

# **A YOUATT FAMILY HISTORY**

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## INTRODUCTION

YOUATT Family History related below has been built up over a period of many years. Although much of the work is original, others interested in their Youatt ancestors have given considerable help. Where appropriate their findings have been incorporated in the main text and acknowledgement given.

It is one of the unexpected pleasures of family history research to find previously unknown and distant relatives. Without exception a welcome and help in exchange of knowledge has been the writer's experience.

As the search for ancestors stretched ever further into the past clues and links became elusive and difficult to prove. At such times intelligent guesses have been made in the hope that these may be realised by later found facts.

Experience has shown that not all such guesses are sustainable and revisions of previously held views have become necessary.

With this text a few tentative links have been incorporated (and identified) on the understanding that this History will be revised if serious inaccuracy is later found.

It is often thought that a surname of the rarity of Youatt should be easy to trace, however the contrary is the case. Until the late 19<sup>th</sup>.century the name was recorded and spelt according to the ability of the recordist to accurately write down the name heard. Such spellings need careful investigation before being accepted as Youatt ancestors. Fortunately the ready availability of civil and ecclesiastical documents enable other checks to be made. Another pointer in cases of doubt has been the repeated use of the Christian name CALEB, a practice starting in the 17<sup>th</sup>.C. and carried on well into this century. Help also comes from the 19<sup>th</sup>.C practice of using a mother's maiden surname as a middle christening name, not only are the mother's family identified but where the name was carried by later generations, family groups may be readily grouped.

On the subject of records, nowadays most are copied and printed or viewed from microfilm, only occasionally is an original document produced for reference. It is a satisfying experience to not only see, but also handle, the handiwork of a distant ancestor.

The task facing a writer of family history is to know just what to include and what to omit. In presenting this history bias is naturally given to the branch related to the author although an account of the achievements and relationships of other known branches is given.

Almost without exception it can be claimed that a YOUATT surnamed person can be directly related to a yeoman farmer family of the North Devon village of NEWTON

TRACEY and with lesser degree of certainty to sergemaking families of the name in 17<sup>th</sup>.C. Exeter.

The ensuing text describes our ancestors, their achievements, hardships, trades, and where they lived. Maps and copies of relevant documents accompany the text to form what is a most fascinating history.

## ***ORIGINS OF THE YOUATT SURNAME***

Before embarking on the history of the YOUATTS it is of interest to review surname origins.

There are two standard reference sources for English surnames, these are dictionaries compiled by Bardsley and Reaney. Professional genealogists view both sources with some scepticism principally on the basis of associating like sounding surnames and generalising their origin.

For analysis purposes surnames are to be found in various sub-divisions. In the case of YOUATT four categories have some attribution to the YOUATT surname, these are:-

- PATRONYMIC - a surname arising from a fathers first or Christian name e.g. George
- OCCUPATIONAL - a surname arising from a trade e.g. Farmer or Carpenter
- TOPONYMIC - a surname arising from association with an area e.g. Castle or Greenwood
- LOCATIVE - a surname arising from association with a specific place e.g. Winchester

EWART is an example of a patronymic surname emerging from a corruption of the French EDWARD.

During research a Youatt association is only to be found in those reference sources grouping like sounding surnames such as Hewett, Huet, Heward and the like.

YOWART or EWEHARD is an example arising from an occupational surname with Saxon origins.

It is derived from 'the keeper of ewes' a role similar to that of a shepherd. The Ewe-hyrd looked after ewes also kept for their milk. Cheese produced from ewe milk was considered a prized delicacy, it is one of those specialist cheeses that can be found even today.

Such Yoward and Yowart names encountered during research are regionally grouped around Cumbria and the North East of Britain where ewes are pronounced 'yows'.

YEOATTE is an example of a toponymic surname arising from roots meaning a dweller by the river Yeo.

John atte-Yeo in the course of time would become John Yeoatte. Whilst suggestive of a family with North Devon associations it has not been possible to link the Youatt surname with either the Devon family of Yeo or to find a connection with the river of that name. In North Devon Yeo is pronounced locally 'YOE' as distinct from the 'YOO' the normal rendering of You.

JOUETTE is a locative root for the Youatt surname.

This is to be found in several regions of France the name in varying form is to be found in the Departments of Calvados, Lot-et-Garonne and Cher.

[A locative example in practice: the surname Venus has roots in the Normandy village of Venois, so Jean of Venois is later to be found as John Venus ]

A village with the name JOUETTE is to be found Calvados in Normandy, it is located some 12 km. south of the city of Caen in the valley of the river Vaize. This village name then yields the most likely source.

JOUETTE then is the most likely origin of Youatt when the following factors developed in the ensuing text are considered:-

Madame Audin the late French Genealogist was asked for the likelihood of a French origin for the surname prior to the 17<sup>th</sup>.century. In reply it was suggested that Jouette in Calvados was the most likely - although there was no documentary support in an area with few extant records.

By complete coincidence a JOUETTE origin was reported to the author by Mary Youatt Steinbauer of New York, USA.

Mary is a descendant of William Youatt (1831 - 1883) a North Devon stonemason who emigrated to the States. Mary wrote that it was said in their family that the surname was originally JOUETTE from Normandy but that it had been anglicised to retain a similar sound. It was a saying passed from father to son over the centuries and last heard when Mary's father Glen asked her, around 1976, to record the saying heard from his father, grandson of the Stonemason, in about 1910.

## ***A SEARCH FOR EARLY YOUATTS***

Ancestral research usually starts by questioning living relatives, however reminiscences soon become confused and inaccurate. Resort is then made to the wealth of preserved

records both civil and ecclesiastical that enable a researcher to extend finds way back to Tudor times. One is of course lucky to get back so far, usually the mid seventeenth century is the norm - so it was with YOUATT.

In the 18<sup>th</sup>. 19<sup>th</sup>. and start of the twentieth century local Parish Registers and Taxation lists and Wills, if extant, help considerably. As the 20<sup>th</sup>.C. is approached, the Census Returns taken every decade since 1841 give a glimpse of our ancestors, where they lived, their occupation, and the numbers and names of their children.

Compulsory registration of all births deaths and marriages has been required since 1837; access to these public records all help to check and cross-check details.

The author was fortunate in receiving a prepared but incomplete family history soon after embarking on his own. The history was incomplete but had been carried out professionally; it occurred thus :- The late Claude Septimus Youatt, a Chartered Engineer of some standing in the Manchester area, had been in correspondence, when during 1963 he received, from a relative, the copy of a letter from the College of Heralds. Claude repeated this to the author.

It appeared that a relative of CSY, the late Mrs. Ethel Dunning, had commissioned the College to establish her antecedence from George Heanes Youatt a 19<sup>th</sup>.C. London Piano maker hailing from Great Torrington: -- George Heanes Youatt was the third son of John & Grace Youatt.

George Heanes and his wife Hephzibah formed a family in London; descendants of George and Hephzibah form one of the largest surviving YOUATT branches conveniently called (by this author) ***'The Manchester Youatts'***. (Claude Septimus, a grandson of George Heanes and Hephzibah was, like the rest of his family, born and lived in the Manchester area ).

The Heralds produced an interim report in which they showed a clear connection between the Manchester Youatts and an 18/19<sup>th</sup>.C.family of the same name living in the North Devon village of Newton Tracey. Also noted was the apparent connection with 17<sup>th</sup>.C. Exeter, where families of similar name once lived in the parish of St. Sidwell.

It was intriguing that the author's family which had Wiltshire roots of the late 19<sup>th</sup>.C. could not then be linked into the pedigree produced by the Heralds, that there must be a link seemed obvious, but it took a few years of patient research before such a link was established.

Starting with a ready made, if incomplete, list of ancestors the first task was to independently check the Heralds findings and see whether additional material could be found that would extend the family even further back.

Next was the establishment of a link between Newton Tracey and the 'Wiltshire branch'.

Our story starts with an examination of the Exeter claims, then consideration of pre-Exeter roots, next Chittlehampton, and finally Newton Tracey and beyond.

## ***THE EXETER STORY***

Without doubt there were Youatts to be found in Exeter with the earliest recorded in 1663 and possibly in a corrupted spelling back to 1655; before then, nothing which could be connected.

The Heralds had implied the name was specific to Devon and so it turned out to be. Using Boyd's Marriage Index and latterly the International Genealogical Index of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (The Mormons) it was confirmed Devon and Exeter yielded the first YOUATT in St.Sidwell Parish. Later, after a making a detailed search of other Exeter parishes, it was concluded they were not to be found elsewhere in the City.

It seemed curious that the family name died out in Exeter after the death of Caleb Youatt in 1759 ***but was to be found in NEWTON TRACEY from 1727 onward.***

The College of Heralds suggested that the family moved to North Devon, but why?

The answer was possibly found in a discovery that the earliest families were weavers or sergemakers and the demand for their fine cloth waned in the early 1700's.

### ***What of pre-Exeter Youatt?***

Attempting to solve the problem of the whereabouts of pre 17<sup>th</sup>.C. Youatt is an ongoing one but let us consider the apparent French origin, from Calvados.

An almost complete record of all males over the age of 18 exists for Devon in the form of the 1642 protestation returns.

The Oath of Protestation of 1642 taken by all males aged 18 and over was recorded together with Recusants and those unable to affirm. For Devon the transcript is 88% complete.

Intended to produce a list of subjects required to swear allegiance to the King and the Protestant faith, some viewed the 'Protestation Return' as a basis for future taxation!

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Name</u>
Buckerell	ROGER HUIT
Hatherleigh	WILLIAM HEWETT
Braunton	RICHARD HUET
Dartmouth - St.Clement	JOHN HUATE
Dartmouth - St.Saviors	GREGORY HUET
Southpool	JOHN HUIT
Holne	WILLIAM HEWITT
Aveton Gifford	JOHN HYETT
Cornwood	JOHN HUIITE senior
Cornwood	JOHN HUIITE junior
Berry Pomeroy	JOHN HEWITE
Paignton	THOMAS HUETT
Exeter - St.Edmunds	JOHN HEWETT
Exeter - St.Martins	WILLIAM HEWETT
Exeter - St.Mary Major	ROBERT HEWETT
Exeter - St.Mary Arches	GEORGE HOIT
Combe in Teignhead	ADRIAN HUYETT
South Molton	JOHN HUETT

**1642 PROTESTATION RETURNS for DEVON transcribed by A.L.Howard**

*(As can be seen there is no YOUATT spelt as such. The Cornwood entries and that of South Molton sound the nearest, although a connection has not been found)*

**Exeter Freeman by M.M.Rowe Devon & Cornwall Record Soc. No.2 - new series**

The above publication lists persons made FREEMAN of the ordinances of the City of Exeter but does not necessarily include those made *Free of their Trade Guild* that sought not to take up the City Freedom.

Date, Name and details given

1483 RICHARD HEWETT

1497 John Chase - apprentice to RICHARD HEWETT

1540 JOHN HUYT - apprentice to Nicholas Strange

1627 ROBERT HEWETT - Hellier, apprentice to ROBERT HEWETT

1669 GEORGE HEWETT - Merchant, Apprentice to Robert Robins

1699 SAMUEL HEWETT - Weaver, apprentice to Peter Menheire

1705 WILLIAM HEWETT - Grocer, apprentice to Thomas Atkey

1790 WILLIAM HEWETT - of St.Sidwell, age 25, Apprentice to Philip Tricks

**DEVON CLOTH INDUSTRY in the 18<sup>th</sup>.C. - Sun Life Insurance Inventories for Devon**

**a DCRS publication by S.D.Chapman**

1763 Exeter - Robert Bastard, Fuller and Robert Kennaway, Maltster, Executors to the last will of REBAKAH GOVAT [ Rebecca Youatt ? ] deceased for the benefit of Thomas Bastard - a house in St.Sidwell.

