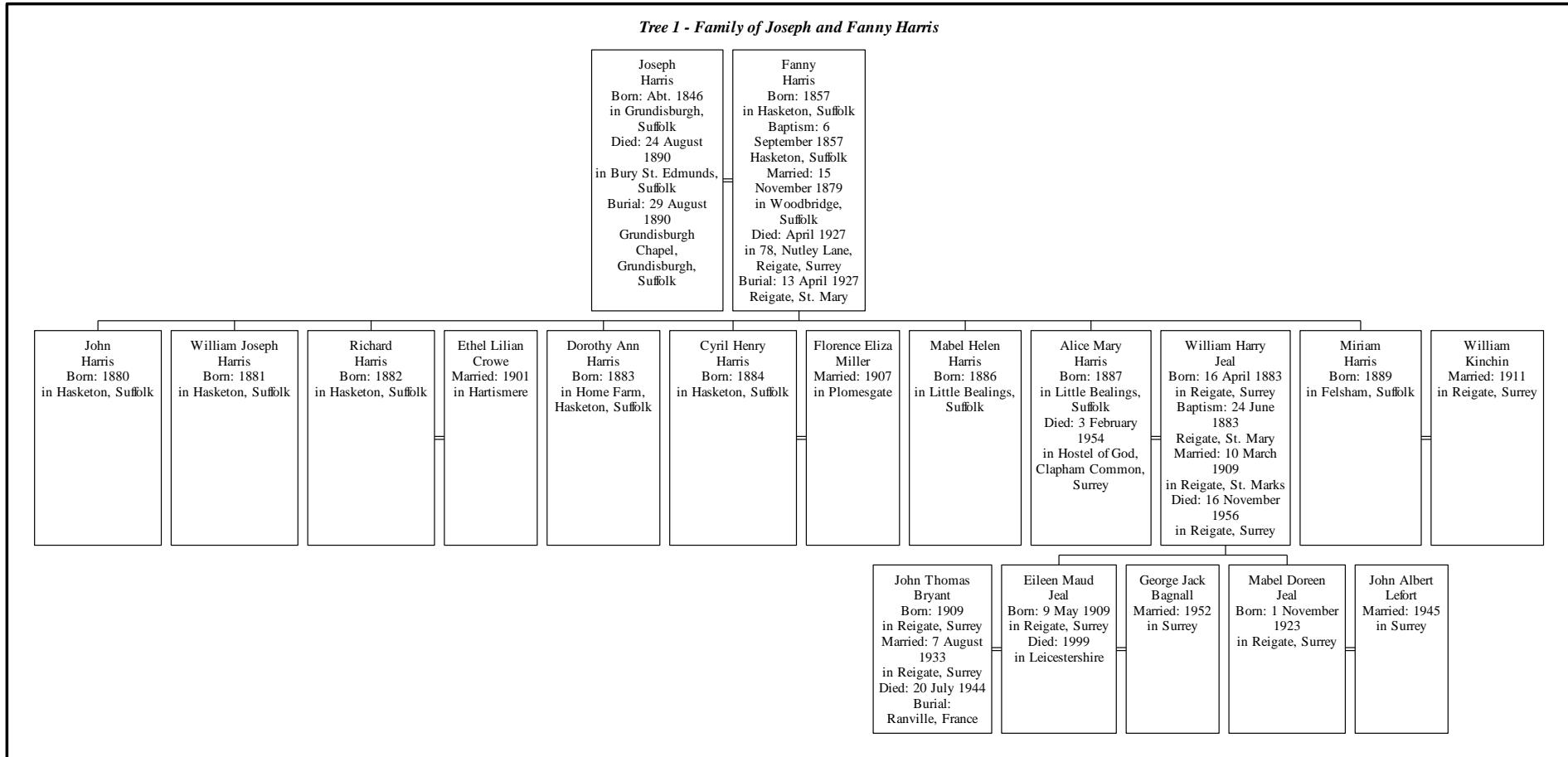
Alice was the seventh child of Joseph<sup>2</sup> and Fanny Harris (see tree 1 – page 5), first cousins who had married at Woodbridge on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1879. Her Hasketon-born siblings were John - born 1880; William Joseph - 1881; Richard - 1882; Dorothy Ann - 1883 and Cyril Henry - 1885; Mabel Helen was born in 1886 at Little Bealings - like Alice, and Miriam was born in 1889 at Felsham - about 5 miles south-east of Bury St Edmunds.

When Joseph and Fanny married they must have looked forward to a comfortable future. Both came from families which farmed extensive acreage in the area and were generally well respected in their communities. However, the last quarter of the 19th century was one of agricultural depression, as cheap imports from the United States and other countries undercut the price of home-produced food, and within five years, they had to leave Home Farm<sup>1</sup>:

... Hasketon and the parishes around it can boast of possessing some of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 7.10.1884



the best and most successful agriculturalists – the success perhaps rather applies to the past than to the present – to be found in any part of the kingdom; and large numbers of them met on Monday at the Home Farm on the occasion of the sale of the stock and implements of Mr Joseph Harris who is leaving the occupation. The farm belongs to Col. Tomline, and is at present without a tenant, a fact that says much for the depressed state of agriculture, the time not being very remote when a farm at Hasketon, of all places in the county, would not have to go begging for a tenant.

The article goes on to list the various owners of the Home Farm over the last half-century, culminating in:

...Mr Ling, and his successor was Mr Harris whose stock was submitted to the hammer on Monday.

The Mr Ling whom Joseph succeeded may well have been a relative, as the Ling family appears later in this narrative.



**Home Farm Hasketon**

Like Little Bealings, Hasketon was a small village, its main claim to fame seeming to be the round tower on the parish church. It is still surrounded by farms, Home Farm lying to the east of the village centre. Presumably, Joseph and Fanny moved to a new farm at Little Bealings, but only stayed there for a couple of years, as sometime between Alice's birth and that of her younger sister Miriam, the family moved again, this time to Felsham, about 25 miles away, where Joseph still worked on the land though as a farm bailiff rather than farmer in his own right. It was here in 1890 that disaster struck, changing the life of the family for ever. The local newspapers<sup>2</sup> take up the story:

#### THE SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT FELSHAM – DEATH OF HARRIS

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Bury and Norwich Post*, 26.8.1890

The unfortunate man, Joseph Harris, aged 44, who last week sustained such terrible injuries from falling into a reaping machine upon the farm of Mr. Tiffin, has died at the Bury and West Suffolk Hospital, whence he was removed after the accident, the occurrence taking place on Sunday morning [24<sup>th</sup> August]. An inquest was held on Monday evening at the hospital, before the Deputy-Coroner (Mr J.J. Spark).

The first witness called was Mr Stephen Offord, a lad, who said he was a labourer, residing at Cockfield. The accident occurred on that day week (Monday). He was at work cutting oats with the deceased. It was about four o'clock. They were cutting with a reaping machine. Witness was riding one of the horses, and one started off - he could not say what started it. He tried to stop the horses, but could not until they got against a gatepost, which was knocked down. He missed deceased when he stopped the horses, and saw him laid against a shock - that would be 10 yards away. He went to him, and saw that his leg was cut off and there was a lot of blood about. Others in the field were with deceased when he (witness) got up. Deceased did not speak. Witness went for a cart to take him away. The horses were given to running away, and had done so last year - one of them particularly. The deceased had been sitting on the seat attached to the machine, and witness on the back of one of the horses.

John Cocksedge, a labourer, residing at Cockfield, said he was working in the harvest fields for Mr Tiffin, at Felsham, on the day in question. Witness was engaged tying oats up which came from the reaping machine, the one that Harris was working. Witness was about 10 rod from the machine when the horses ran away. He did not see them start. He saw Harris try to jump off the machine and when witness got to him deceased had his leg cut off. Deceased asked him to hold his leg out and give him a drink of beer. He didn't say how it happened; he said he didn't know what started the mare. Witness and others bound his leg up as tightly as possible, and took him to the Hospital in a cart as quickly as they could. It was true that the mare had run away with the reaping machine three times. She was a very nervous animal, and was frightened by little things. Deceased was the bailiff, and he would see after the horses.

Mr Fuller, house surgeon at the Hospital, said the deceased was brought in on Monday, at 5.30 p.m. He said his left leg was cut off four or five inches below the knee. The notices for consultation were sent out, and it was found necessary to make an amputation above the knee. The loss of blood from deceased's leg was very great. He died on Sunday morning, death being due to the shock and loss of blood, caused by the injuries he received.

The Coroner briefly summed up, and said that it seemed that there was no fault to be attached to anyone for the sad occurrence. As to why the horses started off was a mere matter of conjecture, but it was true that one of the horses was very nervous, and had run away on several previous occasions. It seemed that much hazard was run in using this

particular horse for this purpose.

It was stated that Mr. Tiffin had said that the horse was a quiet one.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

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We learn that the deceased man leaves a wife and family of eight children, the eldest of whom is not 11 years of age. A subscription list has been opened for their relief, and a concert for their benefit is also being arranged to take place at the Beyton Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

The following week Joseph's funeral<sup>3</sup>, which took place on 29<sup>th</sup>, was reported:

The remains of the late Joseph Harris, whose death occurred at the Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St Edmund's, on Sunday, from injuries received in an accident with a reaping machine at Felsham, were interred on Friday in the burial ground of the Baptist Chapel, Grundisburgh, in the presence of a large number of sorrowing relatives and friends. The deceased was the only surviving son of the late Mr. John Harris, who until his death owned and occupied Poplar Farm, and a nephew of the late Mr. W. Hunt, of Culpho, recently deceased. He leaves a widow and eight children totally unprovided for, on whose behalf appeals are being made by Mr. F.O.L. Walpole of Beyton, who met with considerable support, and by Mr. Lawrence Sterne, with references permitted to the Rector of Felsham, and a Congregational minister of Cockfield, where the deceased worshipped.

Over the following few weeks, both *The Bury and Norwich Post* and *The Ipswich Journal* ran articles about 'The Joseph Harris Fund' listing the names and amounts given by various contributors and reporting a benefit concert held at Beyton Village Hall which raised over £50. By January 1891, the fund had raised a total of £426 9/1. Trustees were appointed to run the scheme and it was agreed that an allowance of £2 10/- be paid to Mrs Harris every month of her widowhood as long as the funds allowed and £10 be taken from the fund for the advancement of each of the children. Members of the extended family stepped in to help as well.

By the time the 1891 census<sup>4</sup>, Fanny and most of her orphaned family were living in Joseph's home village of Grundisburgh at 'The Street'. William, Richard, Dorothy, Cyril, Mabel and Miriam were still with their mother, but John was living as a boarder in Anglesea Road, Ipswich<sup>5</sup> with elderly Isabel Cormick, her schoolteacher daughter Isabella, and five other boarders, all recorded as scholars - so presumably his £10 had been put towards his education. Alice had been farmed out to relatives and was living in Mill Road, Framsden<sup>6</sup> in the household of farmer

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Bury and Norwich Post* 2.9.1890

<sup>4</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Grundisburgh, RG 12/1474

<sup>5</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Ipswich, RG 12/1466

<sup>6</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Framsden, RG 12/1462

Charles Freeman and his wife Mary. Alice was recorded as a niece; in fact, she was Mary Freeman's great-niece, as Mary was Fanny's maternal aunt. The relationship had been made even closer by the fact that Fanny's sister, also called Alice Mary, had married Charles and Mary Freeman's son John Joseph two years earlier.

By 1901 John had disappeared from the available records. William Joseph, boarder and coachbuilder's engraver, was with a family named Cracknell in Castle Street, Woodbridge<sup>7</sup>, but ten years later, he too had disappeared. The third brother, Richard, was also with a family named Cracknell in 1901<sup>8</sup>, at the Red House in Bedingfield, where farmer Richard Rye Cracknell was married to Fanny's sister Ann, which begs the question as to whether there was some relationship to the Woodbridge family. Richard Harris was listed as a worker but also enumerated as 'farmer's son'. In 1909 he married Ethel Lillian Crowe, and by 1911 he appeared on the census<sup>9</sup> in The Street, Bedingfield near Eye, as a farm bailiff, living with his wife and infant son, Leonard. He died on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1948 at 105 Dover Road, Ipswich, and probate - with effects of £2,215 5/10 - was granted to his widow Ethel<sup>10</sup>.

The next child, Dorothy Ann, has not been found in the 1901 census, but turned up in Wimbledon<sup>11</sup> in 1911. Had she not specified Home Farm, Hasketon, as her place of birth she might have slipped through the net as there is no indication of her being with any member of the family. She was enumerated at 62 Palmerston Road in the household of a dressmaker and she and two other boarders were recorded as drapery or draper's assistants. Her brother Cyril, although separated from her geographically, went into the same line of business, living in 1901 at Market Hill, Framlingham<sup>12</sup> as part of a large establishment headed by a grocer and draper. He was listed as a draper's assistant, but by 1911, with his wife of four years - Florence Elizabeth Miller - he had moved to 101 Carholme Road, Lincoln<sup>13</sup>, where he was recorded as a Traveller (drapery) with a two-year-old son, Herbert.

In 1901, Fanny and her daughter Mabel were boarding with the Fenning family at Yew Tree Cottages in Meeting Lane, Walton<sup>14</sup>, both working as laundresses. This time, it was Alice who was missing from the census returns, along with her younger sister Miriam. Miriam resurfaced living with her mother Fanny at Smallfield<sup>15</sup> in Surrey in 1911. Neither of them gave an occupation, but the census did record the fact that one of Fanny's eight children was now dead. Later that year, Miriam married William Kinchin at Reigate. Fanny stayed in Reigate and her burial was recorded at Reigate St Mary on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1927. The address given for her was 78 Nutley Lane; she was 69 years old.

<sup>7</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 census, Woodbridge, RG 13/1786

<sup>8</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 census, Bedingfield, RG 13/1767

<sup>9</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Bedingfield, RG 14/10740

<sup>10</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

<sup>11</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Wimbledon, RG 14/3483

<sup>12</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 census, Framlingham, RG 13/1787

<sup>13</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Lincoln, RG 14/19741

<sup>14</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 census, Walton, RG 13/1784

<sup>15</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Smallfield, RG 14/3232

Alice must have migrated south with her mother and sister, as her marriage to William Harry Jeal took place at St Mark's Church Reigate on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1909. William, aged 25, gave his occupation as bricklayer and his father's name as Abraham Jeal. Alice Mary, aged 22, gave no occupation but stated her father's name to be Joseph Harris, farmer (deceased). The groom was living at 36 Nutley Lane and the bride at 22 Birkheads Road, Reigate. Both signed the register and the marriage was witnessed by one C. Washington and the bride's sister, Miriam Harris. Two years later the couple were enumerated at 36 Nutley Lane, Reigate with 10 month old daughter Eileen [Maud], born on 9<sup>th</sup> May. William was recorded as a Shopkeeper (General) working on his own account and Alice was 'assisting in the business'. Mabel Doreen Jeal – William and Alice's second child – was born on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1923. Alice Mary Jeal née Harris died of cancer in the Hospital of God, Clapham on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1954. William Harry Jeal outlived her by two years, dying on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1956 at Reigate.

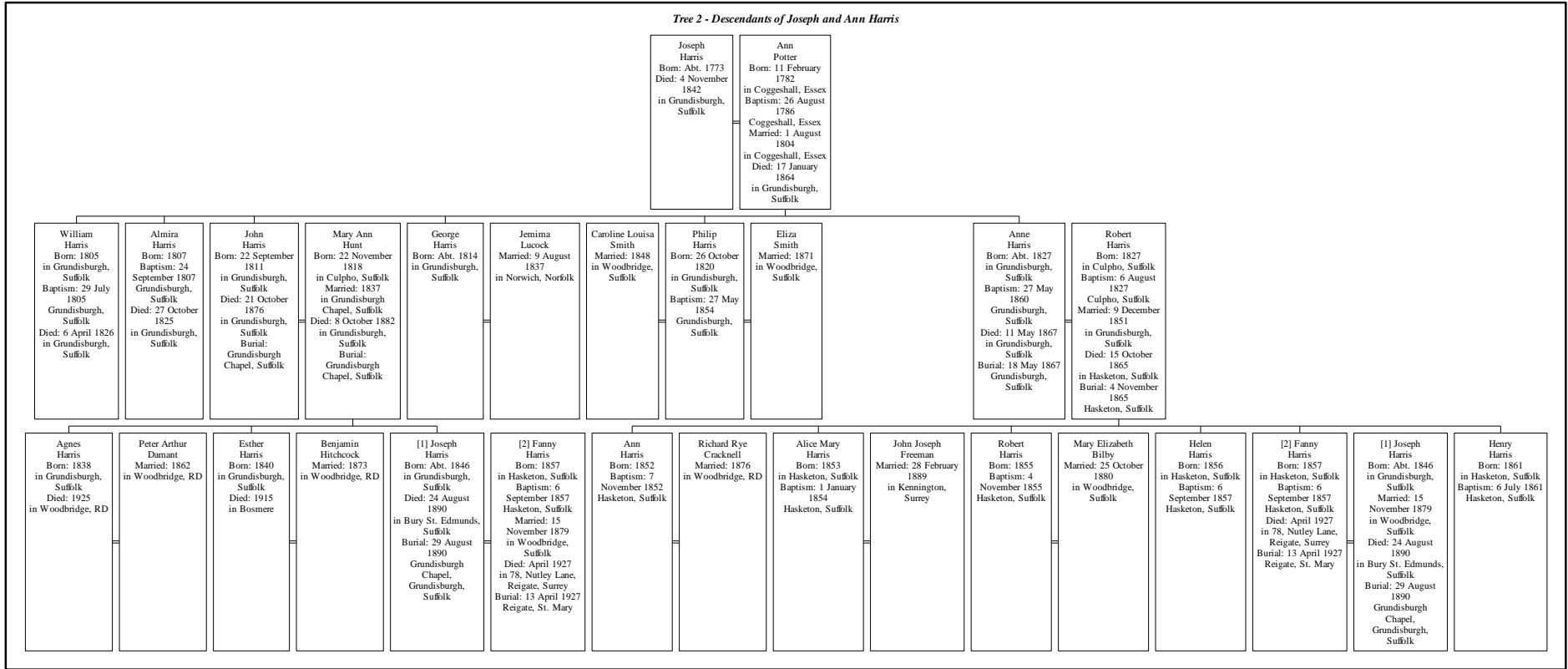
### Joseph Harris<sup>1</sup> of Grundisburgh



St. Mary Grundisburgh

The fact that three out of four of Alice Mary Harris' grandparents were called Harris has led to some confusion, and the relationships are complex. If we follow the male line first - from the Joseph who died in the reaping accident through his father John to his father - at the top of the tree is Joseph Harris<sup>1</sup>. There is no christening record to link John to Joseph<sup>1</sup> but the entry in the *The Visitation of England and Wales*<sup>16</sup> on the Hunt family of Culpho (see page 31) states that John was Joseph

<sup>16</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> *The Visitation of England and Wales*, vol XI, ed. Joseph Jackson Howard, 1893-1906



Harris' son, and this, along with a great deal of circumstantial evidence, verifies the relationship.

Although he doesn't seem to have been born there, Joseph Harris<sup>1</sup> must have spent most of his adult life in Grundisburgh, while his brother James, the ancestor of the other branch of the Harris family featuring in this story, lived and farmed in nearby Culpho. The present village of Grundisburgh has some 1,500 inhabitants, making it nearly four times the size of Little Bealings, about two and a half miles away. It has a parish church, and a Baptist chapel founded in 1798 which played a large part in the history of the family. Joseph was probably born about 1773, and although his place of birth is unknown, by 1798 he was paying land tax<sup>17</sup> of £20 in the village as the occupier of land owned by B G Dillingham of Grundisburgh Hall. There is an entry with the same names at nearby Great Bealings with a smaller assessment of £2 12 shillings which may also refer to our Joseph. On 1st August 1804, Joseph married Anne Potter of Coggeshall in Essex in her home parish church by licence (see tree 2 - page 11). The register records him as:

Joseph Harris of Grundisburgh

Both signed the register and the marriage was witnessed by her brother William.

Joseph evidently brought his new bride back to his home parish as their first two children, William and Almira, were christened in the parish church - William on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1805 and Almira on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1807. Neither was destined for a long life; William died on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1826<sup>18</sup>:

Thursday se'nnight, after a long and severe affliction, in the 21st year of his age, William, eldest son of Mr. Joseph Harris, farmer, of that place

and Almira had died the previous year on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1825<sup>19</sup>:

Saturday last died, in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of her age, Almira Harris, only daughter of Mr. Jos Harris, of Grundisburgh.

Sometime after Almira's birth, I suspect Joseph<sup>1</sup> was drawn towards the Baptist Chapel as none of his other children was christened in the Anglican church, although they were all born in the parish. The next child was John who grew up to run Poplar Farm in Grundisburgh. The census returns show him to have been born around 1811 or 12, and his story will be followed later.

George, the next son, was born around 1814. The only thing linking him to his father is the fact that in the 1841 census three-year-old Fanny Harris - George's daughter - was living with Joseph and Ann, who would have been her grandparents. On 9<sup>th</sup> August 1837, at Norwich, George had married Jemima Lucock. Fanny was

<sup>17</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> UK Land Tax Redemption 1798

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> The Ipswich Journal 15. 4. 1826

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> The Ipswich Journal 29.10.1825

born the following year, followed by Anna - 1840; Almira - presumably named for his sister - 1841; Joseph - named for his father; and Philip George - named after his brother and himself - in 1853. George settled down to farm at Eye, and by 1861<sup>20</sup> was running a farm of 188 acres and employing 10 men and 8 boys. In 1871<sup>21</sup> as well as being a farmer, he told the enumerator that he had been minister at Rishangles Chapel for 22 years. Religion was obviously important to him, and his son Joseph, at least, was sent away to be educated by a Baptist minister<sup>22</sup>. Despite his nonconformist leanings, he contributed to the restoration of the church at Eye in 1868<sup>23</sup>, and, if a letter to the paper is to be believed<sup>24</sup>, he also had radical tendencies and was not above campaigning against the Tories at election time. In fact, he was obviously quite active politically<sup>25</sup> on occasion:

On Saturday the candidates and their agents went before the mayor upon the hearing of objections to the nomination papers. The Rev. Geo. Harris was the appointed agent of the two Radicals.

His wife Jemima predeceased him and after her death he married a widow - Jane Elizabeth Hill - at East Bergholt<sup>26</sup> on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1882, appearing with her on the 1891 census at Rishangles<sup>27</sup>. He died in 1901<sup>28</sup> leaving £228 3 shillings 10 pence:

Harris George of Rishangles Suffolk Baptist-minister died 2 March 1901  
Probate Bury St Edmund's 22 July to William Ling gent. and Mary Hill

Joseph and Ann Harris' next child was another boy, Philip. Presumably brought up a Baptist, sometime after his marriage at Woodbridge to Caroline Louisa Smith in 1848 he converted to the Church of England and was subsequently christened at Grundisburgh. The entry in the register reads:

Philip son of Joseph and Anne Harris Farmer baptised 27<sup>th</sup> May 1854  
born 26<sup>th</sup> October 1820

The entry follows that of the baptism of their daughter Anna three month earlier. There were four further children: Philip and George James - 1852, William Potter - 1855 and Edith Jane - 1865. A picture of Philip and Caroline's youngest son, showing a smartly dressed young man with well-brushed hair and bushy beard appears on an *Ancestry* tree.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, Eye, RG 9/1150

<sup>21</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, Eye, RG 10/1737

<sup>22</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Holbrook, HO 107/1798

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal* 23.5.1868

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal* 13.10.1877

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal* 26.10.1875

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal* 21.11.1882

<sup>27</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Rishangles, RG 12/1458

<sup>28</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar



**William Potter Harris – son of Philip**

In 1867 Caroline died and four years later in Woodbridge Philip married Eliza Smith; he went on to have a further seven children: Leah, Duncan, Donald, Mary, Effie, Algernon and Jemima – all born between 1873 and 1896. Philip farmed all his life at Grundisburgh – a farm of around 270 acres, employing between six and 10 men and an assorted number of boys. When Philip – retired farmer – died at Grundisburgh on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1897, probate was granted to his widow Eliza with effects of £2,060 8/6<sup>29</sup>.

Joseph and Ann's last child was named Ann after her mother and was born about 1827. In 1851<sup>30</sup> she was living as an annuitant with her widowed mother in Grundisburgh. Later that year, on 9<sup>th</sup> December, she married Robert Harris in her home parish:

Robert Harris of Hasketon bachelor of full age, Farmer, son of  
Robert Harris Farmer  
Ann Harris of full age spinster daughter of Joseph Harris Farmer  
Witnesses: Robert Harris, John Harris, Martha Harris, Agnes  
Harris, Philip Harris

All of the witnesses can be identified as belonging to the extended family: Robert would be her new father-in-law, and John and Philip her brothers; Martha was her new sister-in-law, and Agnes presumably her young niece, daughter of her brother John. The rest of Ann's story will be followed later.