*( Rebecca was the widow of Caleb Youatt of St.Sidwell, Master of the Weavers Tuckers & Shearmen of Exeter who died 1759, her daughter Susanna married a Thomas Bastard, Fuller of the parish of St.Petrock, Exeter on 20April 1745 )*



## References from Devon archives for YOUATT and similar names

A close check of the 1642 Protestation return shows no YOUATT spelt thus, or even phonetically, in the whole of Devon. With the St. Sidwell registers indicating a presence in the 1650's, the question to be asked is that if the family was not to be found in 1642 could they have settled subsequently?

As will be seen the Youatt connection with their Craft Guild started in 1663 with baptismal suggestions of a presence in St. Sidwell from at least 1656.

Export of the fine woollen cloths, particularly serges, took place mainly to the countries of Continental Europe, Spain and Italy. Countries bordering the Mediterranean particularly valued the thinner serges Exeter was able to produce in the 17<sup>th</sup>. C.

When war allowed, trading took place between Exeter, Caen and St. Malo in Normandy as shown in Port Books listing shipping from the Exeter port of Topsham, - and other Devon ports.

Small boats took serges to France and returned with iron or wine and included in the return cargoes were cloth processing utilities such as woad, for dyeing, alum for fulling and teazles used for raising nap on wool cloth.

Such shipping could have provided passage for immigrants but no record of such immigration exists either in numbers or in detail. The late Madame Audin (a renowned French genealogist) noted in a private letter to the author that skilled craftsman moved freely from country to country in pursuit of their improvement so it would be normal for some to have arrived at the Devon ports.

It is also known that cloth making sustained many regional villages in Picardy, Normandy and Brittany furthermore fierce revolts took place around 1639 in these areas following years of bad harvest and plague which brought poverty to town and village alike.

Another upsurge in religious intolerance against the Protestant Huguenots also took place in the early 17.C.this too resulted in their resettlement in other countries.

Taking into account the factors above there are ample reasons for justifying movement of the Youatt family from roots in France but whether they were **Huguenots**, as so many skilled craftsmen, will now be examined.

## **THE HUGUENOT QUESTION**

It has been suggested by certain members of the 'Manchester Youatts' that there was a Huguenot connection with the Youatt family. Certainly the possible movement from France at a time of religious upheaval by known craftsmen lends credibility. A search for a like sounding Youatt surname by the Huguenot Society of London and a combing through the parish registers of Exeter St. Olave, a known Huguenot place of worship, produced negative results. Perhaps the following influenced a suggestion of a Huguenot background:-

During 1935, historian Dr. Ransome Pickard, delivered a lecture to the Devon & Cornwall Record Society on the subject of 'Huguenots in Exeter'. In an appendix Dr. Pickard listed names taken from Parish and other registers of the 16/17<sup>th</sup>.centuries and suggested they had Huguenot associations. **John Youatt** - made free in 1663 (taken from WT&S annuls) - was one such listing..

Some surnames Dr. Pickard quoted were easily recognised as having French origins such 'White from 'Le Blanc', some others were explained such as 'Buzzacott', from the French 'Bosenquet', a surname encountered still in North Devon. Youatt, however was one of the many names chosen for inclusion but one with less obvious association. It can only be assumed that the selection was made on account of a skilled craft record and a failure to establish the surname in 16<sup>th</sup>.c. archives.

In recent times the criteria for Dr. Pickard's listings have been called into question. It is claimed that many of the alien sounding names were already in Devon by the time Huguenots arrived on the basis that they were the result of Edward III bringing Flemings to the West Country to establish silk and lace making.

During investigation into Huguenot associations a finding from the French Mormon IG Index seemed of interest. The surname JOUET in France was found listed on the Île de Ré, an island off La Rochelle, famous in 1627 for a stand of Huguenots against the Catholic French of Cardinal Richelieu.

The Huguenots of Île de Ré, received English help in their struggle but nevertheless were defeated. Did some of the residents leave with their defenders and settle in England? We are not told. However the Mormon entry gives the earliest Jouet entries dated 1674/6 with first names such as Isaac and Jacques. However 1674/6 is too late to accord with a known Exeter presence in 1663. Unless earlier dates are subsequently established then the Jouet families of Île de Ré would appear to have no connection with the Weavers of 17<sup>th</sup>.C.Exeter.

Before leaving Huguenots it is of passing interest to note a reference given in the Craft Guild of Weavers Tuckers & Shearmen of Exeter. It concerned moneys given to ***Huguenot émigrés arriving in large numbers in 1660 - 1670 when a sum of £21***

*was allocated for the succour of 'Indigent French Protestants'* but again it was a dated too late for serious consideration.

Given the Huguenot Society search with its negative result and no further supportive evidence it is doubtful Youatt had a Huguenot association.

## **LIKELY EXETER YOUATT FAMILIES**

The problem we immediately encounter when searching Youatt ancestors is that of deciding which spelling, if any, should be accepted.

Not only is it necessary to examine Parish registers but all other archival material likely to confirm a selection. A judgement then made is a personal one and the best that can be hoped for until contradicted by later discoveries.

Exeter is fortunate in having records going back to Tudor times. Most have been copied and printed, many by the Devon & Cornwall Record Society [DCRS], these are readily available for study.

Included are lists for taxation purposes such as those headed '**Military Survey**', '**Subsidy tax**', '**Poll tax**', '**Hearth tax**', and '**Poor Rate rolls**'. The earliest dates back to 1522; others are of the 17<sup>th</sup>.century.

These are in addition to the roll of '**Exeter Freeman**' dating from the 13<sup>th</sup>.C. and the names in the 'Protestation **returns**' dated 1642 - arguably the first census available after the Domesday Book.

Particular helpful in our search for the Youatt name is a history of the **Incorporation of WeaversTuckers and Shearmen of Exeter** [WT&S for short] entitled '**Tuckers Hall - Exeter**' and written by Dr.Joyce.Youings.

Fortunately the minutes of the WT&S were, until recently, also available for study, but now these have been withdrawn for preservation.

*From the sources mentioned above entries thought to be relevant have been copied and shown as :-*

### **MARRIAGES recorded at St. Sidwell's Exeter**

John YEOWATT to Elinor ROOPE of St. Sidwell 05SEP1673

John YOUATT jun. to Mary HOOKE of Exeter 08OCT1688

John YOUATT jun. to Rebecca STOKES of Broad Clyst 27APR1700

***MARRIAGES recorded at Exeter Cathedral – St.Peter's***

William YOUAT of Colyton to Julian VOYSEY of Hennock 28NOV1718

Caleb YOUATT of Exon to Rebecca YOUATT, widow 19DEC1720

***MARRIAGES found under Devon & Cornwall Marriage Allegations and Licences***

George GREENAWAY of Exeter to Elizabeth YOUATT of same 28MAR1687

William DAVIES of Plymouth to Hanna YOUATT of St. Sidwell 23JUN1697

William YEOWATT of Exeter St. Sidwell – Worsted-comber to

Thomazine TURNER of the same 12MAR1705

James YOUETT of Exeter to Israel HOW of the same 20AUG1714

John YOUATT to Amy ELLIOT of Exon, spinster 30OCT1716

(Bound by Johan Youat de Exon Sergemaker and Johan Warren of the same)

Caleb YOUATT of Exeter to Rebecca YOUATT of the same, widow 19DEC1720

(Bound by Caleb Youatt de Exon, Sergemaker and Johan Conant of the same)

Thomas BOLT, Mercer to Elizabeth YOUATT, spinster of Exeter 1725

(Bound by Caleb Youatt de Exon)

William VERNON of Honiton,

Brazier to Hannah YOUATT of Exeter, spinster 29SEP1725

Robert PLUMLEIGH of Dartmouth, Brewer to Johane YOUATT of St. Sidwell Exeter

(Bound by Caleb Youatt, Woolcomber) 14JUN1732

Alexander NORRIS of Moretonhampstead, Woolcomber to Ann LASKEY spinster of the same  
(Bound by Caleb Youatt, Woolcomber)  
1735

Hugh BROWNE of Exeter, Gent. To Ann YOUATT, spinster of same 11NOV1735

Thomas BASTARD of St.Mary Major Exeter, Fuller to Susanna YOUATT

of St.Petrocks Exeter 20APR1745

### **Exeter-St. Sidwell Parish register Baptisms, Burials & known Wills**

#### **Baptisms**

John	HUIT	Son of John	15APR1655
Elizabeth	HUIT	Dau of John	20FEB1656/7
John	HUIT	Son of John	24MAR1659/60
Marie	HUIT	Dau of John	08FEB1661
Hanna	HEWETT	Dau of John	07MAR1674/5 (from IGI)
Mary	YOUETT	Dau of John junior	24JUN1691
John	YOUETT	Son of John junior	28MAR1694
Ann	YOUETT	Dau of John junior	28MAR1694
Elizabeth	YOUATT	Dau of John	31JAN1695/6
Richard	YOUAT	Son of John - at James Meeting	14MAR1696/7
John	YOUATT		29APR1700
Hannah	YOUETT	Dau of James	24SEP1700
Hannah	YOUET	Dau of Mr. John	07MAR1703/4

Rebecca	YOUATT	Dau of Mr.John	--JAN1702/3
Susanna	YOUET	Dau of James	30NOV1703
Johanna	YOUET	Dau of Mr.John	15JUL1705
James	YOUET	Son of James	25APR1706
Sarah	YOUET	Dau of Mr.John	20MAY1707
Mary	YOUET	Dau of William	25AUG1707
Samuel	YOUATT	Son of Mr,John	20MAR1708/9
Caleab	YOUATT	Son of James	22DEC1708
Susanna	YOUATT	Dau of John - at Bow Meeting	14MAY1710
Ann	YOUAT	Dau of James	18NOV1711
William	Youatt	Son of James	03Nov1713
John	Youatt	Son of John	08Aug1719

### **Burials**

Johane	HUIT	Wife of John	15JUL1662
Mary	HUIT	Dau of John	25AUG1664
(blank)	HEWETT	Widow, mother of John the Weaver	19MAR1670/1
Mary	YOUATT	Wife of John, Senior	04OCT1697
Eleanor	YOUATT	Wife of John junior	15MAY1701
Richard	YOUATT	Son of John	18MAR1702/3
Mr. John	YOUATT	The Elder	12FEB1703/4

William	YOUET	Son of Mr. John	02MAR1702/3
Thomas	YOUET	Son of James	25OCT1707
Samuel	YOATT	Son of Mr. John	22MAY1709
Mary	YOUATT	Dau of Mr. John	13DEC1711
James	YOUATT	Son of James	14DEC1711
Joseph	YOUATT	Son of John	01APR1712
Sarah	YOUATT	Dau of Mr. John	01APR1712
Mr. John	YOUATT		18JAN1714/5
Mary	YOUATT	Wife of James	14NOV1714
John	YOUATT	Son of John	31DEC1717
Mr. John	YOUATT		26MAR1720/1
John	YOUATT		27Oct1721
Andrew	YOUATT		07JUN1730
William	YOUATT	Son of William	14FEB1747/8
Mr. Caleb	YOUATT	(in the church)	17APR1759

## **WILLS AND ADMONITIONS relevant to the above – from Devon Wills & Admons 1610-1799**

*Most Wills were destroyed as the result of a WW2 air raid – the following Admonitions are the only evidence. One exception found 2001 was that of Rebecca where the Will was proved at Canterbury.*

John Youatt of St. Sidwell a Will dated 1703

John Youatt of St. Sidwell, a Will dated 1715

John Youatt of St. Sidwell a Will dated 1723

Caleb Youatt of St. Sidwell a Will dated 1759

Rebecca Youatt of Holy Trinity Will (extant) dated 1763

Also found in a DCRS publication is an intriguing article by Dr. Joyce Youngs entitled '**Devon Monastic Lands - Detail of grants 1536 - 1588**', it shows a JOHN YEWET paying 20/- for property in the City of Exeter, late of St. Johns ( this referred to parish land sequestered following the Dissolution of the Monasteries ).