Joseph<sup>1</sup> Harris only lived long enough to appear in one census return, in 1841<sup>31</sup>, where he was recorded as a farmer. Relationships weren't given in 1841 and dates were usually rounded down, but in this instance, they are remarkably precise as Joseph's given age of 68 years fits perfectly with the age given in his obituary a year later. With him in the 1841 household were Ann Harris aged 58, with an N in

<sup>29</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

<sup>30</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Grundisburgh, HO 107 1801

<sup>31</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 census, Grundisburgh, HO 107/1020/8

the final column showing her not to have been born in the county. Philip aged 20 was still living at home and there were two other people in the household – Fanny, whom we have already mentioned (George's daughter) and 71 year old Thomas Harris, listed as independent and born in Suffolk. It seems likely that he may have been Joseph<sup>1</sup>'s brother, but proof is lacking.

Joseph<sup>1</sup> appeared several times in the local paper, *The Ipswich Journal*, as a member of the Grundisburgh Association<sup>32</sup>, whose meetings were held at *The Dog Inn*, and was dedicated to:

prosecuting persons guilty of felony, robbery etc.

and which gave notice on more than one occasion of its intention to give a reward of five guineas for the apprehension of any horse stealer and one guinea to anyone involved in the capture of:

offenders committing any other felony or larceny whatsoever, upon the persons or properties of any of the undermentioned subscribers...



**The Dog Inn, Grundisburgh**

His concern with law and order may stem from an incident in 1801<sup>33</sup> when his house was burgled:

Wednesday Jeremiah Harvey was committed to our New Gaol by the Right Hon. John Lord Chedworth, charged on the oath of John Thompson

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 31.1.1801; 15.6.1805; 18.6.1808; 22.6.1811; 1.2.1812; 12.6.1819; 13.5.1826

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 17.1.1801

of Culpho, and others, with breaking into the dwellinghouse of the said John Thompson, and stealing therefrom 4 pieces of pickled pork. He also stands charged with entering the dwellinghouse of Joseph Harris, of Grundisburgh, and stealing from thence 3 pieces of pickled pork, 3 pieces of cheese and one piece of butter

Unfortunately, the Grundisburgh Association wasn't as effective as its members hoped, as in 1825<sup>34</sup> his house was broken into again:

#### TWENTY POUNDS REWARD

Whereas on Sunday night last or early on Monday morning, some Person or Persons did break into the dwelling-house of Mr. JOSEPH HARRIS of Grundisburgh, and force open the bureau, and steal thereout Eleven Pound Notes, also a Hat lying thereon. Any person giving information may lead to the discovery of the offender or offenders so that they may be lawfully convicted thereof, shall receive the above reward from the said Joseph Harris.

Joseph<sup>1</sup> took on the role of the parish overseer<sup>35</sup> for Grundisburgh in 1832. This involved looking after the funds raised for the poor from parochial rates and listing disbursements and distributions of clothing to needy parishioners. In the same year he cast his vote in the election in Woodbridge District<sup>36</sup>, as he had done two years previously, and again in 1835. In 1839 he signed a petition requesting that the Ipswich cattle market be held on Tuesdays rather than Saturdays<sup>37</sup>. No reason is given other than convenience, but there are numerous signatories from all the local parishes and as far away as London in favour of this change.

He died on 4th November 1842, the event being recorded as follows in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>38</sup>:

4<sup>th</sup> inst., in the 70th year of his age, much respected, Mr. Joseph Harris of the Grundisburgh Hall Farm.

### Potter, Fordham and Lawrence of Coggeshall

Ann Harris, née Potter, outlived her husband by over 20 years. Her death in January 1864<sup>39</sup> was announced in the local paper:

Harris. - 17<sup>th</sup> inst., at Grundisburgh, in the 82nd year of her age, Ann, relict of Mr Joseph Harris, farmer of that place.

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 8.10.1825

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/> SRO, FC/33/G1/1

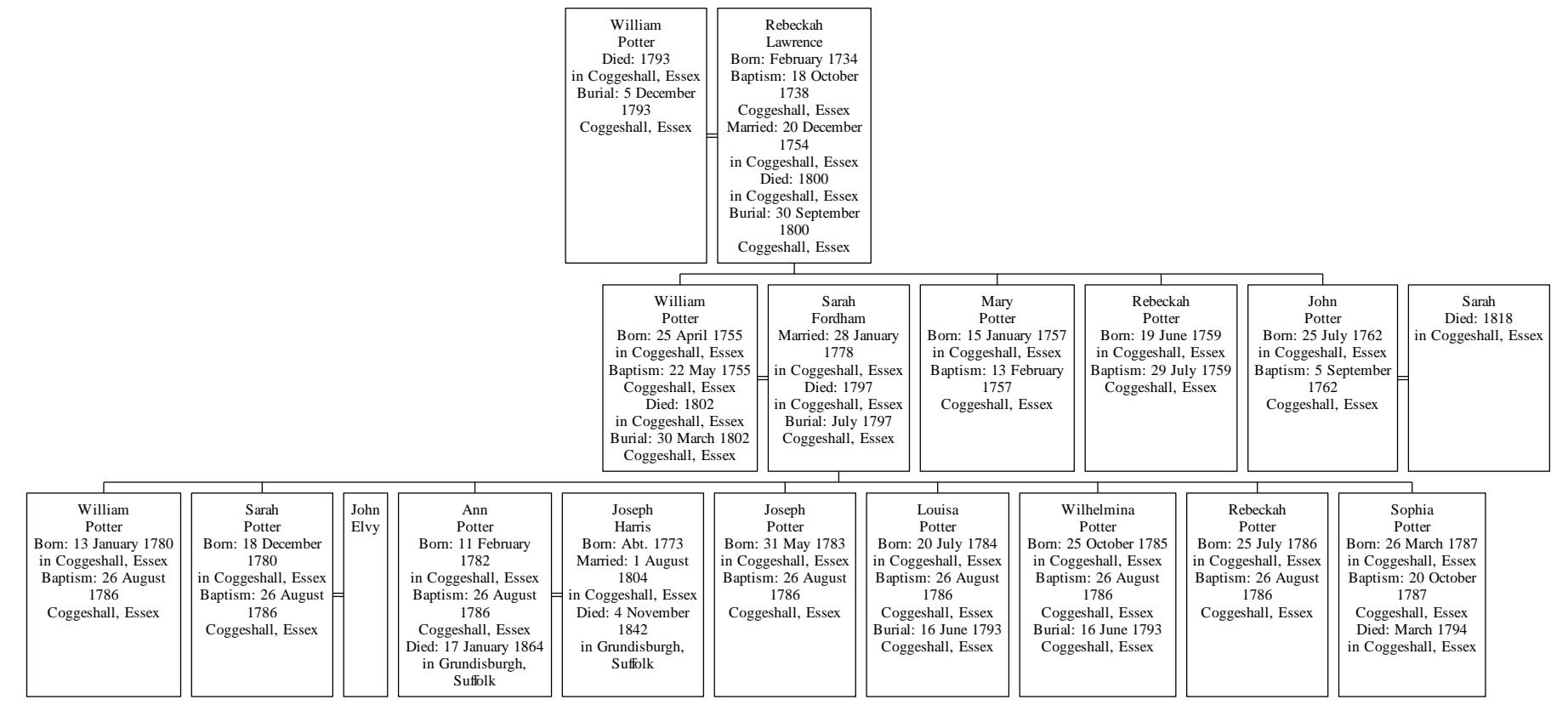
<sup>36</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> UK Poll Books and Electoral Registers

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 24.8.1839

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 12.11.1842

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 23.1.1864

*Tree 3 - Descendants of William and Rebeckah Potter*



Presumably, she had continued farming for a time at least after her husband's death, as the 1851 census<sup>40</sup> shows her living on the Ipswich Road in Grundisburgh, with her daughter Ann and a servant, and describing herself as 'farmer's widow retired'. Importantly, this census also gives her place of birth – Coggeshall in Essex.

The Coggeshall register shows Ann to have been born on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1782 and baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1786, along with siblings William, Sarah, Joseph, Louisa, Wilhelmina and Rebekah (see tree 3 - page 17). William and Sarah had both been born in 1780, one on 13<sup>th</sup> January one on 18<sup>th</sup> December, and her younger siblings were born on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1783, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1784, 25<sup>th</sup> October 1785 and 25<sup>th</sup> July 1786. Perhaps, with births so close together, it is not surprising that her parents, William and Sarah Potter, waited until the family seemed complete to have them christened. However, only a year later, another daughter arrived, Sophia – born 26<sup>th</sup> March 1787 and baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> October the same year. There was another child, possibly stillborn, who was buried on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1794. This was not William and Sarah's only loss: Louisa and Wilhelmina were both buried on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1793 and Sophia followed her sisters in March 1794.

William married Sarah Fordham at Coggeshall on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1778 by a licence taken out on the same day:

The 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 1778 on which day appeared personally William Potter and made oath that he is of the parish of Great Coggeshall in the County of Essex aged upwards of 21 years a bachelor and intending to intermarry with Sarah Fordham of the parish of great Coggeshall in the County of Essex and upwards of 21 years a spinster

The licence also makes it clear that this is the parish where they had been living for at least the previous four weeks, and states that they were bachelor and spinster respectively. The wording of the licence also implies a date of birth for Sarah sometime before 1757. I have not been able to find a baptism for Sarah but it seems likely that she was either the sister or cousin of the John Fordham who witnessed her marriage. Two Coggeshall John Fordhams were clockmakers, supposedly with links to a family of clockmakers based in Great Dunmow and Braintree, though this is unproven. The Fordhams seem to have had a good reputation, with examples of their work on show at the Great Dunmow Museum<sup>41</sup>, and even in the Metropolitan Museum of Art<sup>42</sup>, which has a mahogany bracket clock made in 1755 by one of the John Fordhams (see page 19). Baillie<sup>43</sup> only notes one John Fordham in his book *Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World* and this is the John who died in Coggeshall

<sup>40</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Grundisburgh, H0 107/1801

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.greatdunmowmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions.php>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.metmuseum.org/collections/search-the-collections?what=Wood%7CClocks&pg=1>

Bracket clock 1755, John Fordham, accession no. 64.101.869

<sup>43</sup> *Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World*, GH Bailie, 1963, London, NAG Press, Ltd

in 1784. According to Clive Osbourne<sup>44</sup>, there were three John Fordhams worthy of note. The first was at Dunmow, and apparently working between 1702 and 21; the second was at Coggeshall - Osbourne gives him the dates 1773 to 84; and the third, also at Coggeshall was said to be working between 1784 and 93. Osbourne says that these two were uncle and nephew but unfortunately doesn't give any proof of this. None of these three fits the date of the clock illustrated below; however it seems unlikely that this was a work of the Dunmow John Fordham as an end date for operations is much easier to verify than the start date. It seems possible, therefore, that the clock shown was an early creation of the first John Fordham of Coggeshall.



A John Fordham clock

Without a baptism, it is impossible to be sure that the Sarah Fordham who married William Potter was connected to this family, but Sarah's marriage in 1788 and the older John Fordham's burial on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1784 are the only references to the name I have found in the Coggeshall register before 1800 and the fact that William Potter was involved in winding up the estate of John Fordham clockmaker is strongly suggestive of a link. Unfortunately, John Fordham did not make a will, but an administration of his estate survives, dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1784, and binding:

Elizabeth Fordham of the parish of Great Coggeshall in the county of Essex widow, John Fordham of Great Coggeshall aforesaid Ironmonger and William Potter the younger of Great Coggeshall aforesaid Gentleman

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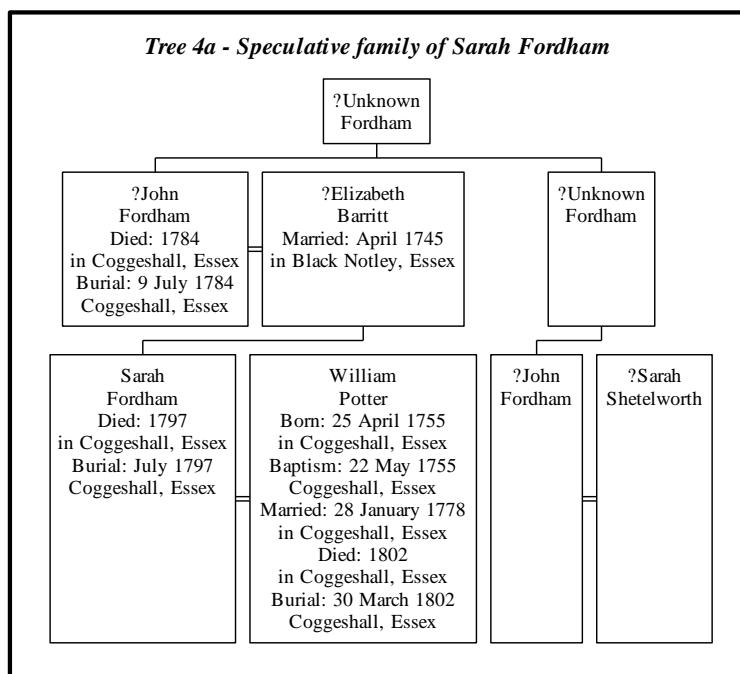
<sup>44</sup> ERO, *Essex Clock and Watchmakers* Researched by Clive Osbourne, Compiled and edited by James Heaps

to administer the estate. William Potter signed himself 'W<sup>m</sup> Potter Junr', i.e. Sarah's husband rather than her father-in-law, and Elizabeth declared herself to be the widow of the deceased John Fordham.

It is most unlikely that an attorney would be engaged to help settle an estate when administration was clearly straightforward and the deceased's goods and chattels did not exceed £300. So it seems most probable that William Potter was supporting a relative, possibly mother-in-law, possibly Aunt. A marriage between John Fordham, Yeoman of Braintree, and Elizabeth Barritt spinster of Coggeshall which took place at Black Notley (mid-way between Braintree and Coggeshall) in April 1745 adds another piece to the jigsaw, perhaps, and it seems probable that the couple returned to the bride's home town later, especially as John Fordham appears in a 1784 directory<sup>45</sup> as:

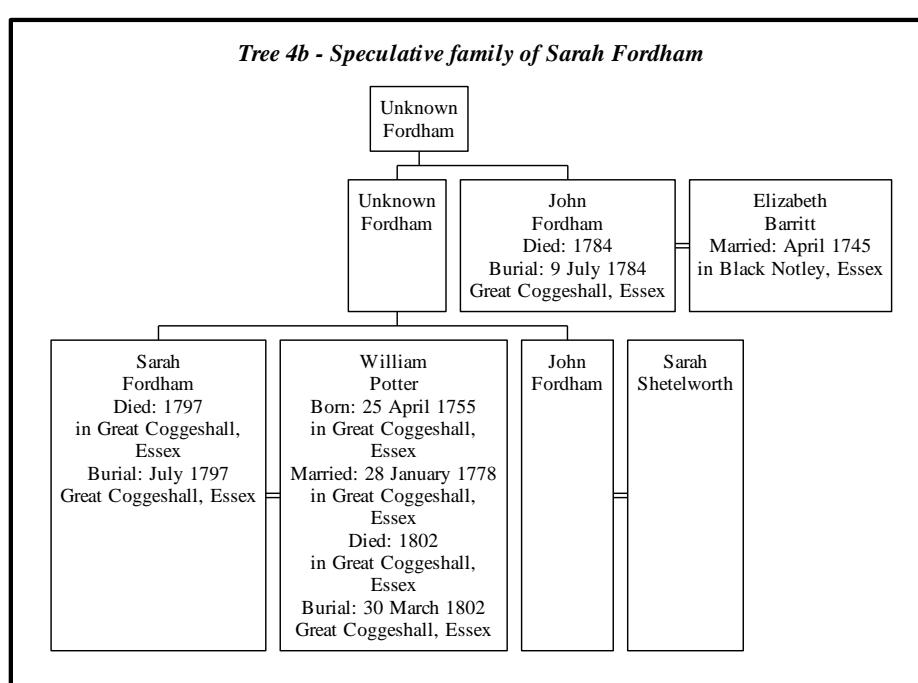
John Fordham, clockmaker, Coggeshall, Essex.

18th century directories tended to be anything up to two years out of date, so this is almost certainly the John who died in the same year and was buried at Coggeshall on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1784. What is much less clear is his relationship to Sarah (see trees 4a and b - page 20 and 21). The options, I believe, are that John and Elizabeth were Sarah's parents, and that the second John (iron monger in the administration, but presumably took over his uncle's clock-making business - a logical and not unheard of change of occupation) was Sarah's cousin; or, that the second John and Sarah were siblings. Either way, she was obviously connected to a well-known family of clockmakers.



<sup>45</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> UK and US Directories 1680-1830

The John Fordham who appears in the apprentice duty records as a clock and watchmaker in 1787<sup>46</sup> must have been the younger one. According to the will of Henry Shetelworth<sup>47</sup> of Great Coggeshall, in 1803, the younger John was married to his daughter Sarah and occupied premises in Church Street/Market End. Given that names and trades frequently pass from father to son, it also seems possible that the John Fordham of Great Dunmow, clockmaker, who paid duty<sup>48</sup> for an apprentice in 1716, was the middle John's father, though no baptism has come to light. However, until proof positive is found, this remains speculation, especially as Osborne notes another clockmaker, Joseph Fordham of Braintree, with dates of 1700 to 1770, who could also have been John's father. He lists two other clockmakers in the area, namely James Fordham of Dunmow – 1793, and Thomas Fordham of Braintree – 1779 to 1832.



Sarah herself died in 1797 and was buried at Coggeshall sometime in July 1797 – the register is hard to read - probably between 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

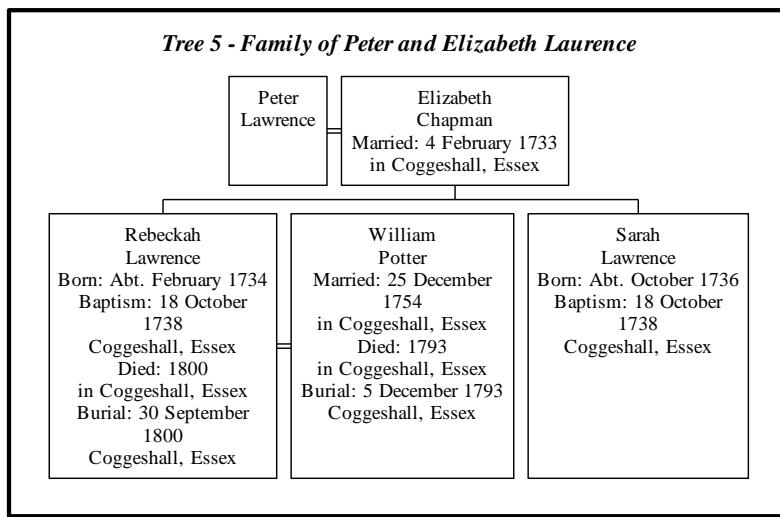
To return to Sarah's husband, William Potter: he was born on 25<sup>th</sup> April and baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1755, as recorded in the Coggeshall register. His parents were another William Potter and his wife Rebeckah Laurence who had married at Coggeshall on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1754. They had three other children: Mary (born 13<sup>th</sup> January and baptised 13<sup>th</sup> February 1757), Rebeckah (born 14<sup>th</sup> June and baptised 29<sup>th</sup> July 1759) and John (born 26<sup>th</sup> July and baptised 5<sup>th</sup> September 1762). Rebeckah's own baptism, along with that of her sister Sarah, took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1738 at Coggeshall; Rebeckah was aged four years eight months and her parents' names were given as Peter and Elizabeth Lawrence (see tree 5 – page 22). This couple married

<sup>46</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice Indentures

<sup>47</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~maureenbryson/coggwlls.htm>

<sup>48</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice Indentures

at Coggeshall on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1733: the bride's surname was Chapman. William Potter senior died in 1793 and his burial took place at Coggeshall on 5<sup>th</sup> December; his wife Rebeckah followed him on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1800.



The Coggeshall registers only show one Potter family using the Christian name William in this period, so it seems likely that a number of articles in the *Chelmsford Chronicle* referring to William Potter, attorney at law, refer to Ann's father. Three articles name a William Potter Jnr, demonstrating that the person in question had a father of the same name, further strengthening the likelihood that this is the father and son described above. The first item, on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1784<sup>49</sup>, is an advert for the sale of the farm in which interested parties are told:

For further particulars enquire of William Potter, jun. attorney at law,  
at Great Coggeshall.

This item appeared in a number of issues of the paper.

The following year William Potter put another announcement into the paper<sup>50</sup>:

4<sup>th</sup> January, 1785

All persons indebted to the estate of John Fordham, late of Great Coggeshall, in the County of Essex, clockmaker, deceased, are hereby required to pay the same immediately, to William Potter, attorney at Law, at Great Coggeshall aforesaid, or they will be proceeded against for the recovery thereof as the law directs, without any further notice.

This would seem to be the follow-on from the letters of administration taken out the previous year.

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> Chelmsford Chronicle, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1784

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> Chelmsford Chronicle, 7<sup>th</sup> January 1785

In his capacity as an attorney William Potter Jnr took on:

Thomas Andrews the younger of Great Coggeshall co. Essex

as an articled clerk on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1791 and paid duty for his apprenticeship indentures on 3<sup>rd</sup> May that year<sup>51</sup>. His name, unsurprisingly, also appears as a witness on a number of local wills<sup>52</sup>, once alongside his presumed cousin or brother-in-law – John Fordham. There are some wills before his father's death in 1793 where both Williams act as witness, then a period where it is just William Potter, then a 'jnr' appears again, presumably his son, whom he took on as a clerk<sup>53</sup> in 1796:

William Potter the younger of Great Coggeshall, Essex:

Will<sup>m</sup> Potter the elder of the same place:

[proved] Sam<sup>l</sup> Rouse: 9<sup>th</sup> September 1796: 5 years:

[sworn] 13<sup>th</sup> September 1796: [filed] 30<sup>th</sup> September.

It therefore seems likely that all three Williams were attorneys.

William Potter appeared in the Land Tax records<sup>54</sup> paying tax in Great and Little Coggeshall in 1799: £5 4/- on land he owned but occupied by himself and others in Great Coggeshall and £1 12/- on land he owned and occupied in Little Coggeshall. He also left something of a paper trail in the archives, being party to a deed dealing with Toothill or Riddlesbys Farm<sup>55</sup> with lands of about 80 acres in Halsted; taking part in a Final Concord<sup>56</sup> in 1785 in a deal involving six messuages, the same number of barns, stables, gardens and orchards, 50 acres of Meadow and 50 of pasture, fresh and salt marsh in Foulness, Shopland, Great and Little Wakering, North Shoebury and Rochford, and involving himself as a trustee in two local charities<sup>57</sup> – Thomas Guyon's and Jane Gooday's.

His will<sup>58</sup>, written on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1802 and proved a month later, shows how well he had done for himself. He described himself as a gentleman, as he did his son William, before detailing a considerable estate. This consisted of a half share in the right to the rectories and parsonages of Great and Little Coggeshall, with the vicarage, advowson (that is the right to appoint the vicar), glebe lands, tithes etc. and a half share in a capital messuage called High Hall Farm in Tollesbury, along with a half share of woodland called High Hall Wood, also in Tollesbury. In addition, he named a parcel of woodland called Glazen Wood in Bradwell next Coggeshall, in his own occupation, so presumably the land he paid tax on. He also named the Great

<sup>51</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, Articles of Clerkship & Register of Duties Paid for Apprentice Indentures

<sup>52</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~maureenbryson/coggwlls.htm>

<sup>53</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Articles of Clerkship

<sup>54</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Land Tax Redemption 1798

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/> ERO, D/DQ 41/147

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/> ERO, D/DGs T178

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/> ERO, DP 36/25/4 & DP 36/25/11

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> TNA, Prob 11/1373, Will of William Potter, Great Coggeshall, 1802

Wood and the Little Wood in Messing and a half share in a cottage and a piece of land in Inworth. Many of these items had clearly been purchased by him, and he directed his executors to sell them for the best price possible and add the money to his personal estate. He then went on to describe, and bequeath to his son William:

... all that my messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell and by me lately erected and built and also all that my messuage and tenement and inn commonly called the Chappell Inn together with the malt office cottages stables outhouses buildings yard garden orchard lands meadows pastures hereditaments and premises to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining commonly called or known by the name of the Chappell Estate in Crouches and Hart Field...



**The Chapel Inn Coggeshall**

The house has not been identified, but the Chapel Inn still stands in Coggeshall. The list continued with the house in which he used to live in Chapel Yard in Great Coggeshall. This was also bequeathed to his son William along with:

all and every my household goods and furniture watch and seals plate linen books wine beer and china that maybe my dwelling house at the time of my decease except the bed bedstead and furniture that may be in the lower room at the time of my decease which I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Potter to and for her own proper use and behoof also I give and bequeath to my said son William Potter my cart and horses and the firewood and coal that I may have by me at the time of my decease and for his own proper use and behoof

This is the first reference in the will to his daughter Ann. She was no doubt a good catch for Joseph Harris, for - as well as the furniture already bequeathed - she was

willed £600 in cash, half to be paid when she was 21 and the other half when she was 23.

Two other surviving children were named: Sarah - now married to farmer John Elvy of Feering - who was willed £400, and Joseph - who was to receive £1,000. Each was to be paid the interest while the money was invested during their minority. A friend, Ezekiel Wood, was to be joint executor with his son William and the will was witnessed by John Durrant, Thomas Howell, and his brother-in-law John Fordham. There was no mention of his wife Sarah, who had died five years previously, and been buried at Coggeshall between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July 1797. William Potter was also buried there - on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1802, two years before his daughter Ann married Joseph Harris.

### John Harris of Grundisburgh

The only proof of the date of John Harris' birth I have found comes from *The Visitation of England and Wales*<sup>59</sup>, which gives it as 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1811, according well the age given on the census returns, and fitting nicely between the births of George and Philip - other sons of Joseph and Ann (see tree 6 - page 27).



Grundisburgh Chapel

In 1841<sup>60</sup> he was already established as a farmer in Grundisburgh, and enumerated with Mary Ann, Agnes and Esther Harris. The former was his wife,

<sup>59</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> *The Visitation of England and Wales*, vol XI, ed.Joseph Jackson Howard, 1893-1906

<sup>60</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 census, Grundisburgh, HO 107/1020/8

Mary Ann Hunt, whom he had married in the latter part of 1837<sup>61</sup>; the marriage was registered in the Woodbridge registration district in the first quarter of 1838 but took place the year before at the Grundisburgh Chapel. Agnes was born in the same year and Esther in 1840. By 1851<sup>62</sup>, Joseph had joined the family (born in 1846) though Agnes seems to have been away from home on census night. John was living in Grundisburgh:

Near Bonds Corner

and described himself as:

Farmer of 178 acres employing 8 Ag. Lab and 2 boys



### **Poplar Farm near Bond's Corner**

His wife gave her place of birth as nearby Culpho. A female house servant and two male agricultural servants completed the household.

In 1854, John made his first appearance in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>63</sup> as one of a long list of subscribers to a fund for building a parsonage. Along with his brother-in-law, Mr W. Hunt of Culpho, John contributed 5/- in aid of:

Brightwell and Foxhall cum Kesgrave

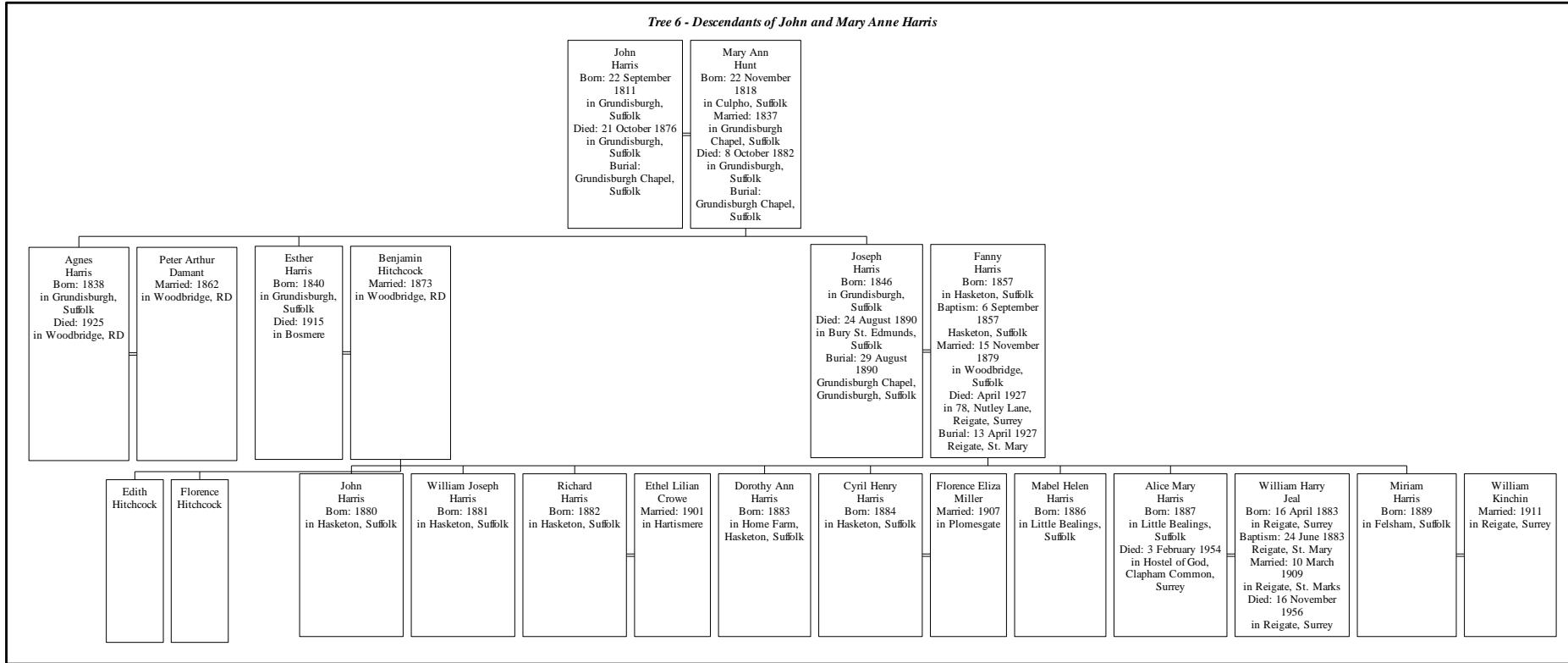
These parishes contain a population of 335 souls: they have never had a resident clergyman... [so the fund is raising money] to aid in building a Parsonage-house

<sup>61</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> *The Visitation of England and Wales*, vol XI, ed. Joseph Jackson Howard, 1893-1906

<sup>62</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Grundisburgh, HO 107/1801

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 1.7.1854

### *Tree 6 - Descendants of John and Mary Anne Harris*



At the time of the 1861 census<sup>64</sup> John had either sold one acre or recalculated, as he was described as:

Farmer of 177 acres employing 6 men and 3 boys

His age was given as 49 and Mary Ann's as 41. The two girls – described as farmer's daughters, now aged 22 and 20, were still at home, as was Joseph, aged 14, farmer's son. Two servants, a carter and a ploughman, completed the household.

Later that year, the owner put the freehold of the farm up for sale<sup>65</sup>, but I imagine John, as tenant, stayed put:

#### IPSWICH AND HADLEY, SUFFOLK

Mr Marsh will sell by auction, at the market, opposite the Bank of England, on Thursday, May 16th, at One o'clock punctually, in two lots, desirable FREEHOLD ESTATES: [one] comprising an exceedingly compact and valuable Freehold Farm of 178 Acres of sound useful Land, in a high state of cultivation, with a convenient Homestead and all requisite agricultural buildings, situate in the parishes of Grundisburgh and Clopton, about 5 miles from the capital market towns of Ipswich, Stowmarket, and Woodbridge, in the occupation of Mr John Harris...

He appears to have moved up in the world, however, as, in 1871<sup>66</sup> he describes himself as:

Farmer of 421 acres employing 13 men and 2 boys

At least part of this acreage must have been Poplar Farm, which, as it was later put up for sale by his executors, he must have bought. As he was enumerated in Grundisburgh, though, and Poplar Farm is partly in Clopton, it is hard to know whether 'near Bond's Corner' and 'Poplar Farm' refer to the same property. Mary Ann and the three children were also in the household, and there were now a dairymaid and a male farm servant living with the family.

This, though, was John's swan-song, as he died 5 years later, on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1876, and was laid to rest in the burial ground at Grundisburgh Chapel. His will was proved on 23<sup>rd</sup> November of that year<sup>67</sup> by his widow, Mary Ann, his son Joseph, and his son-in-law, Peter Arthur Damant. Effects were noted as under £3,000.

The will<sup>68</sup>, drawn up on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1869, is wordy in the extreme, and mostly concerned with allowing his wife Mary Ann to continue to farm his land, and setting up an annuity of £100 for her in the event of her remarriage. However, it

<sup>64</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, Grundisburgh, RG 9/1167

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 11.5.1861

<sup>66</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1871 census, Grundisburgh, RG10/1757

<sup>67</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, National Probate Calendar

<sup>68</sup> SRO, IC/AA2/146/456, Will of John Harris of Grundisburgh, 1876

details John's many holdings and shows how he has extended and husbanded his property over the years. To begin with, he devised:

all that my freehold messuage farm lands and hereditaments with the appurtenances lying and being in Grundisburgh aforesaid and Clopton in the said County, (which I purchased of Frederick Bacon Frank esquire) and now in my own occupation and all such beneficial estate term and interest as I may have at my death in the farm lands and tenements I now hold and occupy at Swilland in the said County under a lease from Miss Ward unto and to the use of my dear wife Mary Ann Harris during her widowhood my son Joseph Harris and my son-in-law Peter Arthur Damant of Witnesham

for them to hold in trust so that Mary Ann could continue to farm them. He also allowed her the use, though not the ownership, of all his farming stock and implements so that she could keep the business going, with the proviso that the land was to be sold after her death – though son Joseph could buy it out of his inheritance if he wished, and Mary Ann retained the right to sell up if she wished. Mary Ann was also to receive £100 in cash. Should she choose to remarry, money was to be set aside to pay her an annuity of £100. The will also makes it clear that John had property in Clopton and Otley parishes:

all that my freehold messuage farm lands and hereditaments with the appurtenances lying and being in Clopton aforesaid and Otley in the said county which I purchased of John Page Steel part whereof was then freehold and part copy hold and since enfranchised and now in my own occupation

He also mentions property in Peasenhall, about 20 miles away by road

and also all those four freehold cottages or tenements with the yards gardens and appurtenances thereunto respectively belonging situate in Peasenhall in the said County of Suffolk which were left me by Joseph Harris my father and now occupied by William Newby and others

which begs the question that, if Joseph could leave John 4 cottages, how much else did he own, as presumably his other children would have also inherited something, and John wasn't the eldest surviving son. Everything he owned was to be sold ultimately, and placed in trust to be equally shared by his three children: Joseph, Agnes and Esther, with the proviso that their shares were to go to their heirs should they die before inheriting. There was also a clause allowing for any sums forwarded to one of his children during John's lifetime to be taken out of that child's portion when his residual estate was finally shared out.

Agnes Harris married the above-mentioned Peter Arthur Damant in the Woodbridge registration district in 1862. She spent most of her adult life farming with him in Witnesham, but returned to her native Grundisburgh as a widow, and died in 1925. She appears never to have had children. Esther Harris married farmer Benjamin Hitchcock in the Woodbridge registration district in 1873, and moved with

him to Creeting, where she had two daughters, Edith and Florence, who were still living with their parents in their 30s. Esther's death was registered in the Bosmere district in 1915.

Mary Ann did continue to farm. In 1881<sup>69</sup> she described herself as a farmer of 178 acres, living alone apart from a female servant, Martha Sullivan from London. She died on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1882 and was buried in the graveyard at Grundisburgh Chapel, alongside her husband John. What seems to be their memorial is still there, though so badly eroded it is impossible to pick out more than John and Mary Ann's names.



### **Grave of John and Mary Ann Harris - Grundisburgh Chapel**

After Mary Ann's death, in accordance with the instructions in the will, John's executors put Poplar Farm up for sale. A number of advertisements appeared in the local press<sup>70</sup>, firstly for the farm:

HIGHLY DESIRABLE ESTATE  
KNOWN AS  
THE POPLAR FARM

Situate in a good corn growing district, comprising a comfortable FARM HOUSE, convenient Agricultural Buildings, and 180 acres 1 rood 36 perches of capital Arable and fine Pasture LAND, bounded and intersected by good roads, and now in the occupation of the Executors of the late Mr. JOHN HARRIS. ALFRED PRESTON Is favoured with instructions to SELL by AUCTION at the Bull Hotel, Woodbridge, on Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 1883, at Three o'clock precisely, the above valuable FREEHOLD ESTATE, with possession at Michaelmas next.

<sup>69</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Grundisburgh, RG 11/1879

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> The Ipswich Journal, 30.6.1883

In August<sup>71</sup> the stock went on sale, finally ending the association between the Harris family and Poplar Farm:

On Wednesday, October 3rd,  
POPLAR FARM,  
Grundisburgh, near Woodbridge,  
THE FARMING STOCK, by direction of the  
Executors of Mr. JOHN HARRIS.

### Hunt of Culpho, co. of Suffolk

Mary Anne Hunt was born at Culpho on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1818 (See tree 7 - page 33). Coming as she did from a Baptist family, she was not christened as an infant. However, a record of her birth<sup>72</sup> does exist:

These are to certify, That Mary Anne Hunt  
daughter of Wright Hunt  
and Anne Hunt his Wife, who was the daughter of  
John and Anne Finch was born  
in the parish of Culpho in the County  
of Suffolk on the twenty second Day of  
November in the year one thousand eight hundred  
and eighteen

The signature of Wright Hunt<sup>2</sup> appears under the statement:

We do certify the above named is our daughter and was born at the time  
and place above-mentioned

The document was registered at the Baptist Meeting House in Grundisburgh on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1837, maybe as a prelude to her marriage. It is a pity that no similar document survives for her husband John Harris.

Mary Ann presumably remained a staunch Baptist all her life. In 1872 *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>73</sup> gave a lively account of a tea and entertainment given at the Baptist Chapel:

#### TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT

On Monday last a tea and entertainment (as described by bills distributed) took place at the Meeting-house in this parish. The time fixed for the tea was five o'clock, and shortly after that time Grace was sung, and about 200 persons seated in pews were regaled with tea, bread-and-butter, rusks, and cakes of various sorts to suit the different tastes. The ladies

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 25.8.1883

<sup>72</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> TNA, RG 4/17

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 8.2.1872

who presided at the tea tables were Mrs. Harris of Bond's Corner; Mrs Hunt, of Culpho; Mrs Ablitt, of Grundisburgh; and Mrs Hildyard, of Woodbridge. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Miss E. Harris and Mr. Joseph Harris for the indefatigable manner in which they exerted themselves for the comfort of all...

Miss E. Harris was presumably Joseph's sister Esther.

Mary Anne Harris née Hunt died in on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1882<sup>74</sup>:

after a long and painful suffering, aged 63 years

Her parents, Wright Hunt<sup>2</sup> and Anne Finch, had married by licence at Culpho on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1817. There were seven children from this marriage, including MaryAnn, and all the births were registered at the Baptist Chapel in Grundisburgh. After MaryAnn came William, born 17<sup>th</sup> February 1821. He married Sarah Watkins in 1849 and by 1881<sup>75</sup> was running a farm of 3,100 acres employing 95 men and 31 boys. No wonder that when probate<sup>76</sup> was granted on his estate on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1890 (following his death on 27<sup>th</sup> August that year) his estate was valued at £15,452 2/8. A detailed obituary in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>77</sup> also gives interesting insights into the family as a whole:

... at the early age of 17 he had practically taken over the complete control of the farm of his father Mr. Wright Hunt, at Culpho, which then consisted of 150 acres, and this was still [his] residence at the time of his death. The house is indeed almost traditionally connected with the name of the family. For quite 140 years it had been in the hands of the Hunts, and probably for much longer.

Next came Wright<sup>3</sup>, born 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1823. He never married, but the 1861 census<sup>78</sup> showed him farming a spread of 370 acres at High House in Hemley, sharing his home with his mother Ann, brother Joseph and sister Sarah. He died on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1869; probate<sup>79</sup> was granted on 12<sup>th</sup> August, with an estate valued at a more modest £5,000! The next child was Samuel Ling, the name being a nod to his paternal grandmother's family. He was born on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1825, married Sarah Denny in 1848 and settled in Kings Lynn in Norfolk, where he undertook the dual occupation of master woollen draper and farmer<sup>80</sup>. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1885, leaving an estate<sup>81</sup> worth £7,420 3/6.

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<sup>74</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 14.10.1882

<sup>75</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Culpho, RG 11/1879

<sup>76</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, National Probate Calendar

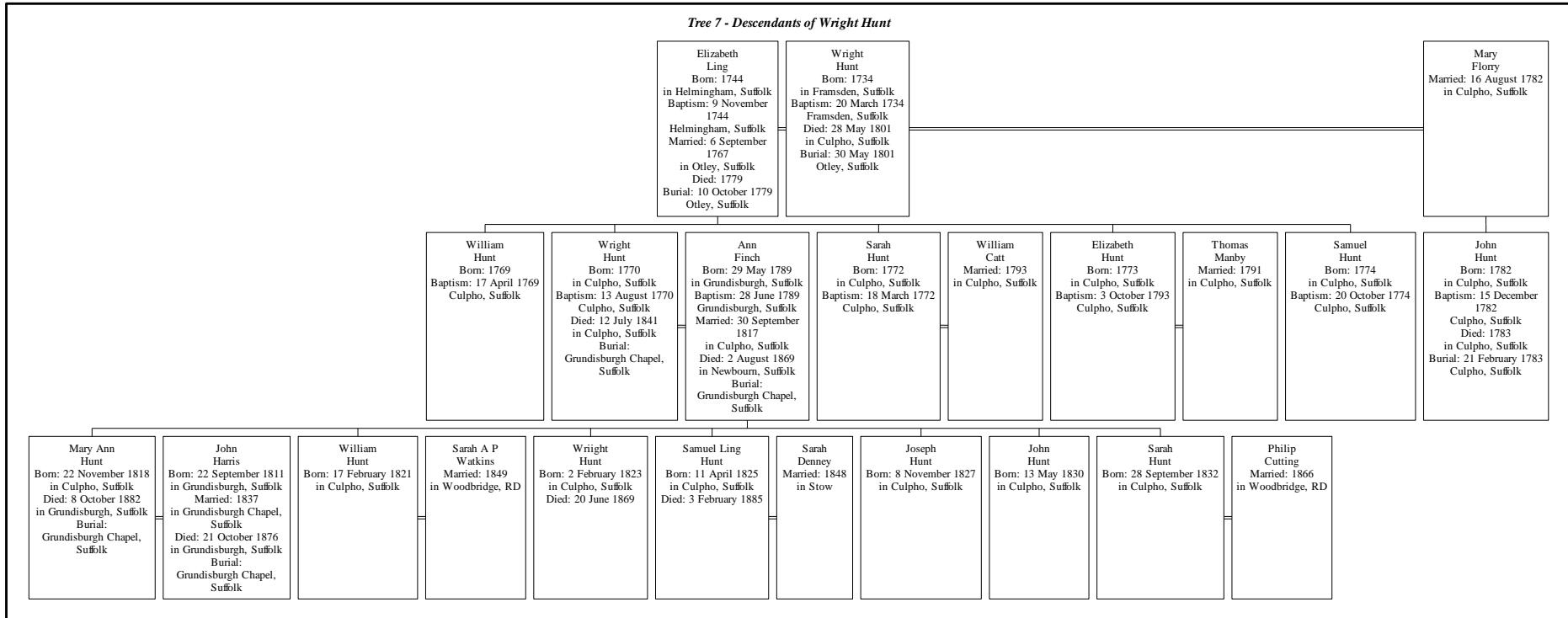
<sup>77</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 30.8.1890

<sup>78</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, Hemley, RG 9/1168

<sup>79</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

<sup>80</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1871 census, Kings Lynn, RG 10/1864

<sup>81</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar



His brother Joseph, born on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1827, also became a draper, and was one of the executors of his brother Wright<sup>3</sup>'s will. Joseph married Georgiana Baldwin in 1868 in the Ipswich registration district but then moved south, to Canterbury, where he was still being recorded as a draper, aged 83, in 1911<sup>82</sup>. According to *The Visitation*, he was also JP for Canterbury. He died on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1914, at The Pynes, Canterbury, and when probate was granted to his widow a month later his estate was found to have outdone his eldest brother's and was valued at over £24,000.

John Hunt, Wright<sup>2</sup> and Ann's youngest son, was born on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1830 and married Sarah Elizabeth Jones at Ipswich in 1861. In 1871<sup>83</sup> he gave his occupation as woollen draper and farmer of 300 acres; 10 years later he was calling himself a tailor<sup>84</sup> but by 1891<sup>85</sup> was listed as a commission agent. The youngest child in the family was another girl, named Sarah and born on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1832. She married local farmer Philip Cutting in 1866. In 1881<sup>86</sup> their farm at Otley ran to 300 acres. He died in 1890 but Sarah lived on until 1909.

Little is known about Ann Finch and her family; she was the daughter of John Finch and Ann Gooden or Goodwin, and was baptised in the parish church at Grundisburgh on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1789. A brother, named John, was baptised there on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1785. After her husband's death, she went to live at Hemley<sup>87</sup>, with her son Wright<sup>3</sup>; her death was recorded at nearby Newbourne on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1869. Administration<sup>88</sup> was granted on her estate on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1870 showing effects of under £450.

Wright Hunt<sup>2</sup> began life as a member of the Church of England and was baptised as the son of another Wright Hunt<sup>1</sup> and his wife Elizabeth at Culpho on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1770. He married late in life – more than 20 years after his sisters. It is possible that an earlier marriage from which there were no children has not come to light, or he may simply have been consolidating his position as a farmer. Whatever the reason, when he and Anne Finch married by licence at Culpho on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1817, he was 47 to her 28. Their youngest child, Sarah, would only have been eight when her father died aged 71.

As he shared his father's name, it is difficult to tell sometimes whether items in the local paper refer to him or his father. At any rate, the name first appears in 1793<sup>89</sup>:

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<sup>82</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Canterbury, RG 14/4326

<sup>83</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1871 census, Ipswich, RG 10/1756

<sup>84</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Ipswich, RG 11/ 1870

<sup>85</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Ipswich, RG 12/1467

<sup>86</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Otley, RG 11/1879

<sup>87</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Hemley, HO 107/1801

<sup>88</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal* 13.4.1793

To COVER this SEASON  
that well-bred Chestnut CART HORSE, the property of WRIGHT  
HUNT, of Culpho, at 10s.6d.each mare, the money to be paid at  
covering or at Midsummer; trials free till Old Midsummer.

The advert continues by describing the horse [see below], giving his parentage and explaining where the horse can be found and when. The horse's services were offered at half price for mares which had been covered unsuccessfully the season before! Three years later he put the horse up for sale<sup>90</sup>:

To be SOLD  
A Chesnut CART STALLION, full 16 hands high, rising seven years old,  
short back and leg, and full of bone; remarkably strong, quiet and  
good-tempered; allowed to be one of the surest and best colt getters in  
Suffolk. Enquire of Wright Hunt of Culpho.

It would seem he had no takers, as the following year he advertised<sup>91</sup> the horse again as a stud, but at the lower rate of 7/6, presumably reflecting the animal's reduced prowess.

Like Joseph Harris, Wright<sup>2</sup> joined a local group - in this case the Great Bealings Association<sup>92</sup> - dedicated to the prosecution of:

... Horse-stealers,  
and all Persons guilty of Felony, &c.

and offering a reward to anyone who assisted in the capture and conviction of such criminals. His only other appearance in a newspaper was the announcement of his death<sup>93</sup>:

Same day .... in Suffolk ... aged 71, Mr Wright Hunt, farmer, of Culpho,  
near Ipswich.

*The Visitation of England and Wales*<sup>94</sup> gives the date of his death as 12<sup>th</sup> July 1841, as does his will. He was buried at Grundisburgh Chapel. He had lived just long enough to appear in the 1841 census<sup>95</sup>, where he was listed at Culpho as a farmer, aged 70, born in the county. With him were 54-year-old Ann, 20-year-old William, Wright<sup>3</sup> whose age was given as 15, Samuel 16, Joseph 18, John 11 and Sarah 9. It would seem that perhaps the enumerator had difficulty reading the figures as the ages are somewhat inaccurate. Also in the household were two female servants.

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<sup>90</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 9.4.1796

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 22.4.1797

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 23.2.1805 & 2.5.1812

<sup>93</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Norfolk Chronicle*, 24.7.1841

<sup>94</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> *The Visitation of England and Wales*, vol XI, ed Joseph Jackson Howard, 1893-1906

<sup>95</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 census, Culpho, HO 107/1020/6

## Hunt of Culpho, co. Suffolk.

Wright Hunt of Culpho, co. Suffolk (son of Wright Hunt of Culpho, by Elizabeth his wife, dau. of William Ling of Otley Hall, co. Suffolk); born at Culpho, and bapt. at St. Botolph's, Culpho, 13 August 1770; died at Culpho, aged 71, 17 July 1841, and bur. at Grundisburgh Chapel, co. Suffolk. M.I. Will dated 18 January 1839, proved at Ipswich 3 August 1841, by Ann Hunt, the relict, James Thompson and John Harris, the Exors.

Ann, dau. of John Finch of Grundisburgh; born at Grundisburgh 29 May 1785; marr. by licence at Culpho 30 September 1817; died at Newbourne, co. Suffolk, aged 83, 2 August 1869, and bur. in the family vault at Grundisburgh Chapel. M.I. Admon was granted at Ipswich 3 February 1870, to William Hunt of Culpho, co. Suffolk, the son, and one of the next of kin.

Mary Ann, born 22 November 1818; marr. at Grundisburgh Chapel in 1837, John Harris of Grundisburgh (son of Joseph Harris of Grundisburgh); born 22 September 1811; died at Grundisburgh, aged 65, 21 October 1876, and bur. at Grundisburgh Chapel. M.I. Will dated 23 August 1869, proved at Ipswich 23 November 1876, by Mary Ann Harris, the relict, and Joseph Harris, the son, both of Grundisburgh, co. Suffolk, and Peter Arthur Damant of Wintesham, co. Suffolk, the Exors. She died, aged 63, 8 October 1882, and was bur. at Grundisburgh Chapel. M.I.