DCRS records also show similarly spelt names in locations contiguous with St. Johns. Those shown are John HUYTTE of All Hallows parish in the Military **Survey of 1522**' and John HUWETT of St. Mary Arches parish in the '**The Subsidy of 1544**'

It would be satisfying to link these findings with the more readily recognisable surnames of 17<sup>th</sup>.C St. Sidwell however there are factors that mitigate against such a connection.

Firstly the Tudor findings are located in parishes within the city walls - although St. Mary Arches is only partly within - whereas All Hallows and St. Sidwell are both (diametrically opposed) outside. It is the authors feeling that the Tudor entries were of a separate family probably connected in later years with Tiverton since no St. Sidwell connection for these Youatts can be found.

## **Youatt allegiance to the Protestant Church**

The Exeter Youatts were Protestant in religion, this we conclude from an adherence to St. Sidwell Parish Church starting from when the name was first found through to Caleb Youatt who was appointed variously a Sidesman and Churchwarden.

An exception to Protestantism however is to be found in one St. Sidwell baptismal entry of 1696. The entry refers to a baptism '*at James's*' meaning 'James Meeting', a Dissenting (Presbyterian) meeting held at James Street Exeter. This was an alternative to a Church of England meeting allowed under the 'Act of Uniformity - 1687' - Dissenters were, it is thought, not allowed the rite of baptism at that time - hence the St. Sidwell entry

Although the mid 17<sup>th</sup>.C. was a time of movement away from the Established Church there is no evidence to support a lasting allegiance by the Youatt St. Sidwell family to the Dissenters.

Exception to the Youatts being firm Protestants was found from a **William Youat** recorded in **1706** as being adopted for training for the Dissenting Church at Hallett's



Exeter Academy. This William later became **Presbyterian Minister at Colyton**; his birth however cannot be distinguished amongst the St.Sidwell registers..

This **WILLIAM YOUATT** would appear to be related to a family **YEWET** with Tiverton connections the forebear of the famous Veterinary Reformer and author of the same name? Indeed, as earlier guessed by the author as relating back the Youatt sounding Tudor root

The discovery that early Youatts were weavers in Exeter led to an in depth study of their guild. The following will explore just what their association was and a detailed outline of the guild: -

## **17<sup>th</sup>.C.EXETER SERGEMAKING and its CRAFT GUILD**

The chapel of the Fraternity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, alias the Gild of Weavers, Tuckers (or Fullers) and Shearmen had been in existence before 1459. It was the chapel for an association of those engaged in the manufacture of woolen cloth, a craft known to exist in Exeter from AD1200. The Guild grew in strength over the years and was given even greater provenance by a Royal Charter of 1620 allowing it powers to regulate the craft both through strictly maintaining standards and regulating admission. The 1620 charter named the guild: -

## **THE INCORPORATION or SOCIETY OF WEAVERS TUCKERS AND SHEARMEN OF EXETER**

A title conveniently abbreviated to WT&S.

The body of the WT&S comprised a Master, Wardens, court of assistants all elected by members with proven craft skills themselves each having met the conditions of admission.

WT&S. Meetings were held at 'Tuckers Hall' a beautifully oak panelled meeting chamber within a stone building occupying the site of the old chapel. Such formal gatherings were known as 'Hall Days' and it was at these meetings that a candidate for election presented himself before the Master and Wardens having served the prerequisite seven year apprenticeship with a Master craftsman, a serving member of the WT&S.



Tuckers Hall, Exeter: looking towards the east end

After payment of a 'fee' to the Warden the candidate became a member and was said to '**be free**' a term meaning he had received freedom of the Incorporation to set up a workshop, sell his labour or the products of his labour *within the City of Exeter*. Responsibilities entailed upon a member were to attend all meetings of the Guild and, if proposed, to accept office. By default, in either case, a fee was levied and paid to the warden.

It was a city ordinance for a craftsman to apply for ***Freedom of the city of Exeter*** following Freedom of the WT&S. However examination of well documented lists of Freemen of Exeter shows that only a few WT&S members took up City Freedom, the remainders seem not to have bothered and, rather unaccountably, they were not fined or persecuted by the City Council.

Annually, on the occasion when a new Master was to be elected, the WT&S in their robes of office met precessed through the city and attended a church service, a continuation of the ancient practice of celebrating (their) patron saint's day. The august body then attended 'Tuckers Hall' and once formal business had been dealt with, members sat down to a feast reported as having been lavishly provided with meats, fish and wine (Exeter was long known as a centre for the import of fine wines). Three members with the surname Youatt served the WT&S each progressing to the ultimate recognition within their sergemaking craft.

As **MASTER** they were addressed thus and Mr. appears before their name in WT&S documents when they acted as referees for the Guild. Mr. also appears in St. Sidwells parish registers.

## YOUATT TERMS SERVING AS MASTER OF THE GUILD OF WT&S



1682	JOHN YEOVATT or YOUATT (Made Free 1663)
1700	JOHN YOUATT, junior (Made Free 1682)
1701	JOHN YOUATT deputised for Mr. John Adams.
1728	CALEB YOUATT (Made Free 1709)
1743	CALEB YOUATT

*(The above entries were taken from the book "Tuckers Hall - Exeter" by Prof. Joyce Youngs. The Armorial bearings heading was provided by the Secretary of the Weavers Tuckers & Shearmen's Guild of Exeter in 1993.)*

### YOUATT REFERENCES IN THE MINUTES OF WEAVERS, TUCKERS & SHEARMENS GUILD OF EXETER - 1743

19NOV1663	Hall Day	Made Free JOHN YOUATT
27FEB1673/4	This Day	Mr. JOHN HEWETT chosen as Assistant and sworn.
01MAR1674/5	JOHN YOUATT mentioned but not John Hewett	
28SEP1676	YEOVATT appears as surname	
30SEP1677	Mr. JOHN YEOVATT proposed as Warden together with Thomas and William Lobb : William Lobb chosen.	
31AUG1680	Mr. JOHN YEOVATT, Mr. Thomas Hopkins and Mr. Robert Foster proposed as Warden: Mr. JOHN YEOVATT chosen and sworn.	
31AUG1682	Election Day	Mr. JOHN YEOVATT elected as MASTER.

28SEP1682 Account Day before the MASTER Mr. JOHN YEOVATT this day

MR. JOHN YEOVATT passed his account being

£79-7-1d Paid over to Mr. Thomas Hopkins.

19DEC1682 Hall Day This day JOHN YEOVATT made free by serving  
Apprentice with their fathers, 7 years, 2s-6d. each.

1693 JOHN YEOVATT junior Fined for leaving Hall.

30OCT1693 Hall Day Chosen as ASSISTANT Mr. JOHN YEOVATT junior.

23NOV1693 Mr. JOHN YOUATT junior sworn as ASSISTANT.

08FEB1694/5 JOHN YOUATT Senior and Junior are mentioned.

07JAN1696 £60 lent to Mr. JOHN YOUATT senior, without interest, his note in  
the trunk.

02FEB1711 WILLIAM YOWATT made free.

The above charts the WT&S progression of JOHN, JOHN Junior, and CALEB  
YOUATT.

## TRUNK or CASH BOX



The illustration shows the actual box in use by the 17<sup>th</sup>.C. Incorporation of Weavers Tuckers & Shearmen of Exeter. John Youatt, Senior, had his note of loan and repayment kept *in the box* as the 1696 Guild minutes record.

Fees or fines for admission or default of attendance was kept in this locked box referred to as the *trunk*. The Master of the WT&S had the use of monies kept in the box during his period of office.

Dating from about 1600 the Cash Box is approximately eight inches in diameter and 11 inches high and made of wood most probably oak. Two hinges and locks can be seen plus a coin slot in the lid.

*(Taken from a photograph shown in 'Tuckers Company – Exeter' by Dr. Joyce Youings.)*

**A page from the minute book of the *Incorporation of Weavers, Tuckers & Shearman of Exeter***

***Recording John Youatt made Freeman of the Guild 11<sup>th</sup>.November 1663***



fabric could then be started. Weaving took place usually on his own premises using a 12-shuttle loom. Finished fabric pieces were  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard wide and up to 40 yards in length. One can imagine a heavy oily coarse cloth at this stage.

Usually the demand was for plain undyed cloth but if dyed finishes were required that process followed. The freshly woven fabric was immersed by the piece into boiling vats with vegetable products, were used for dyeing such as of Woad and madder together with alum for stability, or as said today 'for colour fastness'.

Next came the tucking or fulling operation - an operation also known as 'milling'.

Tucking or fulling was a process in which the fabric was firstly treated to alkaline mixtures such as soap, fullers-earth, or - as was quite normal - stale urine. Such treatment reduced the oil content of the fabric, which then allowed fulling to take place. For hours, and sometimes days on end, the Fuller who subjected the cloth to the pounding of a water-powered heavy wooden hammer would felt the cloth. Noise of, not one, but hundreds of these hammers thudding away was reported as to have been deafening throughout the Exe valley, fortunately here was some relief for a City ordinance forbade the process to be carried out on Sundays.

After fulling, the wet fabric was hung out on wooden racks to dry. Old Exeter town plans show large numbers of these racks in fields outside the city walls - Tenterhooks were used to anchor and to stretch the newly fullled cloth to an acceptable shape. It was a process giving origin to the saying 'being on tenterhooks'.

Next came 'burling', this was a process in which the still partially wet cloth was searched for knots and imperfections. The material was laid on flat 'burling boards' and knots extracted by the use of pincers known as 'burling irons'.

Burling was a job for which the nimble fingers of womenfolk, were well suited although the use of female labour was frowned upon and brought fines from the craft guild.

After burling next came 'rowing', this was a process that raised a nap on a wool fabric by the use of teazles mounted in wooden handles. With the fabric vertically hung the material was stroked or rowed until the required nap was raised.

A very skilled process followed rowing. It was 'shearing' in which a fabric with its freshly raised nap surface was laid out on long sloping boards and a pair of very sharp shears - about 4 feet in length and some 28 pounds in weight was manipulated to trim the surface of the cloth.



### **Illustration shows SHEARS to be found at Tuckers Hall**

Finally came pressing and packing, Fullers often-included pressing and packing in their activities. Finished cloth pressing used hot water rather than steam. After pressing the finished cloth was folded between paper and then passed to either to a Clothier or Merchant for sale.

Some cloth went to home markets, either inland, or to the London market but the bulk went overseas.

During the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup>.centuries, there arose a demand for serge - one of the 'New Draperies' that had superseded a coarser cloth of earlier times. 'Perpetuana', a lightweight serge cloth with hard wearing qualities was much in demand from the continent. Serge however was a fabric that demanded long fibred wool, a variety which had to be imported from Ireland and elsewhere when demand overwhelmed local supplies

Exeter was a natural location for clothmaking and had been since the 13<sup>th</sup>.C. Its plentiful supply of water from the River Exe, distributed by tributaries and leats was well suited the wet processing so much essential for cloth manufacture. Open areas both within the City and outside were also well suited to drying and stretching bolts of cloth. That the city possessed its own port of Topsham was an important factor; for raw materials could be shipped in and the finished cloth dispatched to the continent - or to London, and so be independent of the seasonal impassability of English roads.



## Wealth and Living standards of the WT&S Members

A few Weavers were thought to have dabbled in trade, probably those described as Sergemakers. In our case Caleb being the most notable. Enterprise by two Youatt Master's of the WT&S, John and John junior , must have financed a few of their operations for WT&S Minutes show the two John's made use of the £50/£60 available to a Master 'without interest for 3 months but subject to 5% after'.

Not only was the money repaid but also the interest.

An indication of Youatt circumstances can be deduced from St.Sidwell's registers, an entry recording the death of '*a woman of Christow - John Youatt's nurse*' can be found suggestive of at least one servant was employed.( Christow is a village just outside Exeter ).

Another pointer of apparent wealth is the wedding of Caleb and Rebecca in 1720 -it was an event that took place in Exeter Cathedral. It could be an indicator the social standing of a sergemaker and Master of the WT&S, but were circumstances such that a Cathedral wedding was normal at the time?