William Hunt of Culpho; born at Culpho 27 February 1821; died there, in his 70th year, 27 August, bur. in the family vault at Grundisburgh Chapel 1 September 1890. M.I. Will dated 2 July 1888, proved at Ipswich 12 December 1890, by Sarah Ann Phillis Hunt of Culpho, the relict, the sole Executrix.

Sarah Ann Phillis, dau. of George Watkins of Clopton, co. Suffolk, by Sarah his wife, dau. of William Catt of Wadgate, Felixstowe, co. Suffolk; born at Monewden, co. Suffolk, 22 June 1828, and bapt. there; marr. at Clopton 27 February 1848; died at Culpho, in her 73rd year, 27 September, bur. in the family vault at Grundisburgh Chapel 3 October 1900. M.I. Will dated 12 September 1899, proved at Ipswich 20 May 1901, by William Wright Hunt, Arthur Rust Hunt and Joseph Hunt, the sons, and William Edward Kersey, the Exors.

B

George Hunt, born at Culpho 4 September 1852; died there 11 October 1854, bur. at Grundisburgh Chapel. M.I.

William Wright Hunt of Grundisburgh; born at Culpho 4 July 1855, bapt. at Grundisburgh 29 March 1895.

Ann Caroline, dau. of Joseph Smith of "The Grange," Walton, co. Suffolk, by Ann Boulter his wife, dau. of Joshua Catt of Clopton Hall; born at Thorpe Hall, Hasketon, co. Suffolk, 11 July 1857; marr. at Hasketon (by the Rev. Arthur Maude) 20 January 1881.

Thompson Hunt of Culpho; born at Culpho 9 January 1857.

Wright Hunt<sup>2</sup>'s will<sup>96</sup> was as lengthy and verbose as that of his son-in-law, John Harris. Written initially on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1839, it had a codicil added the following July when one of his executors died. He was replaced by the afore-mentioned John Harris, who joined his wife Ann and friend James Thompson. Like John, Wright<sup>2</sup> set up a trust, empowering his executors to sell:

all and singular my messuages or tenements and farmlands hereditaments and premises whatsoever situate lying and being in the several parishes of Fransden Grundisburgh and Otley

and use the money arising to the benefit of his heirs. A bequest of £20 was made initially to his wife Ann, to be followed by an annuity of £50 – to reduce to £20 a year for her absolute use should she remarry. Each child was to receive £250, to be invested during their minority, and money from the trust was to be used to set each of them up in life – either in marriage or in business. The will was witnessed by Joseph Thompson and Robert Harris, who would become a relation by marriage 40 years later with the marriage of Wright's grandson Joseph Harris to Robert's granddaughter Fanny. Effects were sworn at under £3,000.



**Otley Hall**

Wright Hunt<sup>1</sup> was baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1734 at Fransden, son of Robert and Sarah Wright and married Elizabeth Ling at Otley on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1767, giving Fransden as his place of residence. Wright<sup>2</sup> was their second son; their first child, named William, had been baptised at Culpho on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1769. Daughters Sarah and Elizabeth followed, baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1772 and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1773 respectively. The youngest child was named Samuel and was baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1774, also at Culpho. Elizabeth married Thomas Manby there in 1791, but

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<sup>96</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/261/62, Will of Wright Hunt of Culpho, 1841

presumably died quite young as it is her son, also named Thomas, who received an inheritance from Wright<sup>1</sup> in her place. Her sister Sarah married William Catt two years later. After Elizabeth's death, Wright<sup>1</sup> married a second wife - Mary Florry - on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1782. By this second marriage he had a short-lived son named John - born 1782, died 1783. Unless the advertisements for the carthorse relate to him, the only reference to him in the newspapers<sup>97</sup> is the announcement of his death:

Same day [Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May] died suddenly, Mr. Wright Hunt,  
a respectable farmer at Culpho.

He was buried with his wife at Otley 30<sup>th</sup> May 1801, the register recording:

Wright Hunt, late of Culpho, buried

He must have been proud of his ancestry, as the transcript of Otley Memorial Inscriptions notes:

Wright Hunt late of Culpho died 28<sup>th</sup> May 1801 age 65  
Great-grandson of S Lawrence Ipswich

In fact, this appears to be a mis-transcription, with the name and parish conflated, as I am informed by Stephen Ling<sup>98</sup> that the actual gravestone reads:

the great-grandson of Charles Wright of St Lawrence Ipswich

Wright Hunt<sup>1</sup> left a detailed will<sup>99</sup>, full of family detail. He requested that an inventory be taken of all his possessions, and that, with certain named exceptions, everything be sold to pay his legacies. His second wife Mary was left her marital bed, with all its furnishings, and her stepson Wright<sup>2</sup> was exhorted to:

permit the said Mary my wife peaceably and quietly to reside and dwell with him in the messuage or farmhouse wherein I now or may hereafter reside and provide her with sufficient board washing and lodging without any gratuity or allowance to be made to him for the same.

He further directed that when or if his son married, his wife Mary should leave her home within six months to allow the new bride sole possession. However, she was to be allowed to take:

the bed and furniture whereon she now sleeps including in such bequest  
the coverlet blankets sheets and pillows bolster and everything  
appertaining thereto

Mary was also to receive £10.

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 30.5.1841

<sup>98</sup> Stephen Ling - 4 x great-grandson of William Ling b 1717

<sup>99</sup> SRO, IC/AA1.221.33, Will of Wright Hunt of Culpho, 1801

Wright's eldest son William was willed £10 only, on the grounds that he had:  
been otherwise amply provided for by Mr. William Ling his grandfather



#### Framsdon Farm – William's inheritance from his grandfather<sup>100</sup>

Wright<sup>2</sup> got the home farmhouse and £20, the best horse in the stable, and a further £200 provided he fulfilled the requirements of his father's will regarding his step-mother; if not, that sum was to be forfeit. The residue of the estate was then divided equally between sons Wright and Samuel and daughter Sarah Catt, but with adjustments made for moneys already received by Samuel and Sarah. When the will was proved at Ipswich on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1801, effects were recorded as above £600 and under £1,000.

#### Hunts, Rudkins and Wrights – Framsdon and Ipswich

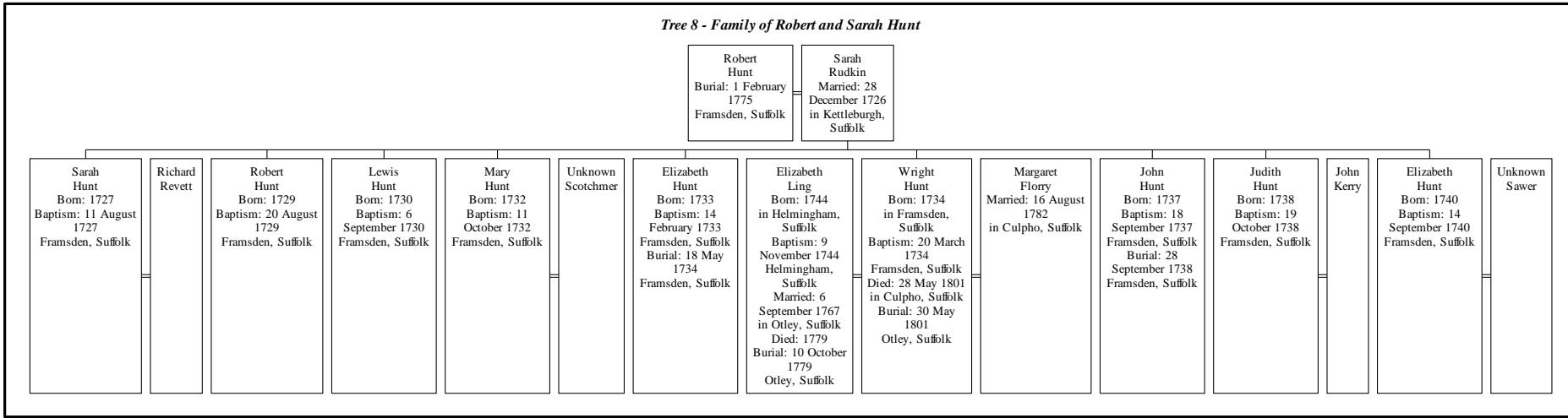
Stephen Ling also shared the following information, passed on to him by another researcher:

Charles [Wright] was a rather well-off man who seems to have cut quite a figure. He was born in 1629 and lived to be 90. His eldest daughter Mary (1662-1738) married Samuel Rudkin. They lived in Ipswich most of their lives but in their later years relocated to Framsdon. Their youngest (of fifteen!) child, Sarah, married Robert Hunt and became the parents of Wright who married Elizabeth Ling.

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<sup>100</sup> Courtesy of Stephen Ling, <http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/10712187/person/-590414446/mediax/1?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pid%7CpgNum>

*Tree 8 - Family of Robert and Sarah Hunt*



Following up this information adds detail to Wright<sup>1</sup> Hunt's story. Robert Hunt and Sarah Rudkin - both single persons and of Frampsden – married at Kettleburgh on October 28<sup>th</sup> 1726 (see tree 8 - page 40). Their first child was baptised (as all were the rest) at Frampsden on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1727 and named Sarah for her mother. Robert was baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1729 and Lewis on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1730. Two girls followed: Mary, baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1732 and Elizabeth on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1733, although she was buried less than a year later. The next child was Wright, baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1734. There were three more children: John 18<sup>th</sup> September 1737 (buried the following year), Judith – 19<sup>th</sup> October 1738 and another Elizabeth – 14<sup>th</sup> September 1740. Although Sarah Hunt née Rudkin's burial has not been found, her husband's was recorded at Frampsden on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1775.

It is clear from Robert Hunt's will<sup>101</sup> that his wife had predeceased him as there was no mention of her in the document. He described himself as a yeoman and made his first bequest, of £20, to his daughter Sarah, the wife of Richard ?Revett. His sons Lewis and Wright, both described as farmers – the former of Frampsden and the latter of Culpho – also received £20 each, as did daughter Judith. Not surprisingly though, it was his eldest son Robert who received the biggest inheritance:

I give and bequeath unto my son Robert Hunt of Frampsden aforesaid Yeoman the sum of £80 but my will and meaning is that the same shall remain in the hands of my executors hereinafter named and to be paid by them by weekly payments at the rate of four shillings per week till the whole is discharged And I give to my said son Robert my wearing apparel of all sorts

No reason is given for this rather strange financial arrangement, but as Robert's executors were his two younger sons, Lewis and Wright, it is tempting to wonder whether Robert junior was something of a spendthrift!

Robert also made a bequest of £20 to be shared between the four offspring of his widowed daughter Elizabeth ?Sawer, and another of £10 each to his daughter Mary's sons Francis and John ?Scotchmer (the names aren't clear). Anything left over was to be divided equally between his children and grandchildren. The will was dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 1774 but not proved until 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1776.

Sarah Rudkin's baptism has also eluded discovery, though it probably took place somewhere in Ipswich in the early 1700s. Her parents were married at St. Lawrence Ipswich (see tree 9 - page 42):

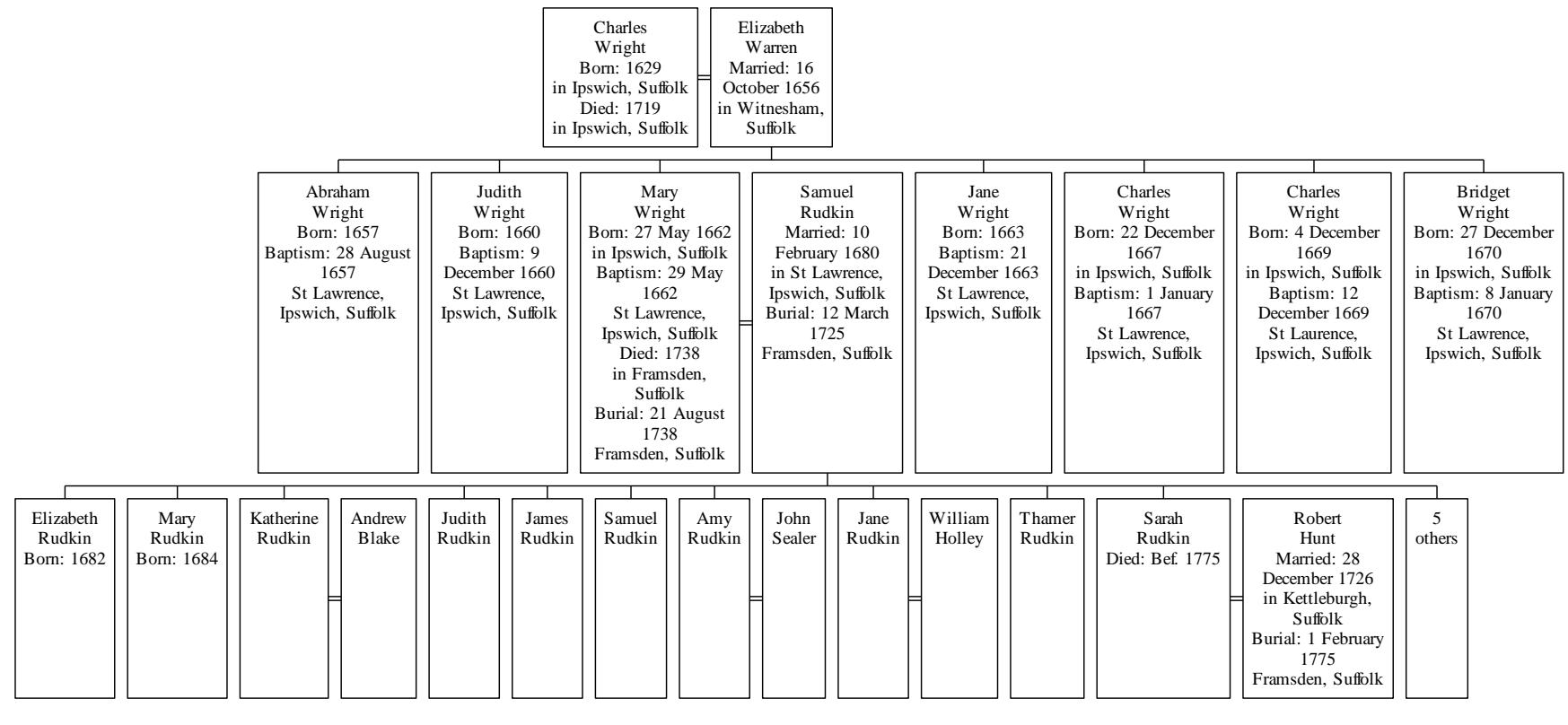
Samuel Rudkin singleman was married to Mary Wright singlewoman the tenth of February 1680

and their first two children were baptised there – Elizabeth on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1682 and Mary on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1684. For christening the rest of the supposed 15, including

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<sup>101</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/196/2, Will of Robert Hunt of Frampsden, 1776

*Tree 9 - Descendents of Charles and Elizabeth Wright*



Sarah, they must have frequented a different church - but which I haven't discovered. Some of the children's names can be inferred from other documents. For example, there was a son James, whose apprenticeship indenture<sup>102</sup> to Josiah Smith, citizen and draper of London, dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 1712, names his father as:

Samuel Rudkin of Ipswich... Ironmonger



**St. Lawrence Ipswich**

At some point the family moved from Ipswich to Framsden and it was there that Samuel was buried as 'Mr Samuel Rudkin' on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1725; he didn't leave a will, so maybe his death was a sudden one. In contrast, his widow Mary, who was buried in the same parish on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1738, did<sup>103</sup>. She devised all her real and personal estate to her daughter Sarah, wife of Robert Hunt, provided that Sarah paid her sister Katherine, wife of Andrew Blake, £30 and her sister Judith £40. The other bequests were much smaller; perhaps her other children had received a greater share at the time of their father's death. Mary bequeathed five shillings each to her sons James and Samuel and one shilling each to her daughters Amy Sealer, Jane Holley and Thamer Rudkin. Sarah Hunt was made sole executrix and proved the will at Monk Soham on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1738.

The baptism of Mary's father, Charles Wright, supposedly in 1629, has also escaped detection, but his marriage was recorded at Witnesham:

Charles Wright of St. Lawrence in Ipswich singleman and Elizabeth

<sup>102</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> London, England, Freedom of the City Admission Papers

<sup>103</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/167/99, Will of Mary Rudkin of Framsden, 1738

Warren of Witnesham singlewoman had their contract published three several Lords days according to ye act in that case provided, viz Sept 21, Sept 28, Oct 6 anno 1656 and were married October 16 Ann Domin 1656

Charles brought his new wife back to Ipswich and they raised a family there, baptising seven children at St. Lawrence's. The first was Abraham, in 1657, then Judith in 1660. Mary followed, born 27<sup>th</sup> and baptised 29<sup>th</sup> May 1662. Jane was born in 1663, and two successive sons called Charles in 1667 and 9. The last child, named Bridget, was born in 1670.

### The Lings of Otley, Frampsden, Helmingham, Stowupland and Earl Stonham

The family of Wright<sup>1</sup>'s wife Elizabeth Ling can be traced back with certainty for two more generations, and probably four (see tree 10 - page 45). Elizabeth was baptised as the daughter of William and Elizabeth Ling on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1744 at Helmingham. Two siblings were baptised there as well: William (9<sup>th</sup> January 1740) who died and was buried in the same parish in 1782, and Samuel (August 1742).

Several genealogy websites suggest that Elizabeth lived at Otley Hall, and this would seem to be corroborated by *The Visitation of England and Wales*<sup>104</sup>, which describes her as the daughter of William Ling of Otley Hall. The 1799 Land Tax<sup>105</sup> places her brother Samuel in the parish, but it is his newspaper obituary<sup>106</sup> that clinches the fact of his tenancy:

At Debenham, Suffolk, aged 79, Mr S. Ling, many years a respectable farmer at Otley Hall.

His wife Lydia's death<sup>107</sup> five years earlier further confirms that the family was living at Otley Hall:

Aged 70, Lydia, the wife of Mr S. Ling, of Otley Hall

and his son Samuel's marriage<sup>108</sup> had also been reported:

Mr. Sam. Ling jun. of Otley-Hall, to Miss Freeman, of Frampsden

Samuel senior was buried at Otley on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1821. I have not traced his descendants and their tenancy at Otley any further.

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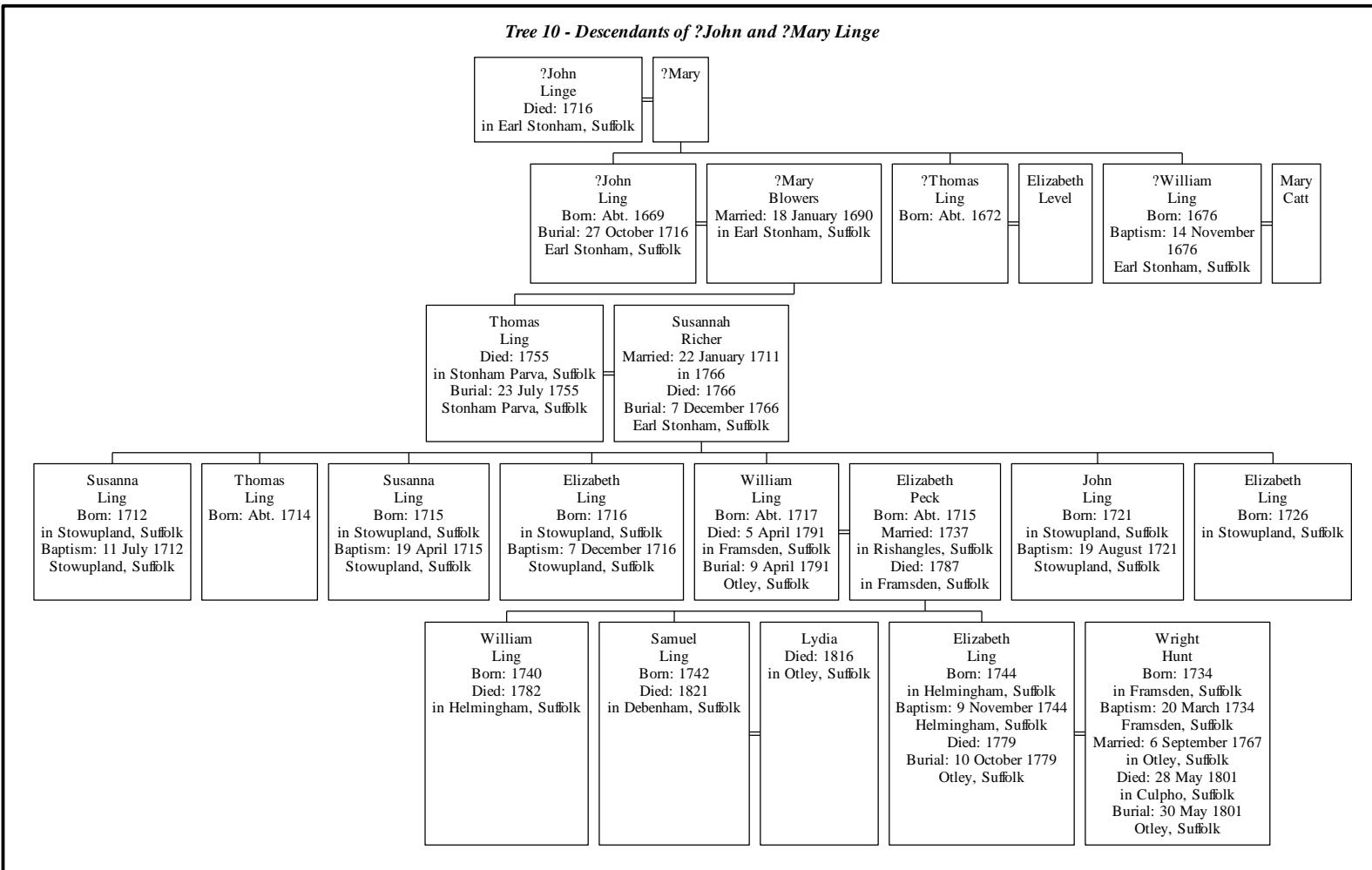
<sup>104</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> *The Visitation of England and Wales*, vol XI, ed.Joseph Jackson Howard, 1893-1906

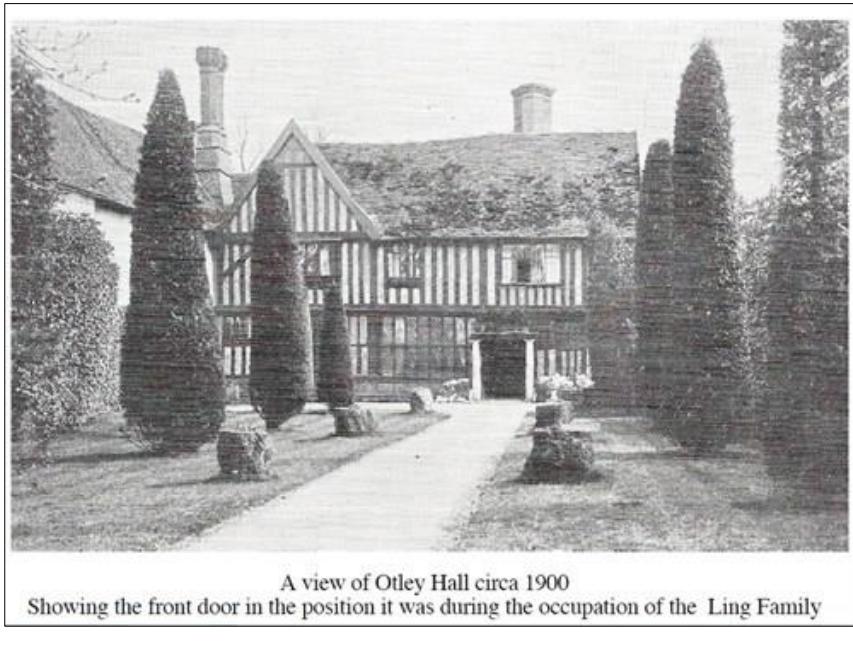
<sup>105</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Land Tax Redemption 1798

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Oxford Journal*, 5.1.1822

<sup>107</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Norfolk Chronicle*, 21.3.1818

<sup>108</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Norfolk Chronicle*, 25.10.1817





### Otley Hall around 1900 - From *East Suffolk Illustrated* 1908<sup>109</sup>

The *British Listed Buildings*<sup>110</sup> website, drawing on Pevsner's *The Buildings of England*, describes Otley Hall as follows:

Manor House. C15 and C16 with C17, C19 and C20 additions and alterations.  
Built by Robert Gosnold and subsequent members of the Gosnold family.  
Timber framed with some colourwashed render. English bond brick walling  
and massive brick chimney stacks with a pantiled roof...

and goes on to detail its features for another 1,200 words. It is possible that by Samuel's time the house had been divided into more than one tenement – though from other connections to the family thrown up by *The Visitation* this seems unlikely - but even if that were so, it was clearly a prestigious and beautiful building, described by Simon Jenkins<sup>111</sup> as:

an immaculate Tudor house with no edge untrimmed and no dust on the shelf... a superb example of 16<sup>th</sup> century Suffolk architecture.

A website devoted to the village of Otley<sup>112</sup> clarifies the Lings' relationship to Otley Hall further:

Otley Hall remained the property of the Gosnold family until about 1668,

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<sup>109</sup> Courtesy of Stephen Ling

[http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/10712187/photo/foB4qusqEzwws0dZTaPbKwg7AA57hfR5S12ZKS\\_TbMy1m0j4qBwvmaLHp!NykHKS](http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/10712187/photo/foB4qusqEzwws0dZTaPbKwg7AA57hfR5S12ZKS_TbMy1m0j4qBwvmaLHp!NykHKS) *East Suffolk Illustrated*, F Woolnough, 1908-9, Bury St. Edmunds, F. Gawsey and co.

<sup>110</sup> <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-286521-otley-hall-otley-suffolk>

<sup>111</sup> *England's Thousand Best Houses*, Simon Jenkins, Penguin, London, 2003

<sup>112</sup> <http://otley.onesuffolk.net/about-us/history-of-otley/>

when financial difficulties arising from the Civil War (the Gosnolds were Royalists) forced its sale. It was owned for a short while by Sir Anthony Deane, Commissioner for the Navy and member of parliament for Harwich, before passing to the Rebow family of Wivenhoe, Essex, around 1686. They held it, not as a mansion, but as a tenanted farmhouse, until 1900.



Otley Hall

Stephen Ling<sup>113</sup> kindly gave me information gleaned from the Helmingham Hall archives which add detail to the movements of the Ling family:

William Ling (1717) moved to Otley Hall in 1762 and left his son William at Helmingham. He farmed there until 1783, when he moved to Framsden (the farm joined onto the north end of Otley Hall). At the same time his son Samuel (1742) moved from Culpho and took on Otley Hall. This is corroborated by my family's ledgers and note books and also the rent records of the Rebow family of Wivenhoe (the owners of Otley Hall at that time) which can be found in the Essex Record Office.

Unlike Samuel, his sister Elizabeth didn't live to a ripe old age. She was only 34 when she died at Culpho and she was interred in the Ling family plot at Otley on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1779, where her husband Wright joined her in 1801. Her brother William also died relatively young and was buried at Helmingham as William Ling junior on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1782.

Elizabeth and Samuel, and their brother William, were the children of William Ling and Elizabeth Peck. At least, this marriage, which took place in 1737 at nearby Rishangles, seems the most likely, despite the fact that William's surname is spelled Leng – maybe the vicar's take on how he pronounced it. The register is very faded and the precise date is not clear. The children were all baptised as the

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<sup>113</sup> Stephen Ling - 4 x great-grandson of William Ling b 1717

offspring of 'William Ling and Elizabeth his wife' at Helmingham, the parish between Otley and Framsden.

The rent records of the Earl of Dysart of Helmingham Hall apparently show that Lings were tenants of Elm Farm at Helmingham in 1736 when William was a youth (I have not had sight of these, which are held at Colchester), and he later owned the small Framsden farm which he left to his grandson William Hunt. This was still in the ownership of William Hunt's son on the tithe apportionment in 1840<sup>114</sup>. Clearly he was sufficiently well-off to leave his grandson William Hunt 'amply provided for' and he seems to have had a foot in several parishes, as well as being described as 'of Otley Hall' by the *Visitation* cited above. His will was proved at the Consistory Court of Norwich, which would suggest that he held property in more than one archdeaconry. However, his grave simple reads:

William Ling late of Framsden farmer 5<sup>th</sup> April 1791 aged 74

and the burial register is equally succinct:

William Ling farmer buried 9<sup>th</sup> April 1791.



**Elm Farm<sup>115</sup>**

William Ling wrote his will<sup>116</sup> on 25<sup>th</sup> of February 1790, describing himself as a gentleman. His first bequest was of 40 guineas to his grandson:

William Hunt now living with me

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<sup>114</sup> Information given by Stephen Ling

<sup>115</sup> Courtesy of <http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/10712187/person/-590414446/mediax/3?pgnum=1&pg=32814&pgpl=pid%7CpgNum>

<sup>116</sup> NRO, NCC, 1791, Will of William Ling of Framsden, fo. 95

His four other Hunt grandchildren - Wright, Sarah, Elizabeth and Samuel were given £100 apiece. His granddaughters Sarah, wife of Thomas Simpson of Witnesham and Priscilla, daughters of his late son William Ling also received £100 each. His son Samuel was given the right to the interest on this money until the grandchildren came of age. He then devised the property mentioned in Wright Hunt's will to his grandson William:

...all that my messuage or tenement and farm... in Frampsden... and now in my own occupation... for ever

while William and his uncle Samuel Ling were to hold another property in Debenham in trust with instructions to sell both the copyhold and freehold and add the money arising to his residual estate, which was then to pass to his son Samuel. It was this Samuel who later became tenant at Otley Hall.

The age given on William's gravestone would suggest a date of birth somewhere around 1717, which fits nicely into the family of Thomas Ling and Susanna Richer who married on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1711 at Ipswich St Stephen, both giving Stowe as their home parish. Four of the couple's children were recorded in the register at Stowupland: Susan, a presumably short-lived child baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1712, another daughter of the same name baptised 19<sup>th</sup> April 1715, Elizabeth baptised 7<sup>th</sup> December 1716 and John baptised 19<sup>th</sup> August 1721. However, from Thomas' will it is clear that there were at least two other children: Thomas and William. The father was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1755 at Stonham Parva (Little Stonham) as:

Thomas Ling snr

His will<sup>117</sup>, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 1754, described him as:

Thomas Ling the elder of Little Stonham in the County of Suffolk Yeoman

and began by devising his newly built house at Little Stonham to his wife Susan for the rest of her life. After her death, it was to go to his sons William and John during the life of their brother Thomas, provided they paid him two shillings a week. After his son's death the property was to be put in trust for his grandson, also named Thomas, the son of his son Thomas. A lot of the rest of the will was devoted to ensuring that this property descended through the male line by the strict laws of primogeniture. In fact, should the male line fail, the property (given the names of Oak and Juniper Cottages on Stephen Ling's *Ancestry* tree) was to be given to the poor of the parish. The trustees for this part of the will were John Worlidge, married to Thomas' daughter Susan, and Robert Cooke, gentlemen. Son Thomas also received his father's wearing apparel.

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<sup>117</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/182/132, Will of Thomas Ling of Little Stonham, 1755



### Oak Cottage<sup>118</sup>

His other two sons, John and William, were made executors of the will, with instructions to appraise:

my stock furniture utensils in husbandry and all other my personal estate

with a view to selling the same and investing the money raised. The interest accruing was to go to the support of his wife. After her death, £50 was to be given to Elizabeth, daughter of James Wilson of Creating - maybe she was a child of his daughter Elizabeth or more likely a godchild? The rest of the money was to be split four ways, equally between the children of his three sons and his daughter Susan.

It seems highly likely that Thomas Ling was the son of John Ling who married Mary Blowers on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1690 at nearby Earl Stonham, although baptism has not been found and John did not leave a will to confirm the connection. Is the link is good, then Thomas was the grandson of another John Linge and his wife - also named Mary. This couple had three sons, also called Thomas, William and John - which possibly strengthens the idea of a link. Only the baptism of William was recorded at Earl Stonham - on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1676, but the names of the other two, Thomas (who married Elizabeth Level) and William (who married Mary Catt) are known from John Linge's will<sup>119</sup>. This begins with a bequest of:

my house outhouses yard garden Orchard lands and tenements both freehold and copyhold situate lying and being in Earl Soham in the county aforesaid now in the occupation of John Woods

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<sup>118</sup> Courtesy of <http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/10712187/person/-590381514/mediax/1?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pid%7CpgNum>

<sup>119</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/145/79, Will of John Linge of Earl Stonham, 1716

to his eldest son John Linge, with the provision that he pay his mother Mary £4 a year for life, and paid the executors a lump sum of £160 out of the income of this premises to cover debts and legacies. A further sum of £15 was to go to Mary. His son William was bequeathed £12 and 10 shillings was set aside to be distributed to the poor of Earl Stonham. The remainder of his estate, which presumably involved property in Earl Stonham, passed to his third son Thomas, who was also nominated sole executor.

The will was dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 1716 and John Linge was buried three days later on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1716 at Earl Stonham.

### **Robert and Ann Harris of Hasketon**

Much of the story of Fanny Harris, daughter of Robert and Ann, has already been told – certainly from the date of her marriage to Joseph Harris in 1879. This history now returns to the story of her parents and siblings. Robert Harris of Hasketon was baptised at Culpho on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1827, son of Robert and Mary Harris, into a family which seems to have been staunchly Church of England. In 1841<sup>120</sup>, not surprisingly, he was living at home with his parents in Culpho; he was still there in 1851<sup>121</sup> when he was recorded as a 23-year-old farmer's son.

He married Ann or Anne Harris (the spelling varies) - daughter of Joseph Harris - at Grundisburgh on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1851, the event being reported in the paper<sup>122</sup>:

9<sup>th</sup> inst., At Grundisburgh, by the Rev. G. E. Webster, Mr Robert Harris, farmer, of Hasketon, to Anne, only daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Harris, of the above place.

Robert's place of residence was given both in the paper and in the marriage register as Hasketon, and it was here that the couple's six children were born. Ann, the eldest, was baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1852, Alice Mary on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1854, and Robert on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1855. Fanny was baptised on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1857, along with her sister Helen who had been born the previous year. The last child, Henry, was baptised on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1861 (see tree 11 - page 55).

Although farming at Hasketon, Robert was a member of the Grundisburgh Farmers' Club<sup>123</sup>. Grundisburgh was much bigger than Hasketon and Culpho and was presumably the central meeting point for all the villages in the area:

The anniversary meeting of the Grundisburgh Farmers' Club was held at

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<sup>120</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 census, Culpho, HO 107/1020/6

<sup>121</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Culpho, HO 107/1801

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 20.12.1851

<sup>123</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 24.11.1855

the Dog Inn, on Monday last, when there was a large show of roots. The beet shown was very excellent, some of these weighing nearly 20lbs. each; but the turnips were, in comparison with former years, but indifferent, yet there were some of the common sort of excellent quality, and, for the season, but a fair size.

... The second prize for beet was awarded to Mr. Robert Harris, Hasketon – at the same time remarking, “that they should be doing injustice to Mr. Robert Harris, Culpho, did they not highly commend his beet on 10 acres, which was very good”.... The first prize for Swedes was awarded to Mr. Thompson, Culpho; the second ditto to Mr. Robt. Harris, Hasketon. ...

For the best six common turnips, first prize to Mr Robert Harris, Hasketon.

Clearly Robert knew his job as a farmer, and equally there was perhaps some rivalry with his father, Robert Harris of Culpho.



**St. Andrew Hasketon**

The above article might present Hasketon as a sleepy little place where nothing much happened, but there was evidently an amount of rural crime going on<sup>124</sup>, as on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1854, William King the elder and Frederick King the younger, both of Woodbridge, stole:

...eight hen's eggs, 10 pints of bean meal, and 6 pints of beans and peas, the goods of Mr Robert Harris, jun., of Hasketon...

The men, who had been employed as rat catchers, took the goods while working on the farm, but were caught red-handed on their way home. Apparently this was not

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<sup>124</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 25.2.1854

the first time they'd pilfered from Robert so he had marked the eggs, making it obvious that they had come from his farm.

The following year<sup>125</sup>, Ann Harris' name was used by Mary Anne Moss:

....a shrewd and respectable-looking woman....

in an attempt to defraud a local shopkeeper. On 19<sup>th</sup> November, Moss had gone to the house of a linen draper in Woodbridge:

...and produced to his assistant, Robert Booth, an order purporting to have been signed by Mrs. Robert Harris, for the goods in question. Some doubts having been excited in the mind of Booth, he sent to the prosecutor, who, upon reading the alleged order, remarked, "I know nothing of Mrs. Robert Harris, but I know Mrs. George Harris, of Grundisburgh." The prisoner replied, that the lady in question lived at the Six Horse Farm, at Hasketon, adding that her mistress told her she could not mistake the shop, because it was the last before getting to the Lion. .... The goods were then delivered, and the prosecutor made up the bill: when the prisoner, upon leaving the shop, said, "My mistress will be down on Thursday and will call and pay for what I have got."

Inevitably, the deception was discovered, and Ann had to give evidence:

Mrs. Ann Harris, of Hasketon, deposed that she never wrote the order produced, and that she had never given the prisoner any directions to call at the prosecutor's shop.

When questioned further she denied knowing the prisoner or having had any previous knowledge of her. Mary Ann Moss was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour.

It would seem, though, five years into his marriage and life as an independent farmer, that things were not going well financially for Robert Harris, as in December that year, *The London Gazette*<sup>126</sup> reported:

Notice is hereby given, that Robert Harris the younger, of Hasketon, in the County of Suffolk, farmer, has by an indenture, dated the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1856, made between Robert Harris the younger, of the first part; Robert Harris the elder, of Culpho, in the same county, farmer, John Harris of Grundisburgh, in the same county, farmer and Philip Harris, of Grundisburgh aforesaid, farmer, as the second part; and the several persons whose names and seals are thereunto subscribed and set, being respectively creditors of the said Robert Harris the younger, of the third part; assigned all his personal estate and effects to the said Robert Harris the elder, John Harris, and Philip Harris, upon trust, the equal

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<sup>125</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 5.1.1856

<sup>126</sup> <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/> *The London Gazette*, 9.12.1856

benefit of all his creditors as therein mentioned; and that such deed was duly executed by the said Robert Harris the younger, Robert Harris the elder, John Harris, and Philip Harris, on the day of the date thereof; and that the execution thereof by the said Robert Harris the younger, Robert Harris the elder, John Harris, and Philip Harris, respectively, was attested by George Josselyn, in Ipswich aforesaid, for the inspection and signature of the creditors of the said Robert Harris the younger.

- Ipswich, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1856.

There is no indication as to what had brought an apparently successful farmer to this unfortunate state of affairs, but presumably the assistance of his father and two of his brothers-in-law was sufficient to enable him to continue farming. Certainly, an advertisement in the paper<sup>127</sup> the following year suggests that his three trustees may have managed to satisfy his creditors:

The Creditors of Mr. ROBERT HARRIS, the younger, of Hasketon, Farmer, are requested to meet the Trustees of his Deed of Assignment at the Crown Inn, at Woodbridge, on Thursday, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. GEO. JOSSELYN, Solicitors to the Trustees.  
Ipswich, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1857

A few years later, having been brought up a Baptist but married to a member of the Church of England - like her brother Philip - Ann finally decided to join the established church. It is possible that her husband's recent financial problems influenced her decision, but I suspect this was a period of Anglican revival, as there were a number of adult baptisms in the register around this time, and Ann may just have been following a trend. Ann's entry reads:

Ann Harris, daughter of Joseph and Ann Harris, Grundisburgh, farmer, baptised 27<sup>th</sup> May 1860, age 34

In 1861<sup>128</sup>,

Robert was head of his own household at Farm House in Hasketon, farming 119 acres. With him were wife Ann, daughter Ann - 8, daughter Alice - 7 (wrongly recorded as Eliza Mary), Robert and Helen (both 5 although born in different years) and three-year-old Fanny. It's hardly surprising that the last person on the schedule was a nursemaid.

It was at around this time that Robert Harris briefly found himself in court<sup>129</sup>, in a case headed:

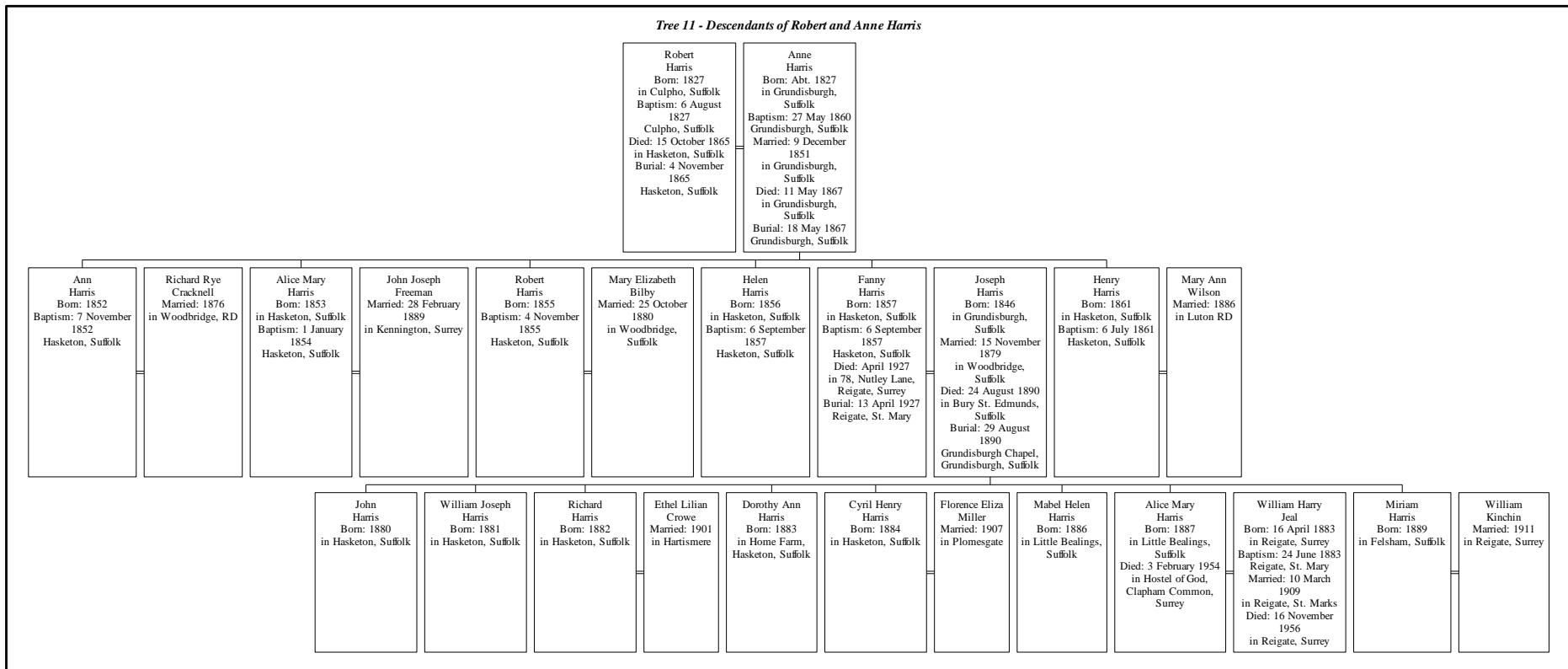
ACTION FOR A RETRIEVER DOG  
between Robert Harris and one William Alexander, shoemaker of Woodbridge,

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<sup>127</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 14.2.1857

<sup>128</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, Hasketon, RG 9/1167

<sup>129</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 20.4.1861



further recovery of £7.10 shillings for a retriever dog sold to him in December 1859. Alexander claimed that he had delivered the dog to Robert Harris and asked the payment on several occasions but never received it despite promises made.

The womenfolk got involved as well with Mrs Alexander going to see Mrs Harris saying:

... if a bill were carried it should be paid

In his defence, Robert told the court:

He never bought the dog, but he took it and locked it up; he had two other dogs at the same time and did not want it; the plaintiff wished him (Harris) to take it so that Shemming should not have it, .... Harris said he should summon Alexander for the keep of the dog.

However, despite his protestations, the judge found against him and he was ordered to pay the full amount within 14 days.

This was Robert's last appearance in life in the press, for, as was later to happen to her a second time, Fanny was soon to lose the most important male in her life. In 1865, Robert Harris died, still only in his thirties; the *Bury and Norwich Post*<sup>130</sup> noted baldly:

DIED On the 15<sup>th</sup> inst [October 1865], aged 38, Mr Robert Harris farmer

*The Ipswich Journal*<sup>131</sup> was more fulsome:

HARRIS. - 15<sup>th</sup> inst., at Hasketon, aged 38 years, Mr. Robert Harris, farmer, leaving a widow and six small children to mourn their irreparable loss.

The eldest child, Ann, was 12 years old; Henry was about four. A subsequent article appeared in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>132</sup> two months later:

All Persons having any Claim or Demand on ROBERT HARRIS,  
late of Hasketon, Suffolk, Farmer, deceased, are requested to forward  
the particulars thereof to us in writing, on or before 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1866  
JOSSELYN AND SON, solicitors to the executors.  
Ipswich, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1865.

More bad luck was to follow, as Ann<sup>133</sup> died less than two years later:

HARRIS. - 11<sup>th</sup> inst., at Hasketon, after a long affliction, in the 41st year

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<sup>130</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Bury and Norwich Post*, 31.10.1865

<sup>131</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 28.10.1865

<sup>132</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 23.12.1865

<sup>133</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 18.5.1867

of her age, Ann, relict of Robt. Harris, jun., and daughter of the late Joseph Harris, of Grundisburgh, leaving six orphans.

15 year old Ann seems to have done her best to take the place of her parents, as in 1871<sup>134</sup> she appeared on the census, now aged 18, as head of the household:

Farming 120 acres and employing five men and one boy.

Her siblings Robert, Fanny and Henry were all listed as scholars. A 66 year old widow, Elizabeth Baldry, was also living there in the capacity of housekeeper and there were also a general servant and a farm servant. Nonetheless it must have been a heavy load for Ann, and it must have been something of a relief to marry Richard Rye Cracknell in 1876 and go to farm with him in Bedingfield. There were no children from the marriage, although for a while she did give a home to her nephew Richard following his father Joseph's fatal accident. After her husband's death in 1903 she continued to farm, giving her address as the Red House, Bedingfield, Eye on the 1911 census<sup>135</sup>. Her death was registered in the Woodbridge district in 1921.

Alice and Helen had left the family home by 1871<sup>136</sup>, and were to be found at 197 and 8 Sloane Street, Chelsea, apprentices to Frederick Catt, also Suffolk born, but now recorded as Trimming Warehouseman and Landowner. Presumably the death of both parents had prompted the girls to go and seek a trade. However, Alice at least had kept in contact with those from home, in particular her cousin John Joseph Freeman, son of her aunt Mary Harris; in 1881<sup>137</sup> he was living on Tottenham Court Road and working as a carpet salesman. On 28<sup>th</sup> February 1889, she married him at Kennington. Within two years, they were back in Suffolk, farming at Haughley, near Stowmarket<sup>138</sup>; they did not have long together, though, as John Joseph died there on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1893, and administration was granted to his widow Alice the following month<sup>139</sup>, with effects at £1,010. Like other members of her family, she moved south, and was recorded in 1901<sup>140</sup> at East Street, Brighton, working as a Toy Dealer, and on the 1911 census<sup>141</sup>, living alone in Church Street, Brighton, as an Apartment House Keeper.

Helen dropped out of sight after 1871, but it seems likely that a death registered in the Woodbridge area in 1879 was hers. Robert junior fared better. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 1880 he married Mary Elizabeth Bilby at Woodbridge, and in 1881<sup>142</sup> he was farming 112 acres in Hasketon – close enough in acreage to beg the question of whether this was his father's old farm. His brother Henry, now an iron monger, was

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<sup>134</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1871 census, Hasketon, RG 10/1757

<sup>135</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Bedingfield, RG 14/10740

<sup>136</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1871 census, Chelsea, RG 10/88

<sup>137</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Pancras, RG 11/187

<sup>138</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Framsden, RG 12/1456

<sup>139</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

<sup>140</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 census, Brighton, RG 13/934.

<sup>141</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Brighton, RG 14/5135

<sup>142</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Hasketon, RG 11/1879

living there too, as was a baby daughter, Annie. In 1891<sup>143</sup> he was still there, with wife Mary and six children – though not Annie. By 1901<sup>144</sup> he was farming from an address in Woodbridge Road, Hasketon. His wife had evidently recently died, but there were nine children in the household, the youngest aged 3. In 1911<sup>145</sup> he had retired, and was living at 46, Wallace Road Ipswich, with six of his children. His death seems to have been registered at Ipswich in 1930.

Henry married Mary Ann Wilson somewhere in the Luton district in 1886, and by 1891<sup>146</sup> was settled at Rothsay Road, Luton with his wife and three children, working as an ironmonger assistant. By 1901, though, he had moved to 113 Queens Road, Tunbridge Wells<sup>147</sup>. There were now seven children in the family, the youngest three born at Pontypool. Henry gave his occupation as Ironmonger Traveller. In 1911<sup>148</sup>, living at 10 Dorking Road, Tunbridge Wells, with Mary Ann and six of their children, he described himself as a Commercial Traveller, Ironfoundry.

No will has been found for Robert Harris of Hasketon, but a clear idea of his possessions can be gained from an announcement of an agricultural sale<sup>149</sup> on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1881, advertising:

Hasketon, near Woodbridge.