On the other hand we have a generalised statement from an historian. When writing of cloth makers, '*the height of their ambition would have been to become householders, that is, each to become established in his own premises, with a workshop and to take apprentices and employ a man or two. Some however will have remained, perforce, servants or journeymen being employees for the whole of their working life. Very few would have become clothiers, that is, industrial entrepreneurs, organising and financing more than one of the processes of cloth manufacture. Probably rather more bought and sold on credit the cloths they finished and some sold their cloth on credit to the Merchants*'.

So we have a confused picture of our ancestors in Exeter. Their environment was industrial, their wealth perhaps upper middle class with a few comforts. They were undoubtedly well respected by those in the 'trade' and shopkeepers. They did not however involve themselves in seeking City office but were of sufficient standing to be called upon as witnesses when documents were drawn up..

A study of the Marriage licences shows the Youatt daughters married a Brewer, a Brazier, and a 'Gent' respectively, in other words there is no pattern here suggestive of great wealth.

A description of a Weavers house adds to our picture of their apparent wealth.

## **Weavers housing - 16<sup>th</sup>.C. description.**

An indication of Weavers housing is taken from the following account 'Exeter 1540-1640 - W.McCaffery'. It is a description likely to have been relevant in the 17<sup>th</sup>.C.

*A Weavers house contained a Hall, which was used for sleeping as well as daytime activity. Two additional sleeping chambers and a kitchen were to be found along with a [work] shop. A semblance of decoration was provided by painted cloths that adorned the walls of the hall and one sleeping chamber. Cushions softened the hardness of a bench and two chairs in the hall.*

That particular Weaver had a gross estate of £90, which was still higher in the social scale than a Joiner with £4 in goods. However the weaver's estate included work in hand with a value not necessarily realisable in the short term.

## **17/18<sup>TH</sup>. Century YOUATT - An interpretation of the EXETER Scene**

Endeavouring to present YOUATT relationships and roots in 17<sup>th</sup>.C. Exeter is an almost impossible task. Although a wealth of material has been found there exists considerable confusion as to how the data can be linked.

Unfortunately civic and parish records were not maintained in the early part of the 1600's due to the Civil War and the resulting Commonwealth. A similar genealogical loss of records was sustained when all Devon Wills were lost during an air raid - a so-called Baedeker reprisal raid - during 1942.

Of particular interest were the calendared Wills of John Youatts of St. Sidwell of both 1703, 1715 and 1739 together with that of Caleb Youatt of 1759; if the full material had been available, family groups may have been made coherent. As things now stand the best interpretation must be an individual one with much guesswork to link parish, WT&S and civic records.

- **Mr. John Youatt the Elder** was likely to have been the husband 'John the Weaver' of (blank Hewett) who was buried at St. Sidwell in 1670. One can guess that the same John re-married in 1673 to **Elinor Roope**. **John Youatt** is likely to have been the one 'made free' in 1663 and become Master of the WT&S in 1682, he is found as **John senior** and **Mr. John** as well as **John the Elder**.
- **John Youatt** was named as the feoffee of premises in High Street, St. Martins parish Exeter, from 23/24 December 1684. It was a lease of premises from John Williams a weaver of St. Martins parish.
- **John Youatt** was also the feoffee also of various WT&S lands in Exeter 1684/5. In fact he paid a 1699 poor rate tax of only 2 pence on St. Martins but 6 pence on property at St. Sidwell. One can assume High Street was a weaver's workshop but St. Sidwell was the

home and other workshops of the family. **Mr. John Youatt the Elder** was buried 2<sup>nd</sup>. February 1703/4 at St. Sidwell.

- An interesting assessment of ancient charities carried out in the early 18<sup>th</sup>. C. has **John Youatt** mentioned as a party to deeds dated 1689/90 concerning 'Sandfords Charity'. Unravelling the legal jargon it would appear that a plot of land comprising about 4 acres located at Summerfields in St. Sidwell parish was purchased by Christopher Sandford, Peter Clapp and John Youatt. The land was leased out and the rents shared by the owners but a charitable gift of £6 was given yearly from the rents to sustain three poor children to an apprenticeship in a useful trade. It would seem that Sandford died for John Youatt and Peter Clapp received £65 for their share of land, which was eventually given over to the poor of Exeter. Both a workhouse and later a hospital occupied the site. Summerfields Street can be found even today but of course the gardens of the 17<sup>th</sup>.C. are long gone.
- **Mr John Youatt - junior** was most likely the son of the **John the Elder** and was baptised at St. Sidwell either in 1655 or 1656 a date suggesting **Elinor** was not his mother. **John Youatt - jun** was also a weaver or Sergemaker and started an apprenticeship with his father in 1675, 'made free' in 1682 *at the same time as another John Youatt who had served under his father.*

**John Youatt - junior** married **Mary Hooke** of Exeter in 1688 and was made Master of the WT&S in 1700 and thereafter called Mr. John.

The same **John** was referred to as **The Younger** when recorded as a feoffee of a messuage (property) known as Sandfords Charity at St. Sidwell in 1701.

Also he was feoffee of various WT&S lands mentioned in a deed dated 1711 and in the leasing of a messuage in St. Martins, Exeter to John Lee of Lyons Inn Middx - a London lawyer? As **John** paid a 1699 poor rate of 4 pence on property at St. Sidwell it can be assumed that **John junior** took over both the St. Sidwell and St. Martins property on the death of his father. **Mr. John junior was** buried at St. Sidwell on 18<sup>th</sup>. January 1714.

- **John Youatt - junior** was most likely to have been born around or just before 1670 - possibly he was one of the two Johns baptised at St. Sidwell in 1655/56 *but not brother of the Mr. John Youatt - junior above.* This **John Youatt** was likely to have been the second to have been 'made free' of the WT&S in 1682 and to have been the husband of **Rebecca Stokes** of Broad Clyst - near Exeter whom he married 27<sup>th</sup>. April 1700. We cannot differentiate John in the various Exeter Taxation returns all we are certain of is that **Mr. John Youatt** was buried at St. Sidwell 26<sup>th</sup>. March 1721. The title Mr. might be explained by an official role in the WT&S such as Assistant. After his death **Rebecca Youatt**, his Widow, remarried (Caleb Youatt).
- **Caleb Youatt** Whilst we have no baptismal date for Caleb - the Caleab b.1708 son of James is too late - we might assume from WT&S freedom that he would be in his mid twenties when starting apprenticeship in 1702.

We then can speculate on a date of birth around 1677 or so.

Such facts we have on the life of **Caleb** concern his role in the WT&S. He was 'made free' in 1709 and Master twice, once during 1728 and again in 1743.

**Caleb Youatt** is mentioned as both a witness and guarantor to various Youatt weddings, when he is referred to both as a Woolcomber and a Sergemaker. Mr. Caleb was in demand also as feoffee to several Guild documents and at least one Will - that of Joseph Osmond a tallow chandler of St. Sidwell in 1740

**Mr. Caleb Youatt of Exon, sergemaker married Rebecca Youatt widow** 19<sup>th</sup>. December 1720 at St. Peters the Cathedral church of Exeter. He died 17<sup>th</sup>. April 1759 '*in the church*' - *taken to mean he passed away whilst in the building.* **Caleb** was both sidesman and Churchwarden at St. Sidwell and according to the late Leslie Jenkins had a memorial stone set in the aisle of the church. Leslie's observation was made before St. Sidwells church was razed to the ground during a WW2 air raid. Unfortunately there is now no documentary evidence to support the claim.

- **James Youatt** A baptism confirmation for the birth of James has not been found but we know that his wife was **Mary** from the fact that she was buried at St. Sidwell 14<sup>th</sup>. November 1714, and the couple had children between 1700 and 1711. If we assume that 30 years was the age at marriage - at that time - then if no children were born prior to 1700 a birth date for **James Youatt** was around 1669 or so. In fact he may have been the brother of Caleb since the name is one carried by Youatt of later generations likely to have been related. There was no mention of **James Youatt** in the WT&S minutes mentioned in the book of their history so it may be assumed James had no need of WT&S membership, possibly a woolcomber or other process worker living in one of the Youatt homes of St. Sidwell.

No record can be found of a burial of **James Youatt** in Exeter but there was a **James Yeoatt** buried in 1734 at **Newton Tracey - later established as the Youatt home in North Devon.**

- **William Yeoatt** although finding mention as a Worsted-comber at his marriage to Thomazine Turner of St. Sidwell in 1705 we have no other details of note except of a Will calendared as of 1739 at Tiverton. Perhaps William moved out of Exeter with the fall off in cloth manufacture there.

*Though many Youatt children are listed in St. Sidwell registers it is not possible to segregate these into sensible family groupings and for this reason several have not been mentioned in the above speculation.*

**We must give up further conjecture of relationships and conclude that the overwhelming evidence is that Youatt was in Exeter in the 17<sup>th</sup>.C.**

Meanwhile our story moves to Chittlehampton but not before suggesting the reason for such a move.

## A move from Exeter?

Early in the 18<sup>th</sup>. Century the demand for fine Exeter serges was overtaken by cheaper products originating in Norwich. Many craftsmen went out of business so that the manufacture of textiles in Exeter all but disappeared by the mid 1700's.

Hence economic necessity was a compelling reason for a Youatt move out of Exeter, out of textile craftsmanship, and into farming.

After Exeter some intriguing church register entries from Chittlehampton enter the picture.

### *Chittlehampton*

A sizeable village in North Devon, CHITTLEHAMPTON, is located about 20 miles NW of Exeter. It is still a centre for many farms in the area and was once on a carrier route between Exeter and Barnstaple. A magnificent Parish Church dominates the village, with an unusual dedication to St. Hieretha once spelt St. Urith after a martyred Celtic saint. Urith was a favoured local name repeated in female christenings and a puzzling name to find when examining original parish registers.

### From the Parish Registers of St. Hieretha - Chittlehampton

<b>AGNES</b>	dau of John <b>HEWET</b>	bur	16OCT1711
<b>JOHN</b>	son of John <b>HEWET</b>	bur.	21DEC1712
<b>CALEB</b>	son of <b>John HEWET</b>	bapt	11OCT1713
<b>MARY</b>	dau of <b>John &amp; Mary HUETT</b>	bapt	22JAN1715
<b>ELIZABETH</b>	dau of <b>John &amp; Mary HEWETT</b>	bapt.	03JUL1720

The first thing to notice was the variance of surname however a diligent study of the Chittlehampton Parish Register fails to reveal a Hewet or similarly spelt name recorded. It is assumed from the use of the name Caleb that he had Exeter roots but of course this is open to question. It can be *assumed* that **JOHN** is likely to have married **MARY** around 1710.

If **John Hewet** was born in the 1670's as the son of **JAMES YOUETT of St. Sidwell**, then John would have been of such a marriageable age and a connection with later YOUATT'S established.

In fact parish registers entries found at nearby Newton Tracey give substance to such a link.

### **NEWTON TRACEY 1727 – 1834, the YOUATT dynasty.**

The Heralds report backed by independent research has established NEWTON TRACEY to be the parish where a Youatt marriage had taken place in 1727.

A detailed examination of the extant Newton Tracey Parish Registers (1562 to date) have failed to show a Youatt presence *prior* to 1727 but show three generations grew up in the village after that date. Furthermore, by 1839 they had all left although branches of the Youatt family were to be found living in the nearby parishes of Tawstock, Hiscott and Yarnscombe.

### ***NEWTON TRACEY - a description***

Located about 3 miles from Barnstaple and similarly distanced from Bideford and Great Torrington the hamlet of Newton Tracey is a quite small, even in 1802 only 86 persons were noted as living there. Surrounded by the large parishes of Fremington, Tawstock, Yarnscombe and Atherington, Newton Tracey straddles what was for many years a Packhorse road now a modern highway B3232. The following maps illustrate the village and its environs.