10 HEAD OF HORSE STOCK, consisting of

6 Powerful Chestnut Cart Mares and Geldings, 2 Year-old Chestnut Cart Colts,

Yearling Chestnut Cart Filly,

Chestnut Filly Foal,

Grey Hackney,

4 Choice Milch Cows,

24 Head of Swine,

30 Head of Poultry;

The implements, carriages, harness, &c, including two *Bendall's* foot ploughs, *Ransome's* Y L plough, 3 gangs of iron harrows, *Bendall's* cultivator, iron chromes, 2 jointed roles, horse hose, 9-coulter corn drill, *Bendall's* chat box, with horse works complete, 4 ½-load tumbrils, capital light running road waggon on iron arms, 2 harvest waggons, Oxford cart, *Gardner's* cutter, cake breaker, dressing machine, 50 corn sacks, and useful hand tools &c., adapted to the occupation; also the neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, including mahogany telescope, dining and other tables, horsehair seated and other chairs and couch, carpets, hearth rugs, mahogany bureau and cheffioneer, mahogany 4-posts and other bedsteads, 2 feather beds, washstand, dressing tables and glasses, mahogany chest of drawers, cane seated chairs, and the usual equipment from four bed-rooms; antique china,

<sup>143</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Hasketon, RG 12/1474

<sup>144</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 census, Hasketon, RG 13/1782

<sup>145</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Ipswich, RG 14/10806

<sup>146</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Luton, RG 12/1275

<sup>147</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1901 census, Tunbridge Wells, RG 13/754

<sup>148</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 census, Tunbridge Wells, RG 14/4058

<sup>149</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 17.9.1881

tea, and dessert services, 50 oz. of plate, plated articles, kitchen and culinary requisites, washing, dairy, and brewing utensils, &c., As fully particularised in catalogues, by direction of the Executors of Mr. ROBERT HARRIS, Jun., deceased.

Despite his earlier financial troubles, it would seem to have been a well-stocked and comfortably furnished farmhouse.

### **James Harris and Mary Calver - Culpho and Monk Soham**

Given that three of Alice Mary Harris's grandparents bore the name Harris, it seemed feasible that there was some kind of relationship between them, but what did not become clear until I found the will of James Harris of Culpho<sup>150</sup>. The burial of James Harris of Culpho was recorded there on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1819 with his age given as 53, and also the burial of Priscilla Harris of Culpho on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1821 aged 49. Their memorial inscription records their dates of death as 19<sup>th</sup> February 1819 and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1821 respectively. It seems most likely that Priscilla was the child baptised as Priscilla Cole on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1771 in Woodbridge and that she married James Harris at Wetheringsett (a little less than 20 miles from Culpho) on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1793, but this couple seemed a little old to be the parents of the two boys born in 1804 and 11 respectively, who were the father and uncle of Robert Harris junior, especially as no child seemed to have been born in the first years of the marriage. In addition, the name James had not appeared anywhere so far on the Harris tree. However, the will was to unlock several puzzles.

At the outset of his will, James described himself as a farmer and initially directed that:

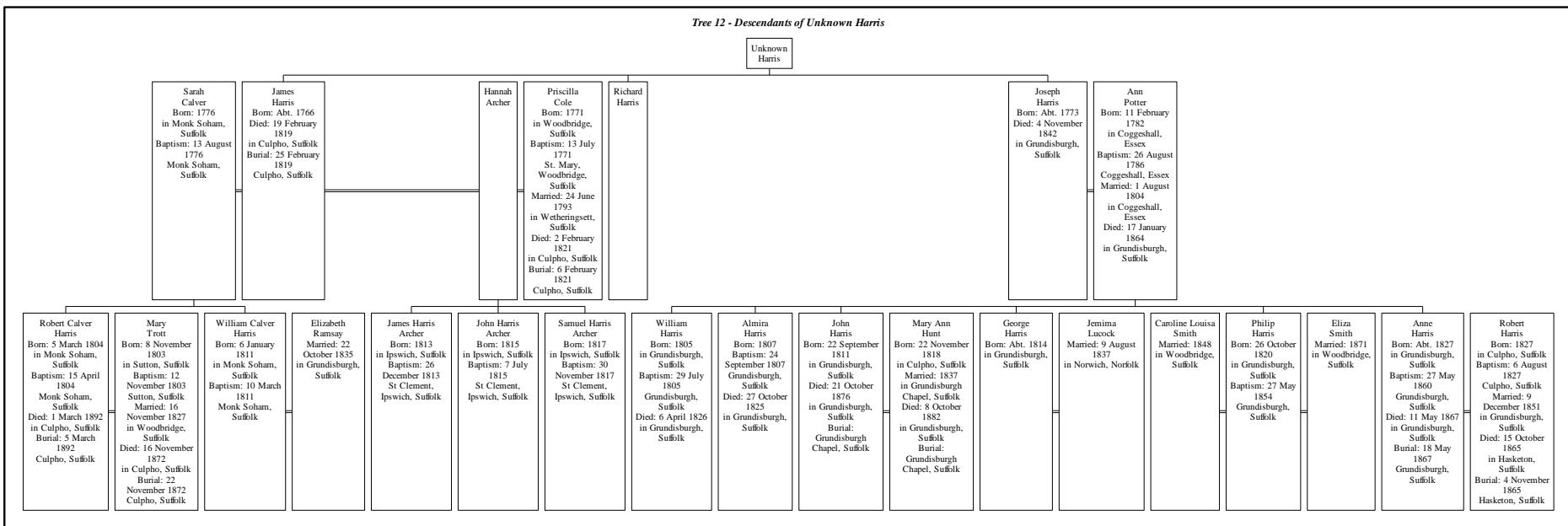
the farm and land in Culpho aforesaid or in any other adjoining parish or parishes now occupied by me and rented of Brompton Gurdon Dillingham Esquire shall be kept up and continued for the remainder of the term which shall be to come in the lease thereof at the time of my decease and at the same shall be under the sole control and management of my brother Richard Harris now residing with me

This initial statement unearthed a brother, Richard, but what followed was much more enlightening, as Richard was directed to manage the farm:

for the mutual benefit of Priscilla Harris my wife and my reputed sons Robert Harris Calver and William Harris Calver (the natural children of Sarah Calver of Monk Soham in the said County single woman) and my reputed sons James Harris Archer John Harris Archer and Samuel Harris Archer (the natural children of Hannah Archer of Ipswich in the said County single woman) and also of the said Hannah Archer

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<sup>150</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/239.62, Will of James Harris of Culpho, 1819



It would seem that James and Priscilla had had no children of their own and that James, lacking legitimate heirs, was determined to pass most of his estate to his natural children (see tree 12 - page 60).

A further bombshell was dropped by the naming of his brother Joseph Harris of Grundisburgh joint executor with Richard, thus finally proving the link between the different Harris families and making Alice Mary Harris twice the three x great granddaughter of the unknown Harris who fathered Joseph, James and Richard and once two x great granddaughter of the same man. It is interesting that James gave his two elder natural sons the surname Calver, with Harris as a middle name, while as adults they both reversed the order and, in Robert's case at least, quietly dropped the name Calver over time.



**St Peter Monk Soham<sup>151</sup>**

The will allowed Richard Harris his keep for life and an annuity of £10 in return for managing the farm on his behalf, with the proviso that the proceeds be divided into seven equal portions, one each to his wife Priscilla, his five sons and Hannah Archer - mother of his three Archer sons. No reason is given for not including Sarah Calver in the share-out. After Hannah's death, her share was to be equally divided between the five sons. The boys were to inherit on reaching their majority but in the meantime any money arising was to be put towards their education and maintenance.

A further clause stipulated that if Richard Harris ceased to farm the lands, then his brother Joseph should:

cause all my farming stock corn grain horses cattle implements in  
husbandry household furniture and other goods and effects being in and  
about the said farm or farms or elsewhere to be valued by two indifferent

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<sup>151</sup> © Copyright [Adrian S Pye](#) and licensed for reuse under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

persons one to be chosen by my executors hereinafter named and the other by the said Robert Harris Calver and that the said Robert Harris Calver shall have the refusal of taking the said farming stock corn grain horses cattle implements of husbandry household furniture and other goods and effects of such valuation and my said trustees or trustees selling the same shall be at liberty to take such security for the purchase money of the same or any part thereof as shall be reasonable and seem expedient to them

If Robert refused the farm, then it was to be sold. As Robert was still living in Culpho at the time of his death some 70 years later, it is to be assumed that he took the first refusal offered to him. His father's will was dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 1819 and proved by his uncles Richard and Joseph on 13<sup>th</sup> August the same year.

James' oldest son Robert was born at Monk Soham and noted in the register as:

Robert the illegitimate son of Sarah Carver was born March 5<sup>th</sup> and publicly baptised April 15<sup>th</sup> 1804

His brother, born on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1811 in the same parish was baptised on 10<sup>th</sup> March as:

William Kemp illegitimate son of Sarah Culver

which middle name begs the question of whether he actually had been fathered by James. Sarah seems to have been following a trend as her own baptism was recorded at Monk Soham on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1776 as Sarah daughter of Sarah Calver. No father is named.

The three sons of Hannah Archer were all baptised at St Clement, Ipswich: James on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1813, John on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1815 and Samuel on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1817. John and Samuel dropped out of sight in the records, but James evidently joined the Navy, as he appeared at Portsmouth as an Able Seaman on the 1871<sup>152</sup> census return and in Ipswich as a pensioner in 1881.

### **Robert Calver Harris of Culpho**

Robert Harris of Hasketon died as a young man; in contrast, his father, Robert Calver Harris, lived to a ripe old age. Born at Monk Soham on 5th March 1804, he died a respected member of the Culpho community on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1892, making him very nearly 88 years old. Robert senior made his first appearance in the records at

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<sup>152</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk> 1871 census, Portsmouth, RG 10/1134 and 1881 census, Ipswich, RG 11/1873

Culpho in 1826, as a member of the Grundisburgh Association<sup>153</sup> (which we have already come across in reference to Joseph Harris) where he was the Culpho representative advertising for new members for:

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of the NEW ASSOCIATION, for the prosecution of Persons committing FELONIES AND LARCENIES, to be held at the Dog Inn, Grundisburgh on Thursday, 25th of May... at 12 o'clock

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 1827, he married Mary Trott at St. Mary's Woodbridge. *The Norfolk Chronicle*<sup>154</sup> noted the event as follows:

In Suffolk... Mr. Robert Harris, of Culpho, near Ipswich, to Mary, third daughter of Mr W. Trott, ship-owner, of Woodbridge.



**St. Mary Woodbridge**

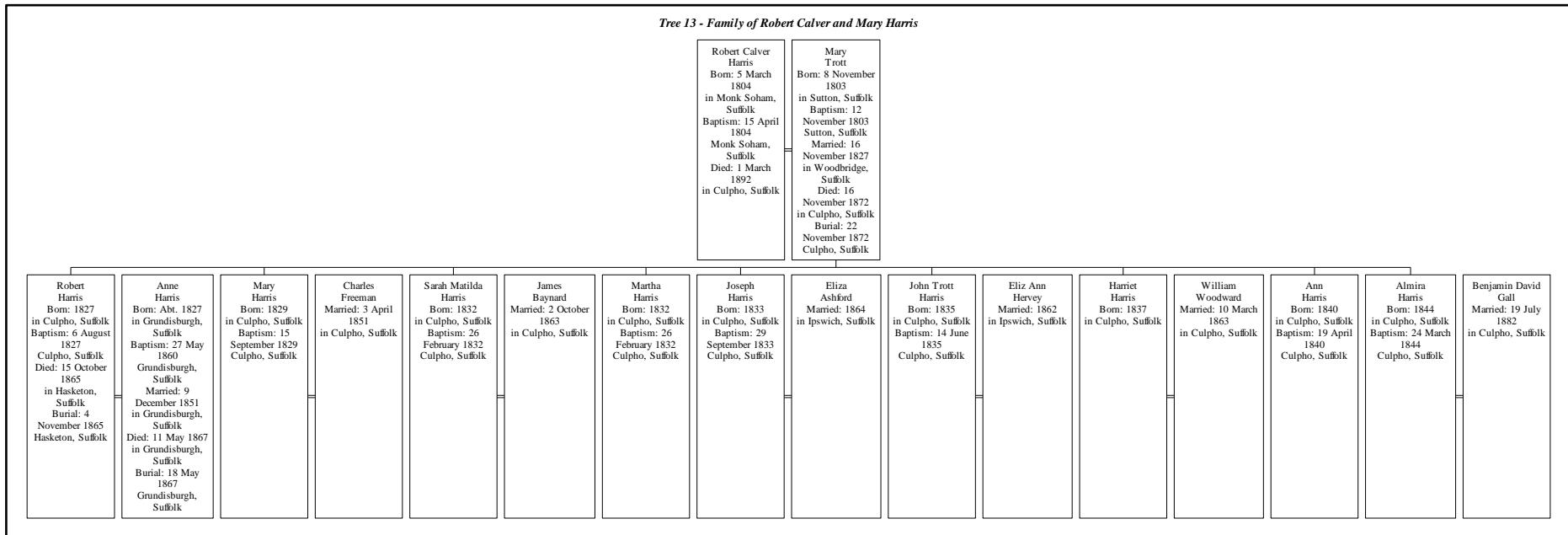
The couple's first child was Robert, baptised 6<sup>th</sup> August 1827 (see tree 13 - page 64), which suggests a rather precipitous wedding. Mary was baptised 18 months later on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1829 at Culpho. This was the child who grew up to marry Charles Freeman on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1851 at Culpho, became the mother of John Joseph Freeman and so mother-in-law as well as aunt to Alice Mary Harris senior; she later gave a home to the younger Alice Mary Harris after the death of her father Joseph.

Twins followed: Sarah Matilda and Martha, baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1832; Sarah Matilda married James Banyard at Culpho on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1863, but Martha never married. The next child was a boy, named Joseph. He was baptised on 29<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>153</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal* 13.5.1826

<sup>154</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Norfolk Chronicle*, 27.1.1827



September 1832, which suggests there may have been some delay in getting the twins to the church for christening. He married Eliza Ashford in 1864 in the Ipswich registration district. He was followed by John Trott, baptised 14<sup>th</sup> June 1835. John married Elizabeth Hervey in 1862 - also somewhere in the Ipswich area. Harriet, who came next, was born at Culpho in 1837 and married William Woodward there on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1863. Another daughter, Ann, was baptised on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1840, and Almira - the last child - was baptised on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1844. She was the last to marry, at Culpho on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1882, and her husband was Benjamin David Gall, who had previously proved her grandfather William Trott's will. The name Almira appearing on both sides of the family tree was intriguing. As it was such an unusual name it seemed an early indication of some kind of family relationship between the two Harris families – as later indeed proved to be the case.

In 1841<sup>155</sup> Robert was described as a farmer, born in the county, and with him were Mary; Robert, Joseph, Harriet, Ann and John; and three farm servants. In 1848, one George Green<sup>156</sup> was acquitted of the charge of having stolen 15 hens belonging to Robert Harris of Culpho. The papers don't say who had taken them, so presumably this crime was never solved! By 1851, Robert was describing himself as a farmer of 180 acres, employing eight men and two boys<sup>157</sup>. Mary was listed as a farmer's wife, aged 47, and born at Sutton in Suffolk. The children, described as farmer's son or daughter apart from the youngest two who were scholars, were all born at Culpho. There was a live-in house servant, and the property next door was occupied by agricultural labourer John Goodchild and his family. This man worked for Robert and when he died in 1876, an obituary<sup>158</sup> was published describing him as follows:

... at Culpho, of bronchitis, in his 76<sup>th</sup> year, John Goodchild. The deceased was for 55 years the trusted and valued servant of Mr. Robert Harris, of Culpho, who, for the faithful devotion to the interest of his employer, was greatly and deservedly respected.

In the 19th century, anyone wishing to kill game had to acquire a certificate, at the cost of £4 and 10d, and their names were then listed in the local press. Robert Harris of Culpho appeared on such a list in the *Bury and Norwich Post* in 1851<sup>159</sup>. Five years later, he was hitting the headlines again, as an exhibitor in the *Royal Agricultural Society's Show* at Chelmsford<sup>160</sup>, exhibiting:

"Prodigy," 1 year, Suffolk, chestnut, bred by Robert Harris, of Culpho.

One John Ward, of East Mersea, also exhibited a chestnut Suffolk describing it as bred by Robert Harris, so presumably he had a good reputation in this field.

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<sup>155</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 census, Culpho, HO 107/1020/6

<sup>156</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 1.7.1848

<sup>157</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Culpho, HO 107/1801

<sup>158</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 19.2.1876

<sup>159</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Bury and Norwich Post*, 1.10.1851

<sup>160</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Chelmsford Chronicle*, 25.7.1856

By 1861<sup>161</sup>, both his eldest children had left home, but Robert's farm had grown to 200 acres and he was employing 10 men and 12 boys. The family consisted of Robert, Mary, and all the rest of the children – now largely grown-up. A visitor and a dairymaid completed the household schedule.

Robert was presumably a respected member of the community, having been appointed representative for Culpho on the Board of Guardians of the Woodbridge Union<sup>162</sup> - the body responsible for administering poor relief locally. Along with his colleagues, he put his name to an article in the paper decrying the way the vice-chairman of the board had been treated by those above him. The marriages of his sons Joseph and John Trott were also announced in *The Ipswich Journal*, in 1862 and 64 respectively; and he was also reported exhibiting cattle at *The Ipswich Show* in 1868.

In 1871<sup>163</sup> only Mary, Martha and Annie remained in Robert's household, and although he was still farming 200 acres, he was only employing eight men and two boys to assist him. There was a domestic servant to help in the house, no doubt there to help his wife Mary, who was evidently ailing by this time. In 1872, *The Ipswich Chronicle*<sup>164</sup> reported her death:

HARRIS. - 16<sup>th</sup> inst., aged 68, after a long and painful affliction, born with great fortitude, deeply regretted by her family and friends, Mary, the beloved wife of Robert Harris, of Culpho.

The news was also reported in the *Chelmsford Chronicle*. So it was that his household was much reduced by the time of the 1881 census<sup>165</sup>. Listed as farming 170 acres with seven men and one boy, Robert had only his youngest daughter Almira and the general servant for company. However, for the first time in the census, his farm was identified as Abby. (This was expanded to Abbey Farm in 1891.) Wikimedia<sup>166</sup> describes it as follows:

The house and buildings are set well away from the road down a private track. The site is, I believe, part of the former Culpho Abbey.

*British Listed Buildings*<sup>167</sup> describes it as follows:

Farmhouse. Early C17, with alterations of C18 and C19. 2-cell lobby-entrance plan. 2 storeys. Timber-framed and plastered. Plain tiled roof

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<sup>161</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 Census, Culpho, RG 9/1167

<sup>162</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 5.4.1862, 22.10.1864, 29.9.1866, 16.12.1868

<sup>163</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1871 census, Culpho, RG 10/1757

<sup>164</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Chronicle*, 19.11.1872

<sup>165</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Culpho, RG 11/1879

<sup>166</sup> [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Abbey\\_Farm,\\_Culpho\\_-\\_geograph.org.uk\\_-\\_1518479.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Abbey_Farm,_Culpho_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1518479.jpg)

<sup>167</sup> <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-285964-abbey-farmhouse-culpho-suffolk>

with plastered central chimney. Various C19 and C20 casements. Lean-to C19 extension at front with boarded entrance door. Typical and complete unmoulded C17 timber-framing exposed internally. Massive central chimney. A parallel service range was added to rear in C18, under extended slated roof. The enclosing moat is probably of C13 or C14, the site being perhaps that of the Grange held by the Abbey of Leiston at Culpho.



### **Abbey Farm, Culpho**

Like many mediaeval churches, St. Botolph's Culpho<sup>168</sup>, where Robert was churchwarden, underwent restoration in the Victorian period:

...and the modern chancel is a complete rebuilding of the 1880s by Robert Gurdon, first Baron Cranworth. He restored St Botolph for the workers on his estates - as his memorial observes, *he was always gracious and kind to all his tenants* - and this church was intended for the virtuous poor of a remote and intensely rural parish.

The reopening of the church was an important event<sup>169</sup>:

Through the liberality of Mr. R.T. Gurdon, M.P., patron, the chancel of this church has been restored and enclosed from the other portion of the building, ample room being provided for the inhabitants of so small the parish. On Sunday morning the church was reopened, the service being conducted by the Rev. J.M. Freeman.... through the generosity of Mr. R.T. Gurdon and other kind friends, and the exertions of Miss Harris, of the Abbey, a harmonium has been provided.... The venerable churchwarden, Mr. Robert Harris, who has filled this office upwards of 60 years, was present to render his assistance towards the comfort of the congregation.

<sup>168</sup> <http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/culpho.html>

<sup>169</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 3.5.1884

60 years as churchwarden, even in such a small parish, is quite a record; he must have only been around 20 when he first took on the role. During this decade *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>170</sup> makes other references to Robert Harris, recording his attendance at a garden party at Grundisburgh Hall and his participation in the funeral of a local dignitary at Woodbridge: both events show his status in the community.



**St. Botolph, Culpho**

In 1891<sup>171</sup> Robert was still enumerated as a farmer, although his age, as is common with older people, had inflated slightly to 90. With him were his unmarried daughter Ann, a 22-year-old granddaughter named Alice and a farm steward who was presumably by now doing most of the running of the farm. He died on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1892<sup>172</sup>, the announcement in *The Ipswich Journal* simply noting:

HARRIS. - 1st March, at Culpho Abbey, Robert Harris, aged 91.

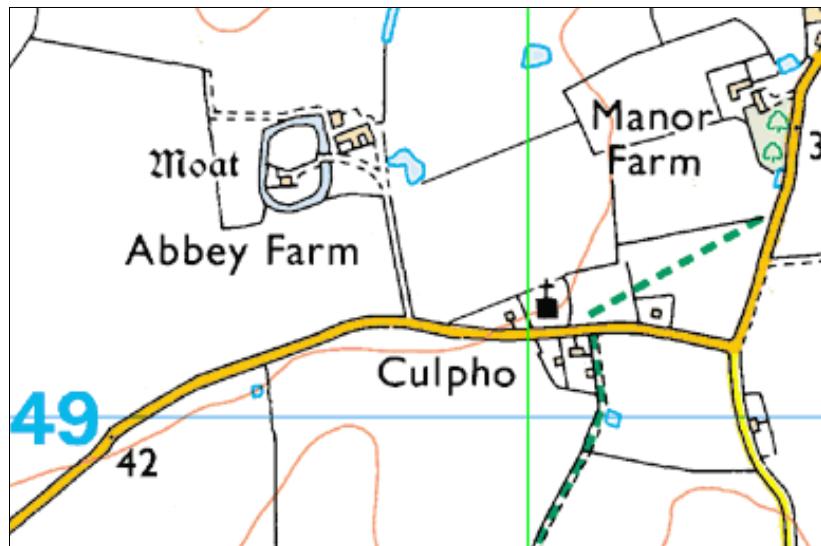
However, the paper also publishes an obituary:

DEATH OF MR. ROBT. HARRIS. - Our obituary column contains the announcement of the death of Mr. Robert Harris of the Abbey Farm Culpho - where he lived for the major portion of his life - at the advanced age of 91; and of which parish he was churchwarden for 70 years, a record in parish matters, we should say, unique. He leaves nine children, 25 grandchildren, and 36 great-grandchildren. The old gentleman was hail and hearty till within the last year of his life, and it is only comparatively short time ago that he walked to Woodbridge and back.

<sup>170</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 2.8.1889, 10.6.1887

<sup>171</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Culpho, RG 12/1474

<sup>172</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 5.3.1892



**Abbey Farm Culpho**

The following week<sup>173</sup> the paper published a description of the funeral:

THE LATE MR. ROBERT HARRIS. – The obsequies of the late Mr. Robert Harris, of Culpho Abbey, took place on Saturday afternoon, when the remains were born by six bearers from the Abbey to the church. Many relatives and friends were present. The vicar (the Rev. James Freeman) officiated, and in church the hymn “Peace, perfect peace” was sung. The coffin was of unpolished oak with black furniture, and bore the inscription: – “Robert Harris, died March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1892, aged 91 years.” On the coffin were four very beautiful wreaths from his daughters Martha and Annie, Mrs Freeman and family, and Mrs T.C. Cleveland, of Woodbridge. The deceased had tenanted the Abbey farm since 1818, and had farmed under four successive members of the Gurdon family: he was the oldest tenant on the Grundisburgh Hall estate.

In his will<sup>174</sup>, made four years before his death, Robert appointed his son-in-law William Woodward and his friend Samuel Ling of Woodbridge, an accountant, to be his executors and trustees. He bequeathed the proceeds of his life assurance policy to be shared between his daughters Sarah Banyard and Martha Harris and his grandson Robert James Banyard, with Sarah receiving £100 and the other half being shared between Martha and Robert 70:30. Grandson James also inherited Robert’s gold watch and chain while his daughter Anne was entitled to keep all the furniture in her bedroom and the keeping room and whatever she wanted from the scullery and storeroom. The rest of the household furniture was to go to daughter Sarah:

in part satisfaction of the value of such furniture and household effects of the debt due to the late Mr James Banyard her husband.

<sup>173</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 12.3.1892

<sup>174</sup> SRO, IC/AA2/162/188, Will of Robert Harris of Culpho, 1891

His silver plate was to be divided equally between daughters Mary, Sarah, Martha and Ann. The executors were then to sell his stock and crops and the rest of his personal estate and to put the money accruing with any other monies and securities owned and then share the total as follows:

...one fifth part thereof for my daughter Mary the wife of Charles Freeman as to one other fifth part thereof for my daughter Sarah Matilda the widow of James Banyard as to one other fifth part thereof for my daughter Martha Harris as to one other fifth part thereof to my daughter Anne Harris as to the remaining fifth part thereof for my daughter Almira the wife of Benjamin David Gall.