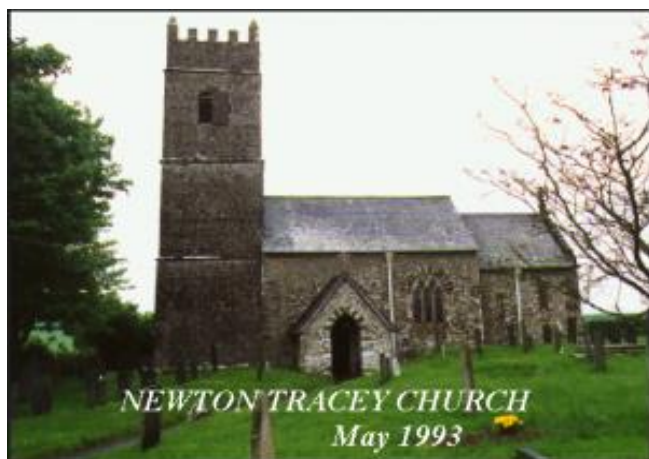
**From Benjamin Donn's 1765 map of the area**

For the above entries the Author is indebted to the late Leslie Jenkins a noted Youatt Genealogist.



### NEWTON TRACEY Parish in 1886

Copy of a 6 inch map showing the parish of Newton Tracey in 1886. The YOUATT farms at *Copplestones* and *Newton Barton* can be clearly seen as can the Parish Church that witnessed so many YOUATT events. The highest point is only just over 300 ft. above sea level and whilst many dwellings are on the lee side of a hill the severe Atlantic gales coming in from Bideford Bay must have made farming really a fight against the elements. Locally the soil is heavy and requires dressing to yield satisfactory harvests.



The Parish Church dedicated to Thomas à Becket is from the 12<sup>th</sup>.C. Said to have been built as a penance by Henry de Tracey for his families' part in assassinating Archbishop Becket. Built of hardwearing Ham ragstone the church consists of a squat tower housing 3 bells and two bays with gothic style windows.

The Victorians remodelled the church, added a second bay and an entrance porch and by so doing most likely destroying privileged pews, carved screen, text boards and heraldic monuments, once a feature of early churches. Still to be found however, is an ancient Font and a massive black oak Parish chest. Our ancestors certainly made good use of the Font for their Christenings and as Churchwardens would undoubtedly have kept the keys of the Parish Chest.



## NEWTON TRACEY - 1727 - The first Youatt mentions

From the NEWTON TRACEY Parish register the relevant Youatt entries are copied. Shown below is a copy of the parish register entry for the first Youatt marriage.

### **Baptismal entries from Newton Tracey Parish Register**

John	Son of	Caleb and Sibella Yeoatt	27DEC1749
Mary	Dau. of	Caleb and Sibella Yeoatt	29JAN1752
Jone	Dau. of	Caleb and Sibella Yeoatt	13JUL1754
James	Son of	Caleb and Sibella Youatt	04AUG1756
Caleb	Son of	Caleb and Sibelly Youatt	08JUL1758
Sibelly	Dau. of	Caleb and Sibella Youatt	25SEP1760



Mary	Dau. of Caleb and Sibella Youatt	12MAY1763
Mary	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt	05APR1780
John	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt	07JAN1782
James	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt	12MAY1784
James	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Fremington	17JAN1786
Caleb	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt	11NOV1789
Elizabeth	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt	07NOV1791
Thomas	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt	29NOV1795
Susanna	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt	25FEB1799
John	Son of John and Grace Youatt	06NOV1805
Caleb	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt (privately baptised)	17JUN1811
Mary	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Newton Tracey	04APR1813
Betsey	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Newton Tracey	23NOV1814
Ann	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Newton Tracy	15DEC1816
Grace	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Newton Tracey	06DEC1818
Elizabeth	Dau. of Thomas and Susanna Youatt of Newton Tracey	26APR1820
James	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Newton Tracey	28JUL1821
Mary	Dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Youatt of Tawstock	30JUN1822
Susanna	Dau. of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Parsonage [farm]	04MAY1823
John	Son of James and Elizabeth Youatt of Newton Tracey	20MAR1825

Thomas      Son of   James and Elizabeth Youatt of Tawstock                      29JUN1828

**Burial entries from Newton Tracey Parish Register**

James	Yeoatt		19JAN1734
Mary	Yeoatt	Wife of John	11APR1749
John	Yeoatt		24MAR1753
Caleb	Yeoatt	Son of Caleb and Sibellah	23MAY1761
Sibellah	Yeoatt	Daughter of Caleb and Sibellah	23JUN1761
Mary	Youatt	Dau. of Caleb	29NOV1762
James	Youatt	Junior, of Fremington	14MAR1785
John	Youatt		30MAR1789
Caleb	Youatt		19SEP1802
Sibella	Youatt		04MAY1803
Caleb	Youatt	aged 21	11APR1810
James	Youatt	aged 54	05FEB1811
Elizabeth	Youatt	of Bishops Tawton    aged 77	17APR1831

*(All entries above are shown both in spelling and date as they appear in the original Parish register. Both Fremington and Tawstock are Parishes bordering Newton Tracey)*

(extract by courtesy of Devon Record Office)

**YOUATT marriages at Newton Tracey and in North Devon**

The first YOUATT marriage recorded in North Devon was at NEWTON TRACEY, it was by licence. The Parish Register entry reads :-

SUSANNA YOUAT and THOMAS MEARE 17NOV1727

The licence notes that John Youat of Newton Tracey, Farmer was a Bondsman and that Thomas Mayre or Meare was a Butcher of Bideford.

*{ The Meare marriage is important because of a likely link with Exeter given on Thos and Susanna's memorial stone which shows Susanna died in 1750 aged 48 i.e. born 1702. A Susanna Youatt was baptised at St.Sidwell in 1703, daughter of James Youatt. The Meare tombstone is the only extant memorial to over three generations of Youatt in Newton Tracey }*

**MARRIAGES at NEWTON TRACEY CHURCH**

CALEB YEOATT of Newton Tracey to SIBELLA TAMLYN of Tawstock 10DEC1748

THOMAS BRANTON of Alverdiscott to

ELIZABETH YEOATT of Newton Tracey 11JAN1753

HUGH KING of Atherington Yeoman and Butcher to

MARY YOUATT spinster of Newton Tracey - Marriage by licence

Witnesses CALEB YOUATT and Samuel Taylor 08APR1789

WILLIAM JOCE of Tawstock Yeoman to

MARY YOUATT of Newton Tracey 21JAN1804

Witnesses JAMES YOUATT and Robert Somers Joce

**YOUATT MARRIAGES at Fremington, Tawstock, Great Torrington and S. Molton**

JOHN YOUATT bachelor, married by licence to GRACE HEANES spinster

at **Fremington Parish Church** Both signed the register 21APR1805

Witnesses, Elizabeth Heanes and George Heanes

JAMES YOUATT of Newton Tracey, bachelor to ELIZABETH SMALLRIDGE of Tawstock

at **Tawstock Parish Church**, marriage after Banns read

28APR1811

James signed the register but Elizabeth signed with X

Witnesses, George Smallridge and Elizabeth Youatt.

JOHN YOUATT, widower of Tawstock married CHARLOTTE RUMBELOW of Tawstock

spinster after Banns read at Tawstock and marriage at Tawstock

27FEB1830

John signed the register, Charlotte affirmed X Witnesses, John Rumbelow and Susanna Joce.

THOMAS YOUATT, bachelor, married SUSANNA NICHOLS, spinster of South Molton

at **South Molton Parish Church**. Thomas was a sojourner to South Molton  
18SEP1818

Witnesses, John Youatt and Mary Nichols

GEORGE HEANES YOUATT, bachelor Pianoforte maker of Gt.Torrington to

HEPHZIBAH COCKS, spinster, Straw bonnet maker of Gt.Torrington

07JAN1839

**Marriage at the Independent Chapel at Gt. Torrington.** Both signed the register

Fathers name John Youatt, Husbandman and John Cocks, Baptist Minister

Witnesses, Thomas Jackson and Elijah Cocks.

The Mayre/Youat marriage was by licence and the Marriage Allegation reveals that Thomas Butcher of Bideford furthermore that **JOHN YOUAT**, a farmer of Newton Tracey, was the bondsman or guarantor. One guesses that Susanna was the sister of John.

The MAYRE, MEAR or MEARE family kept their association with Newton Tracey with several of their children baptised and buried there, in fact a surviving gravestone to **Thomas Mear and Susanna** provides a link with earlier Youatts.

***Susanna was buried 21<sup>st</sup>.March 1750 aged 48 suggesting a birthdate of 1702.***

St.Sidwells at Exeter records the baptism of **Susanna, daughter of James Youett 30<sup>th</sup>.November 1703.**

Could these two Susannas be one and the same?

*Taken with Newton Tracey entries for the burials of James and John Yeoatt and the marriage of Elizabeth together with Chittlehampton entries giving the births of Caleb and Elizabeth a link with Exeter through Chittlehampton appears most likely.*

### **Entries in the Newton Tracey Parish register**

After Susanna's marriage in 1727 the next reference is: - **ELIZABETH YEOATT** married **THOMAS BRAUNTON** of Alverdiscott in 1753.Elizabeth was a spinster and married a Yeoman farmer of nearby Alscot as it is pronounced and known.

As suggested above an Elizabeth was born in Chittlehampton in 1720, sister of Caleb.

### **JAMES YEOATT 16\*\* - 1734**

The first Youatt burial found in the parish register is that of James spelt YOOATT, the first O was in fact a period style of the letter E so the name is really YEOATT. No other detail such as age is to be found, in fact a person's age did not appear on entries until the 19<sup>th</sup>.C. Although **James Yeoatt** does not appear on the chart above he was undoubtedly from St.Sidwell in Exeter.

### **JOHN YEOATT 16\*\*-1753**

It is assumed that this John was father of Caleb and brother to Susanna when in 1727 he was her bondsman and recorded as a farmer. Details of John's Parish activities are to be found recorded in the '**Account book for the OVERSEER of the POOR**' for Newton Tracey.

John was appointed both Overseer and Churchwarden for the period between 1731 to 1745 after which his son Caleb took over.

Appointment of Overseer was given two persons of the parish, their role was to look after the secular welfare of the parish, arrange and supervise maintenance of the highways, bridges and find parish work for the poor.

A Churchwarden on the other hand had a responsibility to maintain the church, churchyard, and Parish cottages and to ensure Charities were distributed. Usually there were two appointed one by the Parish priest the other by the congregation. No doubt those amongst the villagers that could read and write were in demand and of course

those held in esteem. Local landowners as Magistrates must also have had some say in selection, particularly of the Overseers.

Local tenancy agreements were occasionally noted in the Overseer's Account Book, this was held either in the Parish Chest or more likely the Churchwardens home. As John Yeoatt was both Churchwarden and Overseer it is not perhaps surprising to find him noting an agreement to 'bind' James Nicholls for occupying part of Sir John Trevelyan's property.

The Trevelyan's came into possession of Newton Barton by marriage in 1694 and retained the largest property in Newton Tracey until sold to Thomas Hogg in 1785.

John Yeoatt was by 1734 - if not 1726 - principal tenant of Sir John Trevelyan an absentee landlord of Nettlecombe in Somerset.

The Youatt family certainly lived in the Barton, once an ancient Manor House and usually home of 'The Lord of the Manor' but then a farmhouse, in fact 3 generations of Youatt lived in and farmed Newton Barton.

Comprising lands totalling 89 Acres, Newton Barton included 65 Acres of Arable land, 9 Acres of Pasture, 4 Acres of Woodland, 10 Acres of Orchard ( Apple and Cherry ? ) there was at least one other cottage 'Rag or Ray Cottage' included in the Estate.

John and his son Caleb paid a nominal or 'Peppercorn Rent' to the absentee Trevelyan's as that was the usual arrangement to avoid legal expense and complexities. As tenants both John and later Caleb farmed the land, lived on the property and managed it on behalf of the Landlord.

For their part the Trevelyan's had their possession kept in good order, had sporting and other access, and retained value of their property secure for any loan they might choose to realise.

From all that has been read about John Yeoatt one cannot but conclude he lived the life of a hardworking but respected farmer in his own right - he was a Yeoman in the truest sense.

John died in 1753 and was buried at Newton Tracey, 'in woollen', as was required by law at that time. It was a requirement to comply with a statute introduced to ensure the prosperity of the Wool industry. An alternative of burial in cloth was permitted on payment of a fine usually found as £5, gentry or the better off favoured such a choice, their deviation was of course noted in registry entries and the Parson received the fine, although, it was not thought, for his own pocket.

## Change of register dating

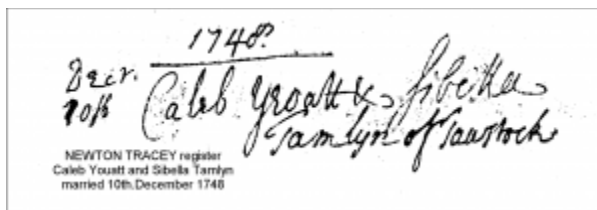
Two changes to the calendar were introduced in 1752. The Calendar then in use was the Julian and the changes were to correct errors accumulated over the centuries due to basing a calendar year upon 365 days. From 1752 Leap year days were added to introduce today's Gregorian Calendar.

Additionally New Years Day then became the 1<sup>st</sup>. January whereas previously 26<sup>th</sup>. March heralded the start of a New Year. Dates lying between January and March genealogists often distinguish with a double year such as Feb.3<sup>rd</sup> 1734/5. Register dates about the period use NS or new style to record the change of dating. In this text dates are as they appear in the registers.

## CALEB and SIBELLA the FIRST NEWTON TRACEY GENERATION

At last we are on firm ancestral ground for it can be said with rare exception that any YOUATT surname found today can be traced to a Yeoman Farmer of Newton Tracey and his wife namely

Caleb married **Sibella Tamlyn** at Newton Tracey Parish Church in 1748, Sibella. Now usually spelt Sybil but then appearing as both Sibelly and Sibellah in the parish register.



Tamlyn is the name of an ancient North Devon farming family. Sibella's branch came from the neighbouring parish of Tawstock and the Amos Tamlyn recorded as Caleb's fellow churchwarden was likely to have been her brother.

Caleb tenanted land known as **Chichester's Tenement** from a family whose Bideford heirs were Mercers. Apart from the Tenement, Caleb and his sons farmed **Newton Barton** as tenant of Sir John Trevelyan, a continuance of the tenancy held by his father John Youatt.

Caleb, like John before him was committed to Parish activities, his involvement as Churchwarden and Overseer of the Poor are recorded in the Account Book and make interesting reading.

Entries show that Caleb had been elected Churchwarden in 1745 followed by an entry concerning his trip to Exon (Exeter) on the subject of Highways that was in 1754 and at

a time when his namesake the Sergemaker would have still been alive, did the two Calebs meet one wonders!

Another entry states; '*Ale for choosing a Constable and one Waywarden and labourers for the highways - four shillings*' - one is uncertain whether the ale was to bribe the candidates or jolly along the selection procedure!

Caleb has other mentions in the Account book until 1780 when his son John took over.

## **CHICHESTER'S TENEMENT - NEWTON TRACEY.**

Most Estates and Manors in Devon can be traced back to dispositions made by William the Conqueror, so it was with Newton Barton once part of Fremington. After occupation by the Tracey's the property passed through the hands of several of the nobility of Devon. Sometimes transfer was the result of sale and at other times as the result of marriage settlement. Thus it was in 1652 when Sir John Chichester came into possession of Newton Barton its Manor house and lands.

Whilst Newton Barton was apparently kept separate the remaining property became known as "Chichester's Tenement".

Today it is all but impossible to reconcile just what part of Newton Tracey formed the Tenement but the following details are recited in a Deed dated 1756/9.

Tithe Apportionment's and maps of 1840 show the total area of Newton Tracey to be 336 Acres including **Newton Barton** of 89 Acres, So it can be concluded **Chichester's Tenement** was large indeed.

## **How Caleb became possessed of land**

An extant Tripartite Deed of 1756/9 is of considerable interest for as a result of that document we are able to establish how **CALEB YOUATT** came into possession of his farmhouse and lands.

Surviving on four parchment skins with seals, flowing handwriting and signatures, the document is known as a *Tripartite Lease and Release*. In content it is fairly easy to read but requires a legal mind to explain its endless repetitions. Such an opinion was sort and the following purports to be the sequence of transaction that took place between 1756 - 1758

**JOHN GRAHAM** a Mercer of Bideford had title of Chichester's Tenement in 1726, John Youatt could well have been his tenant but of this we need confirmation.



John Graham's daughter Mary took the Tenement as part of her marriage settlement to **THOMAS COPLESTONE** a Mercer of Bideford. On the demise of Thomas Coplestone his son, also named Thomas, together with his father's executors decided to raise capital from their holding.

In 1756, Caleb Youatt was holding a 14-year tenancy paying £20 per Annum to the Coplestone family. When the Coplestone's were in need of finance they called on **James Hillow** of Bideford as mortgagee. Hillow advanced £323 on the estate. After the prescribed time for redemption had expired the Coplestones could not, or chose not, to redeem their debt.

Caleb Youatt repaid the Hillow debt of £323 on their behalf together with an interest of £100.

By agreement Caleb Youatt dissolved his tenancy and became owner of the property, James Hopkins a Bideford Merchant took over 'the remaining land' although the extent of this is not clear.

Caleb Youatt was then a Yeoman Farmer and the owner of part of Chichester's Tenement, a title that was to disappear after, Caleb's purchase. The farm and house then used its early title of Coplestones nowadays spelt **COPPLESTONES**.

Several properties in Newton Tracey still retain the names of their earlier owners, such as *Taylor's, Balches, Cawseys, & Hoopers*. For posterity's sake it was unfortunate not to have '*Youatts*' included in the list but by the time Caleb had title of *Copplestones* its name had passed into common usage.

### ***CALEB & SIBELLA YOUATT'S family***

1. JOHN b.1749 was the first child of Caleb and Sibella, he was party to the lease of Newton Barton and was a yeoman farmer. John died unmarried in 1789.
2. MARY b.1752 died in infancy.
3. JONE b.1754 and married JOHN PETHERBRIDGE a yeoman farmer of nearby Alverdiscott in 1776.
4. JAMES b.1756 was to become head of the family and continue the Youatt line

(Following the deaths of both John and Caleb). James was a yeoman farmer.

5. CALEB b.1758 died in infancy
6. SIBELLY b.1760 also died in infancy.
7. MARY b.1762 married HUGH KING a yeoman farmer from nearby Atherington in 1789

Dates shown 'b'. are baptismal years taken from the parish register



## NEWTON BARTON

John acted as head of the family for a Leasehold Agreement dated 1786. It will be recalled that Newton Barton was held on a nominal or 'Peppercorn Rent' agreement with Sir John Trevelyan of Nettlecombe. The absent Landlord's heirs decided to sell the property to a notable Fremington gentleman Thomas Hogg. Unfortunately Mr.Hogg died within a year of his ownership leaving his Widow Elizabeth and his Executors the property. Unlike the previous owners the Hogg family had a formal leasehold agreement drawn up, one that can still is seen thanks to Devon Records.

The 1786 Leasehold Agreement is easy to read if somewhat lengthy. The indenture has been copied to show the foresight and lengths gone to preserve the environment and of course the Hogg inheritance. The property to be kept in good condition, traditional fields only farmed, and those, to receive a specified fertiliser. The tenancy was for 21 years with John Youatt as the named tenant but with a usual clause that allowed John's 'heirs and assigns' as a contingency.

### **A summary of the Indenture between JOHN YOUATT and Elizabeth HOGG for premises and lands known as Newton Barton - 1786**

*(By courtesy of Devon Record Office - from the papers of Hogg of Fremington - ref. 1774M/L20)*

*The tenancy of Newton Barton allowed JOHN and later JAMES YOUATT and family to occupy the most prestigious premises and lands in Newton Tracey. This précis is of that rather tedious legal document is intended to convey the conditions attached to ensure good husbandry and upkeep of the property.*

DATE 7<sup>th</sup>.June 1786. BETWEEN ELIZABETH HOGG, widow of Thomas Hogg of Appledore and the Trustees of the Will of Thomas Hogg, namely John Hogg Esq. Of Exeter, and Miles Hammett of Appledore, Mariner, and George Hogg, Mariner. & JOHN YOUATT of Newton Tracey, Yeoman, and his Heirs.

PREMISES known as Newton Barton in the parish of Newton Tracey with all Houses, Outhouses, Barns, Stables, Gardens, Courts etc. ALSO a small cottage in occupation by John Youatt or his undertenants.

PERIOD 21 years from 25<sup>th</sup>. March 1786

RENT £50 - 9 - 0 payable in four instalments, at Midsummer, Michaelmas, Christmas and Lady Day.

CONSIDERATION Of a Yearly Rent, Reservations, Covenants and Agreements, Demise and Farm Lett.

EXCEPTIONS Removal of Timber, Trees, Saplings, Minerals, Rocks and Fossils on the Property.

ACCESS Elizabeth Hogg and Trustees, Agents and Servants - Free ingress and egress at all reasonable times to view, work, cut down, convert and carry away. Also the liberty of Hunting, Shooting, Coursing, Setting and Fishing at their will and pleasure.

CROPPING No more than Four crops of Wheat or Grain in succession, unless agreed. Crops to be taken one year after Dressing unless agreed otherwise.

CROPS Clover or Eaven Feeds at the rate of 10 pounds of Clover or Clover seed and two of Eaven to every Acre of the last crops taken.

DRESSING Land to receive 40 bushels of Welch Lime or 80 bushels of Welch Lime ash or 100 teams or Horse loads of rotten Manure and Sea Sand in lieu thereof per Acre per Annum.

LIMITATION Tillage or breaking up of Ancient Meadow or Pasture land forbidden but these lands to be duly watered and dressed with manure.

REPAIRS Elizabeth Hogg / Trustees to first put into repair the property and Estate and to provide sufficient rough timber before the lease commences. JOHN **YOUATT** to provide from time to time and Yearly 300 Hitches of Reed and Straw for covering Dwelling Houses and Outhouses and to deal with reparations to Glass Windows and Lead. Also to Hedges, Ditches, Fences and Watercourses thereof to be scoured and cleaned.

PAYMENT Elizabeth Hogg / Trustees to pay JOHN YOUATT 20 shillings for repairing premises.

FOREFEIT of LEASE Elizabeth Hogg / Trustees or such people in reversion may Repossess the premises if Distress cannot be shown and IF Rent and Arrears, Costs and Charges are not paid within 30 days of the date when due, OR Reservations, Covenants, Agreements not adhered to.

TERMINATION JOHN YOUATT at lease ending will peaceably vacate the Premises.

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED by the Above named JOHN YOUATT in the presence of Geo. Burden and Thomas Smith. ( John appended a signature and seal, the others signed )

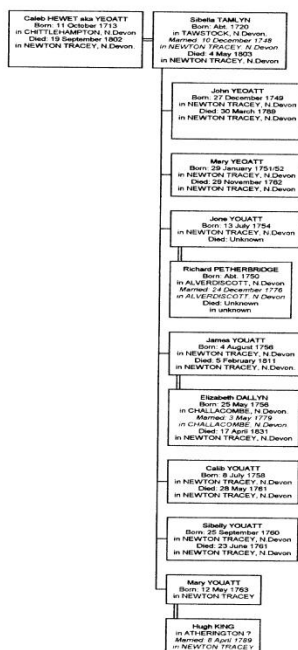
## DETAILS OF LEASE FOR NEWTON BARTON 1786

### John Youatt's and Caleb's death and James Youatt's succession

John Youatt was unmarried when he died aged 40 when only three years of the 1786 Newton Barton lease had expired; John was buried at Newton Tracey.

As next in line Caleb and Sibella's son JAMES took over although to start with he did not initially live there.