He goes on to explain why his other children have been left out of the equation:

my son John Trott Harris having received of me considerable sums of money in my lifetime I am unable to make any provision for him and my late son Robert Harris and my son Joseph Harris having also received considerable funds I am unable to make any provision for the children of the said Robert Harris or for my said son Joseph.

Presumably this is a reference, in part at least, to Robert Hasketon's earlier financial difficulties. He also asks that his executors take into account an advancement of £200 to Mary Freeman and £60 to Almira Harris, and reduce their shares accordingly. The will was proved at Ipswich on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1892. The effects were valued at £660 13/6, which perhaps explains why there was nothing left over to help his orphaned grandchildren. A notice was put into *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>175</sup>, inviting any potential creditors to contact William Woodward Welton, solicitor in Woodbridge, before 6<sup>th</sup> September, after which time the executors would proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased.

A memorial to Robert and his wife at Culpho reads as follows:

In  
Affectionate Remembrance  
of  
MARY  
the beloved wife of  
ROBERT HARRIS  
Who departed this life Nov<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1872  
Aged 68 years  
Also  
ROBERT HARRIS  
70 years Churchwarden of this Parish  
who passed peacefully away March 1<sup>st</sup> 1892  
Aged 91 years  
Both deeply loved and mourned

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<sup>175</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 30.7.1892

It is fortunate that Robert Calver Harris gave his full name when baptising his children, as for most of the time he went by the name of plain Robert Harris. I had suspected Calver to have been a family name, but not the reason he was given it. It is very much a Suffolk surname<sup>176</sup>. Robert's brother, William Kemp or William Calver Harris, used the latter name when he married at Withersdale, in the north of the county, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1835. The register there recorded the marriage of William Calver Harris of Culpho and Eliza Ramsay of Grundisburgh.

William was also a farmer, but in terms of religion, of a different persuasion to Robert. He settled in Witnesham<sup>177</sup> after his marriage, and raised a large family, many with names already met in this account: Robert, John and Harriet, and also Mary Ann, Philip, Fanny, George: not uncommon in themselves, but altogether perhaps suggestive of a relationship. In 1881<sup>178</sup> he was enumerated in his son John's household, as the Baptist Minister of Occold Chapel [near Eye], though 10 years later<sup>179</sup> he was recorded as living on his own means with one of his sons, so it is not clear for how long he was a minister. Curiously, he died at the Moat Farm, Dallinghoo, on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1892 – the same year as Robert - and also on a moated property! Probate of an estate worth just over £400 was granted to two of his children.

## William Trott, shipowner, and the Pierces - Sutton and Woodbridge

In the census returns, Mary Trott, wife of Robert Harris, consistently gave her place of birth as Sutton, south-east of Woodbridge and not far from the coast. Her given age would suggest a date of birth in 1803 or 4, and sure enough, the Sutton parish register shows:

Trott Mary daughter of William and Sarah Trott was born 8<sup>th</sup> November 1803, baptised 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1803

She was the seventh child of her parents, having been preceded by Sarah, born 15<sup>th</sup> March 1789, William born 24<sup>th</sup> March 1793, John born 20<sup>th</sup> November 1795, George born 28<sup>th</sup> June 1797, Robert born 6<sup>th</sup> April 1799 and Elizabeth born 18<sup>th</sup> October 1801: all were baptised at Sutton. I assumed that Mary was the youngest but a daughter Ann, mentioned in her father's will was presumably born after the family left the village; a son Edward was born in 1806 but died young, and a final son - Pierce - was baptised at St. George Woodbridge on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1813 (see tree 14 - page 72).

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<sup>176</sup>

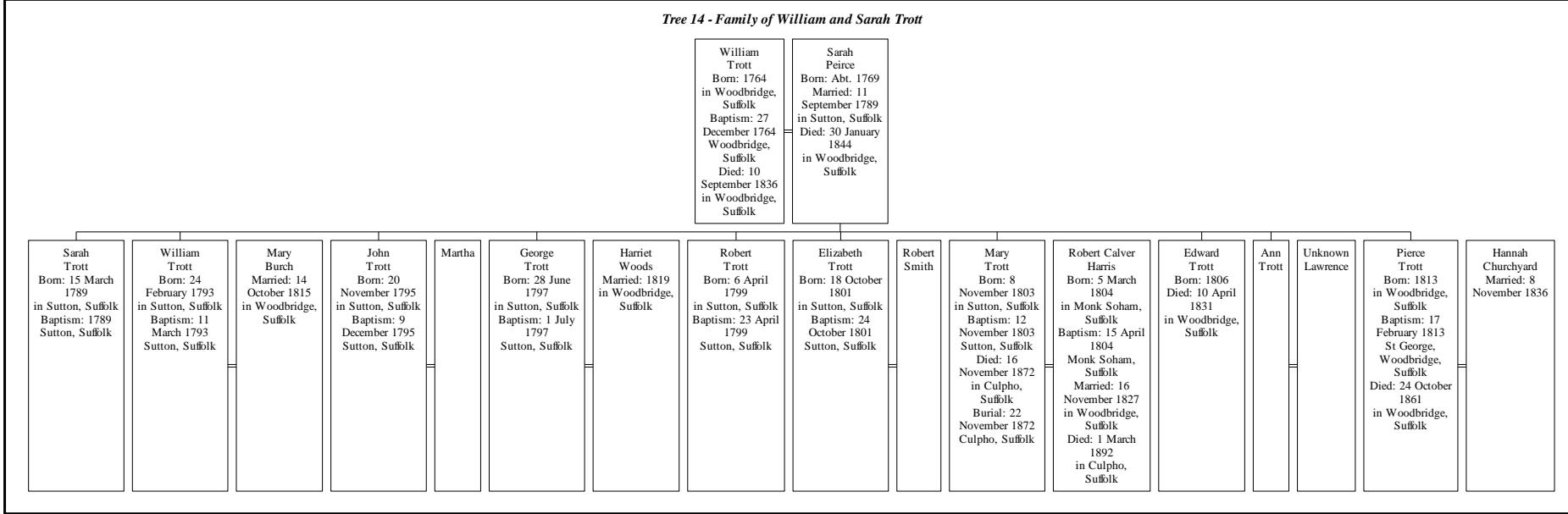
<http://gbnames.publicprofiler.org/Map.aspx?name=CALVER&year=1881&altnyear=1998&country=GB&type=name>

<sup>177</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Witnesham, HO 107/1801

<sup>178</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1881 census, Charsfield, RG 11/1880

<sup>179</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1891 census, Dallinghoo, RG 12/1474

*Tree 14 - Family of William and Sarah Trott*



The name given to William and Sarah's last child was his mother's maiden name. Sarah's baptism has not been found, although there is documentary evidence to show that she was the daughter of Philip and Sarah Pierce. She must have been a minor at the time of her marriage, and so born after 1768, as the entry for her marriage on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1789 at Sutton reads:

William Trott of the parish of Woodbridge single man and Sarah Peirce  
of this parish spinster married by licence with consent of guardians.

Both signed and the marriage was witnessed by John Trott, possibly William's brother. The early years of the marriage were presumably spent in Sutton, but by 1806 the family had moved to Woodbridge, and it was here that Sarah ultimately died<sup>180</sup>:

30<sup>th</sup> ult. in Theatre-Street Woodbridge, Sarah, relict of Capt. Wm. Trott,  
shipowner of that port, aged 74

in January 1844. Her given age would suggest a birth year of 1769 or 70, which accords well with her being under twenty-one at the time of her marriage.

Both Mary's marriage and Sarah's death ascribe the title ship-owner to William Trott, and it is not surprising that he had a maritime occupation, as Woodbridge lies on the tidal River Deben. Being a ship-owner might not have been quite as grand as it seems, though he seems to have been involved with several ships, some sailed by others. It was common for owners to have a share in a ship - or even a share in several ships - as this obviated the chance of losing all your capital if the ship foundered. The owner might be engaged in a maritime trade on land, such as sail-maker, or might be the master of the vessel, which in this case, William Trott was, for at least some of his enterprises, though his sons also commanded vessels in which their father had a share.

A website devoted to Woodbridge's Maritime Festival<sup>181</sup>, describes the town's history briefly as follows:

After Woodbridge was first identified by name at the end of the 10th century, activity on the River Deben has increased, until by Stuart times major warships were being launched from what is now Lime Kiln Quay. After that, the emphasis was on the building of merchant vessels, and finally to yachts and pleasure craft.

More enlighteningly, a blog on the River Deben<sup>182</sup> also gives an insight to life in Woodbridge at the time of the Trottts:

Woodbridge, the main settlement on the River Deben and a thriving

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<sup>180</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 3.2.1844

<sup>181</sup> <http://www.woodbridge24.co.uk/maritime-woodbridge/>

<sup>182</sup> <http://eastcoastrivers.blogspot.co.uk/2012/02/river-deben.html>

market town, was once an important commercial port. It was the centre of registration for all vessels using the river and oversaw the import of coal, timber, wine, spirits and groceries from around the UK and Europe and the export of corn, flour and agricultural goods.

William Trott was still living in Sutton in 1803, at the time of Mary's birth, as he appears in an advertisement in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>183</sup> in January of that year. The wording of the piece suggests that he may have started out as a miller, and changed jobs when he moved to Woodbridge. Certainly, two of his sons later became millers:

To MILLERS  
To be SOLD by AUCTION  
By JOHN ROGERS

On Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. At the Boat Inn, at Woodbridge, at Three o'clock in the afternoon.

A Capital New-erected POST WINDMILL, with two pair of most excellent French stones, one of which is 4 feet 10 inches, and the other 4 feet, going gears and sail cloths.

To be viewed any time previous to the sale, and further particulars known, by applying to Mr. William Trott, at Sutton; Mr. Wm. Rogers of Wickham Market; or the auctioneer, at Woodbridge.

In October 1811, *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>184</sup> reported the following:

Saturday last a new brig, named the Prince Regent, burthen 160 tons, was launched at Woodbridge, by Mr. Wm. Dryden, for Capt. W. Trott, of that port. She is allowed by competent judges, to be as complete and well calculated a vessel of her burthen as was ever built for the general coasting trade.

Captain Trott must have been at sea earlier, but from 1813 to 1831, almost without a gap, he appears in the annual *Lloyd's Register*<sup>185</sup> as – if I've read it right - either master or owner of a number of ships. The registers take some deciphering, but if I have read it correctly, William was master or owner of the *Betsy* and the *Union*, and they – and other ships he was involved in - voyaged to places like Dieppe, Lisbon and Cadiz as well as London. His ships were listed as a sloop – a one-masted sailing ship and a brig – a two-masted sailing ship. Reference is also made to a plain 'ship' and a 'snow', another type of brig. There is also reference from time to time to 'Trott and Co'; I assume the 'and co' were his sons.

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<sup>183</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 15.1.1803

<sup>184</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 12.10.1811

<sup>185</sup>

[http://www.lr.org/about\\_us/shipping\\_information/Lloyds\\_Register\\_of\\_Ships\\_online.aspx#History\\_Register\\_of\\_ships](http://www.lr.org/about_us/shipping_information/Lloyds_Register_of_Ships_online.aspx#History_Register_of_ships)

His next appearance in the paper<sup>186</sup> was in 1815, by which time he was evidently a well-established seaman:

To be SOLD  
FAST SAILING BOAT, fit for Dredging, Trolling &c. and will prevent any Man from being pressed. For price and particulars, inquire of Captain William Trott, Woodbridge.



### River Deben, Woodbridge

1815 was, of course, the year of Waterloo, and, in order to man the ships of war required to fight Napoleon, Press Gangs<sup>187</sup>, sanctioned since 1664 by the Navy to impress seamen to fight for the crown, were very active during the era. There was no conscription at this time, so effectively kidnapping experienced seamen was the only option available:

Once a man had been seized by the press gang, he was offered a choice. He could either sign up as a volunteer and receive the benefits that came with being a volunteer (advance payment etc.) or he could remain a pressed man and receive nothing.

No wonder this was such a feared tactic amongst merchant seamen. With the defeat of Napoleon, the system was discontinued, but at the time of this advertisement William had good reason to be fearful of the press gangs, as in 1811<sup>188</sup>, his own son William had been abducted in this way:

Sunday se'nnight Mr. Wm. Trott, master and half-owner of the sloop Flora, of Woodbridge, was impressed on board his vessel in London, and

<sup>186</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 22.4.1815

<sup>187</sup> [http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org/info\\_sheet\\_impressment.htm](http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org/info_sheet_impressment.htm)

<sup>188</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 9.3.1811

conveyed on board his majesty's ship Enterprize, near the Tower; and on Friday, the first inst. Counsellor Dampier appeared before Mr. Justice Bailey, in order to obtain a writ of Habeus for his discharge, which was opposed by the Admiralty Solicitor, who contended, as Mr. Trott is a minor, that the bond given by any master of the vessel, not being of the age of 21 years, to obtain the certificate of registry, was invalid, and consequently did not protect him from the impress service. Mr. Justice Bailey concurring in this opinion, the writ was refused; but upon petition to the Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Mr. Trott was ordered to be discharged upon payment of 80£. to provide two able seaman of substitutes.

William next appeared in print in 1822<sup>189</sup>, when he was involved in settling the affairs of Philip Pierce – his father-in-law. What is described as an:

EXTENSIVE and VALUABLE ESTATE,  
At SUTTON, near WOODBRIDGE,  
AN INVALUABLE SITUATION TO A SPORTSMAN

was to be sold. The property was described as:

CONSISTING of a very Substantial and Convenient Brick built and Tiled FARMHOUSE, in the most compleat state of repair, attached brick built and tiled Backhouse, dairy, cheese chamber, storeroom, pantries, oven, and large cellars all very lately erected at great expense, new brick built and tiled piggeries, stabling for nine cart horses, riding stable, good neathouse, cart sheds, convenient brick shaped wash, large garden, planted with choice young fruit trees, together with One Hundred and Eighty-six Acres, one Rood and six Perches...

The advertisement goes on to describe the kind of land available and the variety of timber trees growing on the estate. It then requests anyone interested to apply to Mr John Trott at the farmhouse, or others including:

Captain William Trott, on the Market Hill, Woodbridge

Presumably, his mother-in-law Sarah had recently died or retired and he was operating, as the newspaper put it:

In pursuance of the directions of the last Will and Testament of  
PHILIP PIERCE, GENT. (deceased),  
The Proprietor and late Occupier

In his will<sup>190</sup>, Philip Pierce described himself as a farmer and devised his whole estate to his wife Sarah for life, with the aim that she continue to farm. He made provision for her to mortgage part of the farm up to the value of £300 should she:

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<sup>189</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 1.6.1822

<sup>190</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/228/91, Will of Philip Pierce of Sutton, 1808

be reduced in her circumstances.. [and] have occasion for a further provision

He also willed that should she wish to retire from farming she would have the right to take whatever household furniture she wished, but then the rest of the property should be sold and the money put in trust. After his wife's death, the estate was to be sold if this hadn't happened already and £400 invested during the life of his daughter Sarah Trott. Sarah was to receive any interest and profits on the money:

for her own separate use, to be disposed of as she alone shall think proper and without the control or intermeddling of her present or any future husband she may have or take

The rest of the money was to go to all of Sarah's children, equally divided between them, and after Sarah's death they were also to receive the £400. His wife Sarah and John Waller of Butley, farmer, were to be executors and the will was dated 29<sup>th</sup> January 1808. Two of the witnesses were named Pierce – William and Philip. Whether they were sons who had already received their share of inheritance, cousins or other kin is not clear.

Nine years later, the *Bury and Norwich Post*<sup>191</sup> reported the death:

On Sunday se'nnight [10<sup>th</sup> April 1831], aged 24, Edward, fifth son of Mr. William Trott, shipowner, of Woodbridge

As Edward's baptism has not been found, this is the only proof of his birth in around 1807. Later in the same year<sup>192</sup>, William signed a petition to the High Sheriff of Suffolk in support of the Reform Bill:

WE, the undersigned, do hereby request you to call a Meeting of the Freeholders of the Inhabitants of the County of Suffolk, for the purpose of considering the best means to be adopted in support of his Majesty's Ministers in their assertions to accomplish the full and effectual Reform in Representation of the People in Parliament.

William Trott died five years later, at Woodbridge on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1836. Needless to say the event was posted in the newspapers. *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>193</sup> notes simply:

10<sup>th</sup> inst. .... Mr. William Trott, shipowner, of Woodbridge, aged 83

The *Bury and Norwich Post*<sup>194</sup> also noted the event, but erroneously described him as a shop owner! The event even made *The Norfolk Chronicle*<sup>195</sup>.

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<sup>191</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Bury and Norwich Post*, 20.4.1831

<sup>192</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Bury and Norwich Post*, 9.11.1831

<sup>193</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 17.9.1836

<sup>194</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Bury and Norwich Post*, 21.9.1836

<sup>195</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Norfolk Chronicle*, 24.9.1836

After his death, in accordance with his will, his house was auctioned<sup>196</sup>:

**Desirable Premises, in Woodbridge**

To be SOLD by AUCTION...

On Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1836 (unless previously disposed of by Private Contract,) at the Bull Inn, Woodbridge, at Six o'clock in the Evening, by order of the executors of the late Capt. WILLIAM TROTT. dec.

ALL that respectable redbrick and Sash-fronted DWELLING-HOUSE, with large garden in front, occupied by the late proprietor up to the time of his decease; comprising 2 front parlours, kitchen, store-room, pantry, entrance and staircase leading to 4 good bedrooms; detached wash-house, stable and gig-house, with loft over, and other domestic offices.

The premises are situated in the best part of Chapel Lane, in Woodbridge. The House is built upon an elevated site, commanding a good prospect, with the garden in front, extending 130 feet to the road, and 90 feet in breadth. The whole in excellent repair.

It is fortunate that the census and baptism records, along with the announcement of her wedding, tie Mary Trott to William, as, unusually, she is not mentioned in his will, though the rest of his surviving children are. Maybe she had already received her portion on marriage: maybe her father felt that she was sufficiently well off: maybe they had fallen out. In his will<sup>197</sup> he described himself as a ship-owner, and then appointed his three sons, William, George and Pierce, and his wife Sarah to be his executors. He gave his copyhold messuages in Millers Lane in Woodbridge, occupied by himself and his son George, to his wife for life, and then to George's heirs. Pierce was given the option of five dwellings and their land in Bredfield, worth £200, or the cash equivalent, in which case they were to become part of the residual estate. At Sarah's death, he was to receive £500 if he had relinquished the Bredfield property, and £300 if not. Sarah was also given:

all my household furniture and plate linen and china to and for her own use and benefit

He placed his ships in trust:

I give and bequeath to my said executors or the survivors or survivor of them all my ships and vessels shares of ships and vessels whatsoever upon trust that they do and shall employ the same in trade in the usual way that such vessels are employed and as they in their discretion shall think most advantageous and keep a regular account of the earnings of such vessels and shares of vessels and apply the money to accumulate therefrom in manner hereinafter mentioned for and during the natural life of the said Sarah my wife and from and immediately after the decease of my said wife

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<sup>196</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 15.10.1836

<sup>197</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/256/61, Will of William Trott of Woodbridge, 1836

then upon trust that my said executors or the survivors or survivor of them do dispose of the same as herein after mentioned...



**A brig of the kind William Trott might have sailed**

He also instructed his executors to dispose of property in Hollesley, occupied by one Benjamin Bridges, as well as a house where he lately lived in Cuttings Lane in Woodbridge, next to the Dissenting Chapel, along with the Bredfield property if George didn't want it. The money so raised was to be invested and interest on £150 to be paid to his daughter Elizabeth Smith and on £100 to his daughter Ann Lawrence. The rest of the interest was to go to his wife, ensuring her an income of £70 a quarter. After Sarah's death, everything was to be sold and divided up with William receiving a clear £400, the two daughters their £150 and £100 respectively and the rest to be divided equally between William, George and Pierce.

Later, when it became clear that it was unlikely that William junior would have a son, he added a codicil putting the £400 allocated to him in trust, giving him the income from it for life, but then to be shared between all his children equally. The will was proved on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1836, and the estate sworn to be worth under £800.

A descendant of William Trott<sup>198</sup> found an extract in a book of reminiscences of bygone Woodbridge describing Captain Trott. I have not been able to discover the source, but it makes interesting reading:

There used to be in Woodbridge a class of men who were nothing else but ship-owners, perhaps having shares in a dozen different vessels. Of such there used to be a family named Trott, and it is of one of them I wish to make a few remarks, more particularly of the father of the family whom I can recollect so well when I was a boy, old Captain Trott. He was a very

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<sup>198</sup> Courtesy of Clare Tooze on Ancestry

fine portly old man, walking remarkably upright, having his hair powdered and wearing a "pigtail". I think he must have been an officer on board a navy ship but had left at the Peace of 1815 and came home and lived in retirement in his own house next the Cuttings Lane Chapel. We boys always used to look wonderingly at him whenever he walked by.

He was a noted ship-owner and had a family of four fine portly sons, the two eldest of which, William and George, were well-known shipowners also and began life by going to sea in their own ships and afterwards retired living upon the earnings of their vessels. Many people yet living in Woodbridge will remember Captains William and George. I think the old Captain with the pigtail and powdered hair, died when I was at school in Yorkshire for I saw no more of him after the year 1819, when I was there. It was the fashion in old George the Third's time and I believe the King himself wore one of these appendages, like the Chinese. Powdered hair was general, only there was a tax on it and it was pretty much confined to the aristocracy, though there were several other instances in the town but minus the pigtail.

The local newspapers took a keen interest in the comings and goings of ships from Woodbridge. There are numerous references to the name Trott, but it is sometimes difficult to tell, in a large seafaring family, which member is being referred to. For example, on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1804, *The Ipswich Journal* noted the arrival of the *Telegraph* with just the surname Trott following it, while on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1823 it recorded the arrival of the *Union* in the same way. On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1827, a ship named the *Thetis* was mentioned alongside the name Trott and the same entry also recorded the arrival of the *Albion* from London. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1830 the *Albion* returned, and on 6<sup>th</sup> November that year the *Thetis* arrived from Newcastle with coals and the *Albion* from London. On 16<sup>th</sup> March 1833, the *Union* was shown as sailing to London with a cargo of corn.

The *Bury and Norwich Post*<sup>199</sup> announced the marriage of William's eldest son at St Mary Woodbridge:

Married, Saturday se'nnight, Capt. Wm Trott of the ship *Prince Regent* to Miss M. Burch, of Woodbridge

but most family announcements appeared in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>200</sup> including that of the marriage of William's daughter Elizabeth to butcher Robert Smith on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1824.

Of William and Sarah's children, William has already been mentioned as he followed his father to sea. In 1851<sup>201</sup>, he was living in Mallett Yard, Woodbridge with a servant, his wife having died some 10 years earlier. Ten years later he was

<sup>199</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Bury and Norwich Post*, 25.10.1815

<sup>200</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 3.4.1824

<sup>201</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Woodbridge, H0 107/1801; 1861 census, Woodbridge, RG 9/1170; 1871 census, Woodbridge, RG 10/1759

living in Quay Lane but with the same housekeeper. In 1871 he was recorded as a 78-year-old widower and ship-owner. He died on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1877 and his will<sup>202</sup> was proved later that month by John Woods and Benjamin David Gall, his nephew-in-law. He left under £450. Second son John didn't go to sea. In 1851<sup>203</sup> he and his wife Martha were living at Ufford where he was a malster. By 1861 he was farming at Bucklesham but by 1871 he had retired to Martlesham and by 1881 was back in Woodbridge. He died in 1885.



### Buttram's Mill

Son George also became a ship-owner eventually, though when he married his wife Harriet Woods in 1819 at Woodbridge, he called himself a master mariner. In 1851<sup>204</sup>, he was recorded as a ship-owner living in Castle Street Woodbridge with his wife Harriet. He was still there 10 years later and in 1871 with the same occupation, but at some point he must have branched out as an entry in Wikipedia<sup>205</sup> on Buttram's Mill in Woodbridge lists him as its miller between 1836 and 46. Maybe he was just assisting his brother Pierce who seems to have spent most of his working life as a miller. In 1841<sup>206</sup> he was enumerated at Mill Hall, Buckit Road, Woodbridge, as a miller employing two men. With him were his wife Hannah and an eight-year-old son named William. 10 years later he was at Burkett Road in Woodbridge, still

<sup>202</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

<sup>203</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Ufford, H0 107/1801; 1861 census, Bucklesham, RG 9/1168; 1871 census, Martlesham, RG10/1758; 1881 census Woodbridge, RG 11/1883

<sup>204</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Woodbridge, H0 107/1801; 1861 census, Woodbridge, RG 9/1170; 1871 census, Woodbridge, RG 10/1759

<sup>205</sup>

[http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCwQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FButtrum's\\_Mill%2C\\_Woodbridge&ei=Nw9gUvutGcLD7Abi-IFg&usg=AFQjCNGp6LpjF62aN03NYwTA88c\\_m7amuA](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCwQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FButtrum's_Mill%2C_Woodbridge&ei=Nw9gUvutGcLD7Abi-IFg&usg=AFQjCNGp6LpjF62aN03NYwTA88c_m7amuA)

<sup>206</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, Woodbridge, H0 107/1801; 1861 census, Woodbridge, RG 9/1170

as a miller, with wife Hannah and grown-up children Hannah and William. He died on 24<sup>th</sup> October in the same year – 1861 - and his will<sup>207</sup>, with an estate worth under £600; his will was proved by his brothers William and George, his wife Hannah, and Henry Pizey.