#### Children of Caleb & Sibella



Caleb lived to a ripe old age and died in 1802, when it is thought he was aged 89. His contribution to the Parish both to the Church and his secular activities were a tribute to what must have been an example of a true Yeoman Farmer, hardly a Squire but well respected by all. Sibella, aged 83 died a year after Caleb. As a working farmers wife she no doubt helped Caleb on the farm at the same time as bringing up a fair sized family.

The disappointments of losing several children then to lose her eldest son can only be imagined. As a working mother she no doubt passed on her skills both on the farm, in the kitchen and the dairy for her daughters all married neighbouring Yeoman Farmers, they of course wanted wives accustomed to hard work so much a part of farming life.

## **NEWTON BARTON - description of the old farmhouse.**

Mention has been made of the rich lands that formed a demesne of the 'Barton' but not the ancient Barton itself. Ancient certainly it was as it remains of an original Manor house.

From the time of William the Conqueror the Manor was included as part of Fremington granted to the Bishop of Coutance. The property later passed into the hands of Henry de Tracey; he died in 1274. After a succession of owners the Manor House fell into disuse and became a farmhouse.

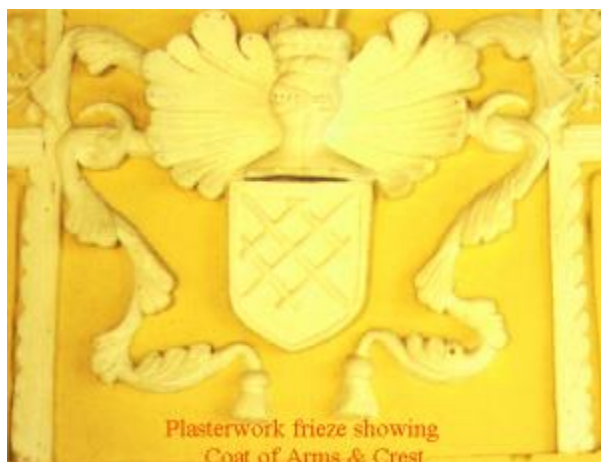
Today Newton Barton it can be seen as a low farmhouse with parts adjoining of Tudor origin - in fact the owner in 1991 casually referred to a remaining part of the Manor House, a Tudor wing, as 'the new part'!



A large kitchen is to be found behind the side door of the house and adjoining this is a surprisingly light room with Georgian glazing, this incorporates remains of the earlier Tudor building.

Within the old Tudor room redecorated in the 17<sup>th</sup>.C. is an interesting plasterwork frieze.

## Coat of Arms: possibly of the Hogg family



The plasterwork frieze of a very decorative style surrounds the wall and includes also a plaster moulded heraldic helm, crest and shield. Claimed to be the Arms of the 15<sup>th</sup>.C. Baron Awdley but the shield dating from the late 16<sup>th</sup>.C is likely to have been the work of John Abbott or his son, Similar work can be found at Youlston Park and at the Royal Hotel, Bideford.

As regards the Coat of Arms. It was quite fashionable to incorporate these as decoration but there must be question as to whose they represent. A comparison with a shield over Newton Tracey church tower doorway suggests those of St. Leger family whose family owned lands nearby. Whether the heraldic arms on the church are Awdley or St.Leger or for that matter Hogg is a fine point as they are almost identical, most likely St.Leger, and those at the Barton, Hogg. Awdley, the other suggestion, is too early.

## NEWTON BARTON ESTATE DETAILS

Tithe maps of 1840 together with earlier Land tax returns enable the estate of Newton Barton to be outlined in detail.

Totalling 89 Acres, mostly surrounding the farmhouse, there were Orchards of probably Cherry and most certainly Apple; also Pasture and Arable farming lands.

These were surrounded by Furze and woodland providing vital firewood; whilst streams around the estate could well have given fish and marshy areas the reed for thatch.

When sold to the Hogg family for £940 Newton Barton was a very desirable farm and farmhouse,

Indeed when seen in 1991 the property Newton Barton together with only 5 Acres of land was for sale for £250,000: John paid £50 -9-0 rent!

Caleb, John and later James Youatt and his son James were in turn all tenants of Newton Barton and as far as can be discovered all lived there - a prestigious home indeed but we should remember that they were hardworking farmers whose wealth was very much subject to inclement weather and the price of grain.

Caleb remained active in Parish affairs as Overseer of the Poor until 1780 when his eldest son John took over.

An indication of help given to the poor to find work in the village is an entry in the Account Book of the Overseer; firstly Samuel Taylor provided two Indentures at a cost of four shillings [ thought to be an agreement to employ a poor labourer and house him and his family ] To clothe the same man whose name was Richard Chipman, Caleb provided a sum of ten shillings from his own estate - surely an example of how villages helped the poor and of course an example of the Poor Law in action. If employment on a farm could not be found then there were Parish and Turnpike roads to maintain and provide employment for those on hard times.

The death of John Youatt in 1789 must have been a severe blow to Caleb and Sibella for John had only previously secured a continuing tenancy of Newton Barton for the family. However second son James was making his way as a Farmer whilst helping Caleb farm and maintain the Barton and Copplestones

James was a tenant farmer in his own right both in Newton Tracey and in neighbouring Fremington.

Caleb died in 1802, we think he was then 89 years old. No trace of Caleb's will remain but a glimpse of his bequests is revealed in surviving Revenue documents. Caleb left his estate entirely to his eldest son James Youatt with an annuity of £5 to his wife Sibella.

Sibella did not live to enjoy her annuity for she too died in 1803 aged 82.

There is unfortunately no churchyard memorial to any Youatt to be found at Newton Tracey today. Either wooden markers were originally used to mark their graves and these have perished, or, their headstones have been lost when the Church was remodelled in 1868.

Perhaps the missing headstones were amongst those used to form a porch entrance floor during Victorian remodelling of the church.



## ***JAMES & ELIZABETH - the second Youatt generation.***

James married in 1779, his bride was Elizabeth Dallyn the daughter of William and Mary Dallyn. from the village of Challacombe a remote location on the fringes of Exmoor. The very name Challacombe was derived from 'cold valley' an indication of its openness to the elements.

A farming family, the Dallyns had relatives all over North Devon so it is likely James came into contact with Elizabeth in Tawstock where a branch of the Dallyns were living.

The marriage of James and Elizabeth took place at Challacombe - then a good half – day's journey from Newton Tracey.

At the time James was farming 15 Acres of arable and furze land situated within the parish of Newton Tracey known as *Fremington Poor Lands*. The Poor in the title referred to ownership on behalf of the poor rather than the quality of the land.

Additional tenancies held by James located within Fremington parish was farmed on behalf of Mr.Hogg, or his executors, and a Mr.Hathersley whose property was named *Grabbishaw*.

Reported now to be a ruin, *Grabbishaw* is located about a mile SE of Newton Tracey church. The one time farmhouse was most likely to have been the home of James and Elizabeth and their growing family. All their children were christened at Newton Tracey and until 1798 the register entries show James and Elizabeth to be 'of Fremington' - a note made when parents lived outside the parish boundary. James and family moved into Newton Tracey after John had died.

## ***James YOUATT & Elizabeth DALLYN's FAMILY***

### ***James & Elizabeth's family – a brief summary.***

***John b.1782*** was the first of James and Elizabeth's children, ***he was our common ancestor and as such his life is described in the next section .***

***James*** the second son died in infancy.

***James b.1786*** continued the family name. A farmer all his life, he married Elizabeth Smallridge and alone of the Youatt's remained in the area until his death in 1848.

***Caleb, b.1789*** furthered family use of this Biblical name, in fact other Youatt's were named Caleb well into the twentieth century. Caleb however died, unmarried when aged 21.

(From a study of parish burials, farming usually took a heavy toll on lifespan however many Youatt's if surviving their early years lived to their late 70's , 80's - and even 90's !)

**Thomasb. 1795** the third surviving son was still quite young when his father James died; he too learnt farming skills but was for many years a gamekeeper.

James & Elizabeth's daughters **Mary, Elizabeth and Susanna** learnt from their mother farming crafts such as dairying and attributes expected in a Farmers wife. All married either Yeoman or Tenant farmers and judging from surviving marriage certificates, all learnt to write or, could at least sign their name in a clear hand.

**Mary**, the eldest, married farmer **William Joce** from the neighbouring parish of Tawstock. The couple had six children two of who were sons. Most of their family were baptised and buried at Newton Tracey and a gravestone still can be found in the churchyard showing William died in 1837 aged 56 and Mary in 1851 aged 71.

Second of James & Elizabeth's daughters, **Elizabeth**, married at Filleigh to a Farmer undoubtedly in the employ of Earl Fortescue of Castle Hill, one of the largest and influential landowners in Devon. Elizabeth could well have been 'in service' at Castle Hill but we do not have the facts to corroborate this.

**Susanna**, the youngest daughter of James & Elizabeth, also carried another of those Youatt Biblical names first found used in Exeter. The marriage of Susanna to John Rumbelow was a link to another family of Yeoman Farmers whose roots disappear into the fabric of Devon in the

## A RUMBELOW CONNECTION

RUMBELOW is an unusual surname with an early mention of the name cited at Morebath, Devon in 1522 when William Rumbelow is noted as 'gave to the store of the Church of Our Lady, a sheep for which he was to receive one shilling'. Until 1534 and the Act of Supremacy the Church had a Catholic dedication this was changed to St. George, the name in use today.

**John Rumbelow** came from a Landkey branch of that family. John was brother to **Charlotte Rumbelow** who as we shall soon discover played an important part in 'our' Youatt story.

Susanna Youatt married John Rumbelow at Bishops Tawton in 1824, it is presumed John was farming land in the parish. The couple had 8 children six of whom were male.

Unfortunately John Rumbelow died in 1840 leaving Susanna with 4 young children so when the 1841 Census was undertaken they were living at Hillberrow Farm Bishops Tawton with Susanna (then 43 years old) having to work as an 'Agricultural labourer'.

Although marriage banns at Bishops Tawton are recorded for Susanna to marry Henry Newcome in 1847 there is no record to show that the marriage took place.

### ***NEWTON TRACEY - THE LAST GENERATION – their lives***

***James Youatt 1756-1811*** on the **1802** death of his father, Caleb, James assumed an active role in parochial affairs, becoming elected both Churchwarden and Collector of Land Tax.

***John, James and Thomas*** were the last male members of the Youatt family to live within the Parish of Newton Tracey. All three married and eventually left to farm elsewhere with James remaining closest to his birthplace - he latterly farmed at Hiscott in the nearby parish of Tawstock.

Their father James Youatt died in 1811 at the early age of 54; he was buried at Newton Tracey. During 1811 James had farmed Newton Barton, Copplestones, and Fremington Poor Land for himself together with glebeland on behalf of the Rector. Of course, sons John and James and a young Thomas together with their sisters all shared in running the farm.

### ***JAMES YOUATT 1756 - 1811 - his Estate and beneficiaries***

Although the actual last Will and Testament of James is no longer extant there are Death Duty records available to reveal the extent of his Estate and beneficiaries.

John and James were nominated Executors for the Estate of James Youatt, Yeoman of Newton Tracey. Dated 22 February 1811 with a [tax?] value under £450 the Legatees were: -

***Thomas Youatt***, son, to be paid £250 and £100 out of the Testators lands given to

***John Youatt*** upon Thomas reaching the 21 years of age.

***Mary Joce*** - daughter to receive £70.

***Elizabeth Youatt & Susanna Youatt*** to receive £120 each on attaining the age of 21 years. ***Thomas, James and John Youatt, sons*** to receive the residue.

From the value of the bequests one cannot but conclude that James Youatt was a relatively wealthy Yeoman Farmer.

***JOHN, JAMES & THOMAS YOUATT their lives and families.***

Authors note. We now have reached a period when there are many descendants to describe .To start with it is intended to take the male heirs of James & Elizabeth in reverse order stating with Thomas so leaving John, our forebear until last.