An entry on *Wikipedia*<sup>208</sup> gives the following information about the mill run by Pierce Trott:

Buttrum's Mill was built in 1836 by John Whitmore, the Wickham Market millwright, replacing an earlier post mill. The mill was run for many years by the Trott family, for whom it was built, and later by the Buttrum family. [It] is a six storey tower mill with an ogee cap with a gallery. The tower is 20 feet 6 inches diameter internally at the base and 11 feet diameter at curb level. It is 48 feet high to the curb. The brickwork is 23 inches thick at the base. The mill stands 61 feet to the finial, the tallest surviving mill in Suffolk. The cap is winded by a six-bladed *fantail*. The four *Patent sails* of 70 feet span are carried on a cast iron *windshaft* as is the cast iron *brake wheel* with wooden cogs. This drives a cast iron *wallower* carried on the cast iron *upright shaft*. The *wallower* can be disengaged from the *brake wheel* to allow the mill to be driven by auxiliary power. Lower down the *upright shaft* a cast iron *crown wheel* drives auxiliary machinery via layshafts. The cast iron *great spur wheel* drives four pairs of 4 feet diameter *overdrift millstones*. Two of the four pairs of millstones are controlled by a single governor. The mill is unusual in having a speaking tube connecting the floors. One of the pairs of sails is shorter than the other pair.

The website for Woodbridge<sup>209</sup> adds the following information:

Buttrum's Mill is one of England's finest tower windmills. Built in 1836, it was probably a wedding present to its first owner, Pierce Trott, who married in the same year. The mill is a product of the famous Suffolk millwright John Whitmore. Visitors can climb the tall tower to see his elegant machinery, including no less than four pairs of millstones.

Pierce married Hannah Churchyard of Ufford<sup>210</sup> on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1836.

Of William and Sarah's daughters, Elizabeth is to be found living with her husband Robert, a butcher, with three children, on Seckton Street, Woodbridge in 1841<sup>211</sup>, but I have found no further trace of her. The first name of Ann Trott's husband remains a mystery as well.

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<sup>207</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

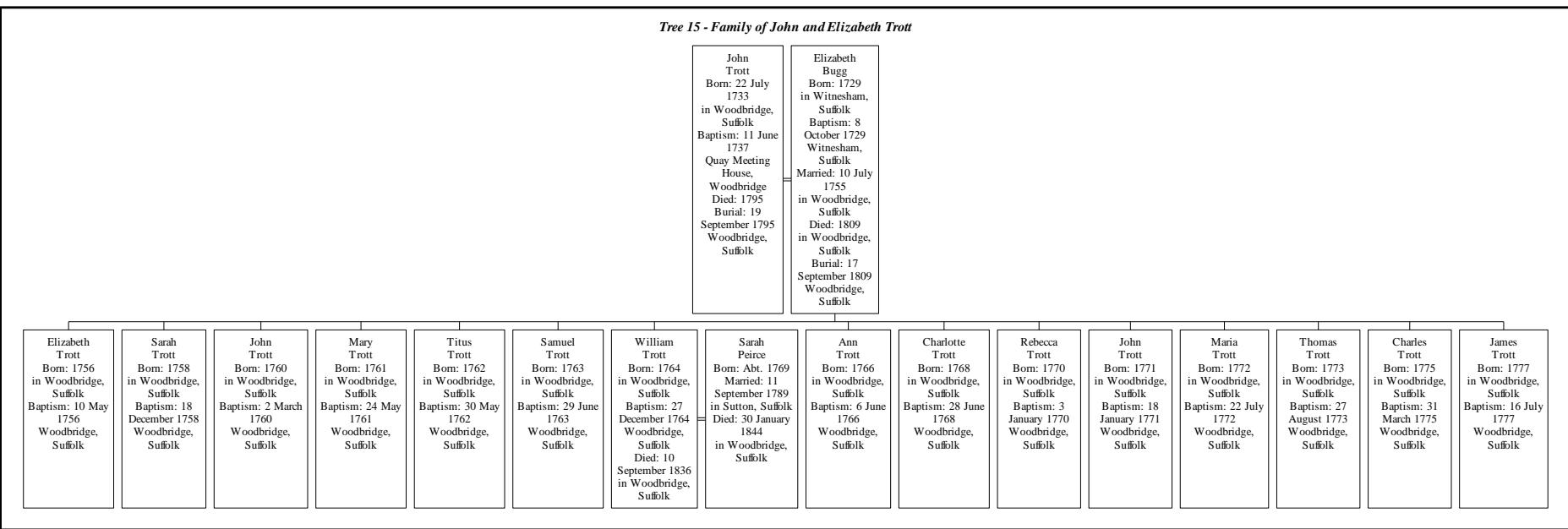
<sup>208</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buttrum%27s\\_Mill,\\_Woodbridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buttrum%27s_Mill,_Woodbridge)

<sup>209</sup> <http://woodbridgesuffolk.info/Woodbridge/Attractions/ButtrumsMill/index.html>

<sup>210</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> Bury and Norwich Post, 16.11.1836

<sup>211</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 census, Woodbridge, HO 107/1028/18

*Tree 15 - Family of John and Elizabeth Trott*



## The rest of the Trottts – mainly Woodbridge

William Trott was the seventh child in very large family, 15 in all, belonging to John<sup>3</sup> Trott and Elizabeth Bugg, who married at Woodbridge on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1755. All the children were baptised at Woodbridge St Mary, beginning with Elizabeth in 1756, followed by Sarah - 1758, John - 1760, Mary - 1761, Titus - 1762, Samuel - 1763, William baptised 27<sup>th</sup> December 1764, then Ann - 1766, Charlotte - 1768, Rebecca - 1770, another John - 1771, Maria - 1772, Thomas - 1773, Charles - 1775 and finally James - 1777 (see tree 15 - page 83).

At least two, possibly three, of William's brothers were probably involved in maritime occupations. The death of Captain Samuel Trott was reported in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>212</sup> in 1807; this could be William's uncle but seems more likely to be his older brother. It is also likely that the John Trott, master of the *Unity* of Woodbridge<sup>213</sup>, who was:

...lately wrecked in a gale of wind off that harbour...

was another of his brothers.

Another newspaper item<sup>214</sup> may refer to William's brother Thomas:

Sunday evening a melancholy accident happened aboard the Olive Branch, belonging to Woodbridge, lying in London River; Anthony Hunt and Thomas Trott, having turned into rest in the forecastle, and imagining their fire to be quite extinguished, the embers unfortunately rekindled, and being close shut in, there were both found suffocated on Tuesday morning.

No wonder James, the youngest brother, opted to become a porter<sup>215</sup>.

William's father - John<sup>3</sup> Trott - was born at Woodbridge on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1733 but baptised along with three of his siblings as members of the Quay Meeting House, a Congregational Church:

Mary the daughter, John, Charles and Samuel, the sons of Mr John and Mrs Mary Trott of Woodbridge were all Four baptised at their House June 11. 1737

so presumably at some point this family had nonconformist leanings as well, although his parents married, as was a legal requirement, in the Church of England. It is interesting to note that these baptisms took place in the parents' home, rather than the meeting house.

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<sup>212</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 4.7.1807

<sup>213</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 13.9.1794

<sup>214</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 11.4.1795

<sup>215</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1841 census, Woodbridge, HO 107/1028/18

Much less is known of John<sup>3</sup> than of his son William, but he was buried at Woodbridge on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1795, and the event noted in *The Ipswich Journal*<sup>216</sup>:

Saturday last died at Woodbridge, Mr. John Trott, master of the ship Unity.

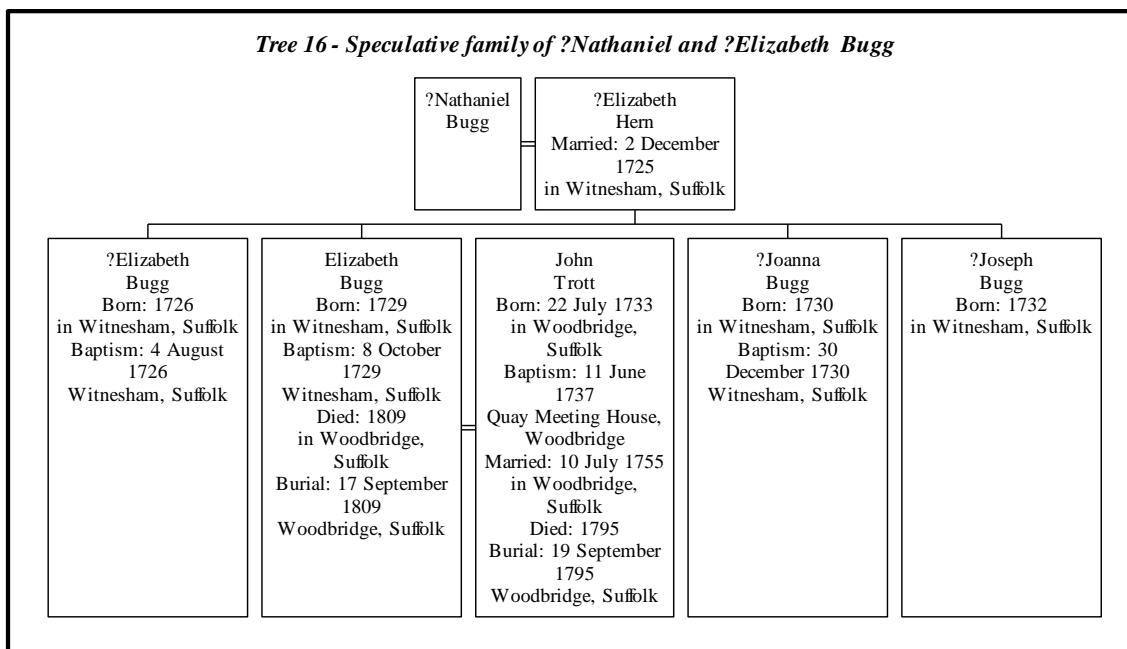
John<sup>3</sup> Trott made a fairly brief will on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1795<sup>217</sup>. Presumably he was in extremis as he was buried at Woodbridge St Mary the following day. He described himself as a Mariner, and then effectively left everything to his wife Elizabeth, including:

all that my messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell situate in the New Street in Woodbridge

and

all my part or parts share or shares in all that new built sloop or vessel called the Unity of and belonging to the port of Woodbridge aforesaid of which my son Samuel Trott now goeth master

along with all the *Unity's* accoutrements. The word 'now' after Samuel's name suggests perhaps that his brother John was indeed lost in the storm. The rest of the estate was also willed to Elizabeth who was made executor. Probate put the value of the effects at under £200 when the will was proved on 12<sup>th</sup> October the same year. Presumably, as William was able to will the New Street house to his own wife when his time came, Elizabeth eventually passed it on to her son.



<sup>216</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 11.4.1795

<sup>217</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/215/62, Will of John Trott of Woodbridge, 1795

The obvious parents for Elizabeth Bugg would have seemed to be George Bugg and Mary England who married at Woodbridge in 1725. However, the register shows both to have been marrying for a second time, and they appear to have had no children. So it seems more likely – though not proven - that she was the daughter of Nathaniel Bug and Elizabeth Hern who married at Witnesham on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1725 (see tree 16 – page 85). This couple baptised a daughter named Elizabeth on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1726. However, she presumably died young, as another child was baptised with the same name on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1729. I suspect this may be the girl who grew up to marry John<sup>3</sup>. There were two more ‘little Buggs’ – Joanna, baptised 30<sup>th</sup> December 1730 and Joseph baptised 12<sup>th</sup> March 1732. Unusually, the register also noted the names of the godparents. I imagine the lady recorded as Mrs Bugg was probably Elizabeth’s mother, and Robert Hern and his wife, William and Hannah Hern and Joseph Bugg of Philstowe (presumably Felixtowe) were presumably other members of the extended family. Elizabeth was buried at Woodbridge on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1809.

The marriage of John<sup>3</sup>’s parents John<sup>2</sup> Trott and Mary Firmin took place at Sudbourne on 18th May 1725; they don’t seem to have had any children there (although they may appear in a non-conformist register somewhere) but the first child I have found for them is Mary, born in Woodbridge six years later on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1731, followed by Charles – born in 11<sup>th</sup> May 1735. Next came Samuel, born 21<sup>st</sup> May 1737, William – born 10<sup>th</sup> April 1739 and finally Titus – born 17<sup>th</sup> January 1740. The first four of these were baptised as a job lot by the minister of the Quay Meeting House in Woodbridge.

The older John<sup>2</sup> Trott wasn’t a mariner. He seems to have been the only son of yet another John<sup>1</sup> Trott who married Elizabeth Day on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1695 at Melton, just outside Woodbridge (see tree 17 – page 87). John<sup>2</sup> was born on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1700 and baptised at Woodbridge St. Mary two months later on 14<sup>th</sup> December. He was a carpenter by trade and in 1741 he placed an advert in the *Ipswich Journal*<sup>218</sup>:

Whereas it was advertised in this Paper, on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, that the Entire Stock in Trade of Mr. Robert Green, late of Woodbridge, Merchant, deceased, was to be Sold; This is to give Notice, that the same is disposed of to Mr. JOHN HARRISON, and Mr. JOHN TROTT, who now sell the same Goods at the usual Prices and at the same Yard, (where Attendance will duly be given) viz. Firr-Timber, Deal-Balks, Heart and Firr Laths, Dutch Pan-Tiles, both glaz’d and plain, and Dutch Rushes.

All this maybe suggests he was branching out into a broader business.

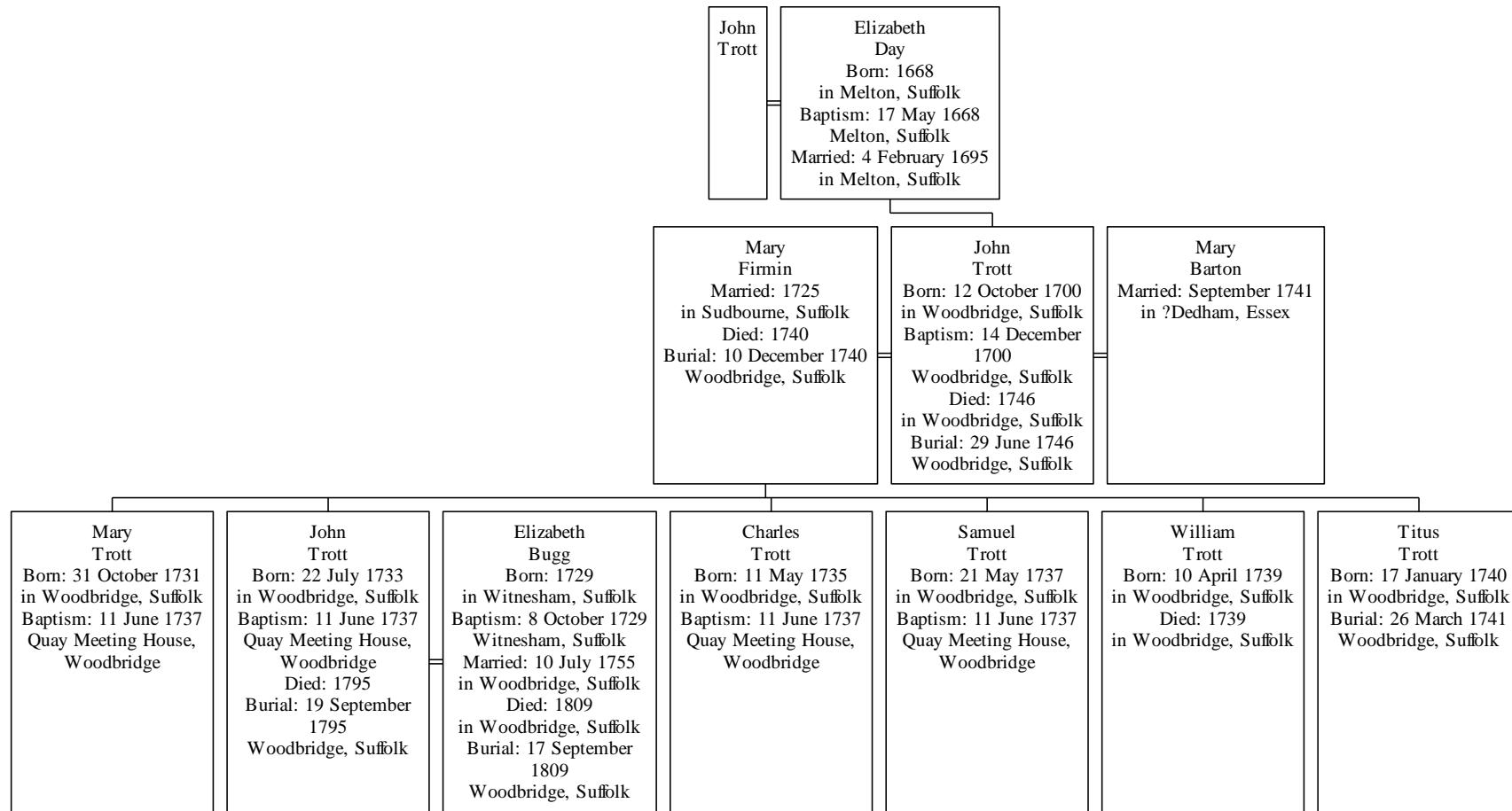
On 31<sup>st</sup> August 1744, John<sup>2</sup> Trott, described as a Joiner etc., took on an apprentice named Anthony Aldrich from Melton, and paid the duty on his indenture<sup>219</sup>.

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<sup>218</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *The Ipswich Journal*, 19.9.1741

<sup>219</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> UK, Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices’ Indentures

*Tree 17 - Descendants of John Trott and Elizabeth Day*



Presumably, at this point things were going well but only three years later John<sup>2</sup> was dead, and he was buried at Woodbridge St. Mary on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1746 as:

John Trott carpenter

His wife Mary had died shortly after Titus' birth and her burial was recorded at Woodbridge on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1740. Confusingly, John<sup>2</sup> married a second wife with the same name, so it is just as well that when Titus was baptised at the Quay Meeting House on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1740 the event was recorded in detail:

Titus the son of John Trott by his late wife Mrs Mary Trott was born and baptised at his House Jany 17. Following

It is perhaps indicative of John's state of mind that he seems to have been unable to supply his son's date of birth. Titus was destined for a short life, and was buried at St. Mary's on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1741.

John soon perhaps found consolation, as, on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1741, a licence for John Trott of Woodbridge, widower, to marry Mary Barton of Ipswich at Dedham in Essex was taken out on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1741, and it is presumably to this Mary that the first bequest of his will<sup>220</sup> was made five years later:

I give to my dear wife Mary Trott that part of the house where in Mr Trowell now liveth situate in the new street in Woodbridge aforesaid for and during her natural life

It must have been a sizeable property, as he went on to bequeath:

that part wherein Mary Webber, Edward Harsant, and William Blowers now live with the stable, shop, yard and appurtenances thereto belonging I give and devise to my son Samuel Trott and his heirs for ever. And that part of the said house which is at this time empty I give to my daughter Mary Trott and her heirs

with the stipulation that his wife and daughter, and their heirs:

should have at all times free passage to and use of the pump without any hindrance of my said son Samuel or his heirs

Another house in new street, called Stilyards was bequeathed to his sons John and Charles. It seems highly likely that the pub in New Street in Woodbridge called *Ye Olde Bell and Steelyard*<sup>221</sup> is the house referred to by John<sup>2</sup>. A website devoted to the pub gives the following information about its history:

This part of the building houses the Steelyard which is simply a

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<sup>220</sup> SRO, IC/AA1/175/30, Will of John Trott of Woodbridge, 1746

<sup>221</sup> <http://www.yeoldebllandsteelyard.co.uk/>

weighing machine, and is basically the forerunner to the public weighbridge.

In times gone by it was used to weigh carts when the government of the time passed a Road Traffic Act. This was because carts were getting heavier and the steel banded wheels were becoming much thinner and damaging the road surface. The new act stated that a toll had to be paid if loads were over 2.5 tons.

Local records suggest that the Steelyard was added to the original building somewhere around 1680.

A steelyard is a very simple device and is still used in Asia and parts of Europe today, albeit in a much smaller guise. Unlike a conventional set of scales on which the item to be weighed is placed at one end of a beam which is suspended from its centre point, and weights gradually added to the other end until both sides balance, the steelyard is fixed at one end of a calibrated beam and the item to be weighed is attached, then a counter-weight is moved along the beam until the item is 'balanced' and the weight is read from the scale on the beam.



**Ye Olde Bell and Steelyard, Woodbridge**

In order to obtain the weight of the cargo (the tare), the horse(s) were unhitched from the wagon or cart and it was connected to the steelyard by ropes, chains or leather strops. The cart was then weighed empty. Once the empty weight had been established the cart would be taken away and loaded before returning to the steelyard to be weighed again. By subtracting the weight empty from the laden weight, the weight of the cargo could be calculated. In this instance the cargo would usually be grain, hides or wool.

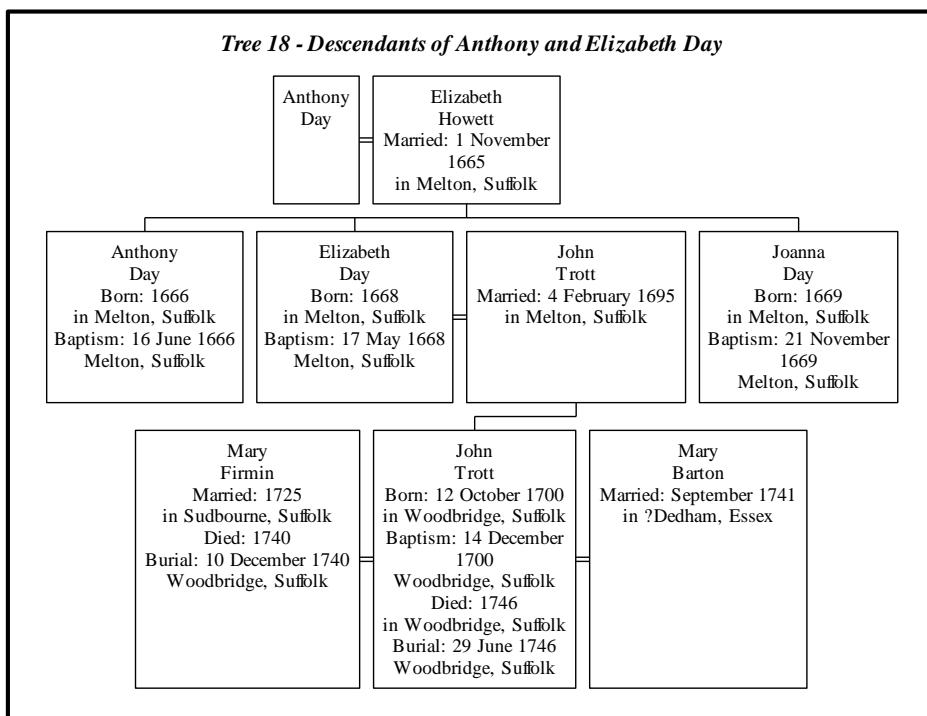
During this lengthy process the cartiers or farmers would visit the pub to refresh themselves or 'drown their sorrows'.

This steelyard was last used commercially in the 1880s. It was dismantled in 1897 and taken to London for a Victorian exhibition before being reinstated. A working model of this very steelyard can be seen in the Science Museum in London and also in the Avery Museum. It is last known to have been used to weigh an item in 1959.

To return to John<sup>2</sup>'s will, he requested that the rents and profits of his houses, with the exception of a portion given to his wife, be used for the maintenance and education of his children. His wife was to have any linen, household stuff and furniture that she liked but the rest of his possessions, including his stock in trade, were to be sold and the money divided so that his wife had one third. The rest was to be invested for his children.

He appointed his wife, Mary, and John Calver of Woodbridge, clockmaker, as executors, and it was these two, who in the following year put an advertisement into the *Ipswich Journal*<sup>222</sup>:

THIS is to give Notice to those Persons that are INDEBTED to the Estate of John Trott late of Woodbridge, Carpenter, deceased, that unless they pay their respective Debts to John Calver, of Woodbridge aforesaid, Clockmaker or Mary Trott, Widow of the said John Trott, Executors to the said John Trott, within six Weeks from the Date hereof, they will be sued for the same without further Notice.



<sup>222</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> Ipswich Journal, 25.4.1747

No more is known of John<sup>1</sup> Trott, but his wife Elizabeth Day was baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1668 at Milton, the daughter of Anthony Day and Elizabeth Howett, who had married in the same parish on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1665. There were two siblings, Anthony born in 1666 and Joanna in 1669 (see tree 18 - page 90.

This completes the history of the Harris family, as to follow the last quadrant of Alice Mary Harris' tree is to repeat what has already been said, given that her paternal grandfather John and maternal grandmother Ann were siblings, both children of Joseph Harris and Ann Potter - whose stories have already been told.