***THOMAS YOUATT 1795 – 1859***

Thomas Youatt b.1795, was the youngest son of James & Elizabeth. Only a young lad of 16 when James died in 1811 Thomas undoubtedly helped on the farm but his later activities show he was versed in Malting and in Gamekeeping. Thomas had to wait until his 21<sup>st</sup>. birthday until he received his father's bequest.

We are fortunate to see some of young Thomas's attempts at writing for found in the back pages of Newton Tracey Parish Register appears the following accompanied by the date 1814:-

***Thomas Youatt his hand but not his pen, to make amend he will be good but God knows when***

{ A sort of 'by hook or by Crook I'll be last in this book' - autograph book entry ? }

It may appear strange to find such an important parish record used for such frivolity but the register may well have been the only writing material the young Thomas could lay his hand on. No doubt the Parish Register was kept in his father's house after all he was a Churchwarden. Not that Thomas's handwriting exercise was all to be found in those back pages for there were Whorls and sums relating to the tithe amount to be paid the Rector. It must have been a page used for trying out a Quill pen as the whorls or flourishes indicate. There were no indicators to confirm that 1814 dates young Thomas's entry.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>. September 1818 Thomas, then aged 23, was married at the Parish Church of **SOUTH MOLTON** the home of his bride **SUSANNA NICHOLLS** then aged 27, [ the Nicholls spelling varies sometimes Nichols and once as Nickels ] .

South Molton parish register shows Thomas to be a sojourner [ one living outside the Parish ]. An indication that Thomas could have been living and working with his brothers at Newton Tracey.

Christening entries for Thomas & Susanna's children were found at Newton Tracey, South Molton and one in Ireland, these together with the Census Returns of 1841 and

1851 make it possible to chart the changes of both occupation and location of the couple and their family.

### ***The children of Thomas & Susanna were :-***

**ELIZABETH** b.1820 NT. Married William Willacott, a Cooper at Exeter 1846  
later lived at Creedy Park, Sandford.

**MARY** b.1822 NT. Married at Bristol in 1849 to William Wellacott a Coop

**TOMASINE** b.1825 S.M. Died and was buried in 1827 SM.

**THOMAZINE NICHOL** b.1828 S.M. Died a spinster at Exmouth aged 84.

**SUSANNA** b.1831 Tawstock. Died a spinster at Exmouth aged 82.

**EMILY NICHOL** b.1833 IRELAND Married in London, 1868, to Terry Nation.

**NT.** = Newton Tracey entries note Thomas as a Maltster in 1820 and a Yeoman of Pristacott in 1822

**SM.**= South Molton, entries note Thomas was a Labourer at Hill, a farm close to the town.

**Tawstock,** - the entry for Susanna - notes Thomas to be a Gamekeeper at Eastercoombe on the estate of the Bouchier Wrey family a local landowner.

From the Census Return of 1841 Thomas and his family were living in Tawstock, he was employed as a Gamekeeper. However in 1851 Thomas was found to be a Widower living at Brendon on the edge of Exmoor where during 1846 his wife Susanna had died. Susanna was brought home to South Molton to be buried.

The Census also reveals that Thomas was 'An assistant in Brewing' at The Abbey. At first thought to be a monastic foundation, however upon checking further 'The Abbey' was found to be an Inn run by a Widow named Elizabeth Bromham.

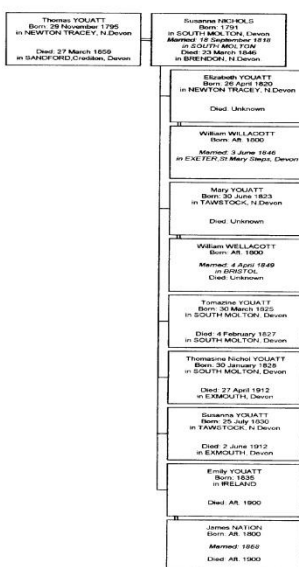
Meanwhile in 1851 at the nearby village of Lynton, Thomas's daughter **Emily** was living 'in the shop', a General Shop run by Mr.Fry and his wife and located at Church-mile House.

The **Ireland** birthplace of Emily was discovered in the 1851 Census for Lynton and repeated on the 1861 entry for Court House Arlington where she was a Ladies Maid to Lady Chichester.

Although Emily's actual birthplace in Ireland has not been found it is thought that Thomas worked for a spell on an Irish estate probably as Gamekeeper to a local Tawstock Landowner with property over there. Certainly the Chichester family had estates in Ulster.

**Susanna and Thomasine Nichol** remained spinsters and lived in their final years at the South Devon resort of Exmouth. **Susanna** was found in 1861 to be a Housemaid at the Chichester home of Arlington in N.Devon.

**THOMAS YOUATT 1795 - 1859**



The sisters died within a month of each other during 1912 at Exmouth. A Will shows that their Estate was bequeathed to **Emily** who in 1868 had married Terry Nation in London.

Thomas's daughter **Elizabeth**, the oldest of his children was a Servant when she married in Exeter to William Willacott a Cooper employed on the Creedy Park Estate at Sandford near Crediton in mid-Devon.

**Mary**, Thomas's second daughter also surprisingly married a Cooper with a like sounding name of her sister Elizabeth's Husband. William Wellacott, was Mary's husband, they married in 1849 at Bristol.

However it was at Sandford near Crediton with his daughter that Thomas spent his last days.

Thomas was buried in the Parish Church at Sandford a memorial stone in the churchyard is one of few still to be found in Devon carrying a Youatt surname.

With the death of Thomas there was no male line to survive so that particular branch of the Youatt family became extinct.

### **Note concerning Farming post 1814**

Farming enjoyed a boom during the Napoleonic wars when food commanded high prices however in the aftermath from about 1814 was a time of depression . Many once Yeoman Farmers were forced to give up their holdings and seek employment where they could. so it was quite common to read the terms Agricultural Labourer and Husbandman used where once Yeoman described their role.

The Industrial revolution and the railways also brought about change so that many left the land altogether.

As we shall see the younger Youatt's moved away from Devon several to London and others across the Bristol Channel to the South Wales coalfields.

### **JAMES YOUATT 1785 - 1848 and ELIZABETH SMALLRIDGE**

James too followed his father as Churchwarden and Collector of Land Taxes whilst he remained at Newton Tracey however by 1829 he had all but relinquished a connection with that parish. James continued to farm part of the Fremington Poor Lands, a parcel known as Broad Oaks.

Soon after James father's death in 1811 James married ***Elizabeth Smallridge***, a name today pronounced 'Smorridge'. Elizabeth, a native of Tawstock, came from a farming family with roots in the area. Some members of the Smallridge family are thought to continue farming in the area today.

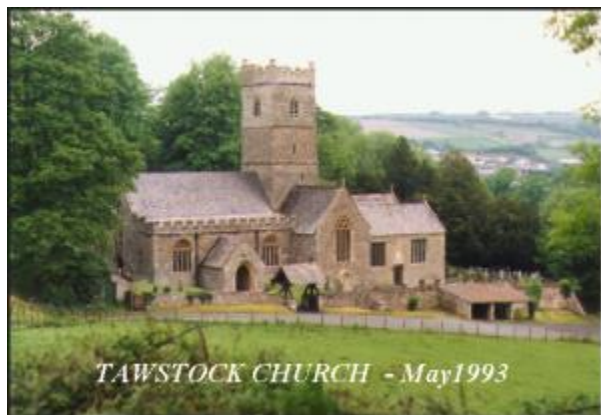
At the time of marriage 23<sup>rd</sup>., April 1811, their certificate shows a bold signature by James but an X where Elizabeth's should be; Elizabeth could not write her name.

It was not unusual to find a cross in lieu of a signature in a parish register in fact a printed certificate of marriage had only just been introduced. In earlier times it was usual for the Parish JJClerk to enter just names and dates in a Parish Register.

Not that Elizabeth's illiteracy was a drawback to raising nine children .One became a Yeoman, one married a Yeoman whilst the others all made their way in the world either in farming or as farming labourers. One gave his name to the 1851 census taker as Yewett perhaps illiteracy was the reason for others at that time had their surname spelt correctly.

Tawstock the church where James and Elizabeth married has several Youatt and many Smallridge connections. The Church, shown below, lies on the side of a hill overlooking the verdant valley of the River Taw. On the opposite side of the valley lies Codden Hill, a whale-backed mound rising to 600 or so feet, quite a dominating feature associated with local myths.

Inside the ancient church of Tawstock are many medieval monuments to the Bouchier - Wrey family, once Earls of Bath, whose one time seat Tawstock House is nearby.



Although a Catholic family with their own Priest and chapel the Bouchier - Wrey family installed at least one Anglican Rector of Tawstock as John & Charlotte's marriage certificate shows.

Amongst other artefacts to be found within the church is an old horse drawn, steel, hand-plough carrying a label showing its donation by one of the local members of the Smallridge family.

Outside in the (Tawstock) churchyard are several Smallridge headstones, a few with a Youatt middle name. Still preserved and leaning against the boundary wall a tombstone of James Youatt the engraving is rather poignant and reads as follows:

***To the memory of JAMES YOUATT of this parish who departed this life***

***on the 24<sup>th</sup> .day of November 1848. Aged 63 years***

***'Forebear my wife to grieve for me***

***I'm gone but where you soon must be***

***Therefore improve each moment well***



***That your soul with Christ may dwell***

***Farewell dear children and the World***

***Where you do but yet remain***

***The Lord of Hosts be your defence***

***'til we do but meet again.***

If visiting Tawstock it is worth while viewing the village school since it is one of very few still in existence with a thatched roof. The school predated the introduction of National Schools of 1870 and was provided for local children by one of the Wrey family

James and Elizabeth had nine children, all survived and most married.

The first born was named **Caleb** thus carrying on a tradition started in 17<sup>th</sup>.C. Exeter and repeated well into the 20<sup>th</sup>.century.

Usually in country parishes, parents had to wait the attendance of a priest at the Church - sometimes for long periods in a small parish, often a Curate was left in charge whilst the appointed priest was out of the parish or otherwise occupied. Not that matters of the Church took precedence over personal pursuits as the following example from nearby Landkey village shows. John Russell was a 19<sup>th</sup>.C. Rector who spent so much of his time fox-hunting and dog breeding that a breed of terrier *Jack Russell* was given his name.

In the case of Caleb his private baptism was likely to have been to enable a weak child to be received into the Church in the likelihood of an early death.

In the event Caleb survived and died at the right old age of 91 !

**The children of James and Elizabeth nee Smallridge were :-**

*CALEB*      b.1811,      m.1850 to *Anne Clarke* of Delley Farm, Yarnscombe

*MARY*      b.1813      m.1843 to *Thomas Smallridge*, Yeoman of Upcott in Tawstock

*BETSEY*    b.1814      m.1839 to *Samuel Smallridge*, Farmer of Tawstock

*ANN*        b.1816      m.1848 ?

GRACE      b.1818      m.1866 ?

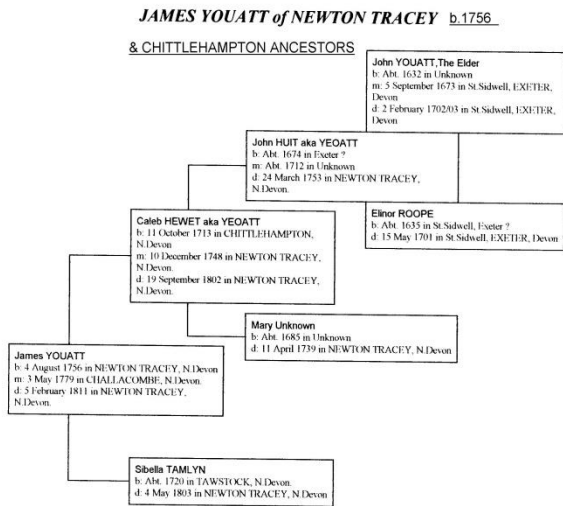
JAMES      b.1821      m.1848 to *Phoebe Heddon* at Barnstaple

SUSANNA    b.1823      m.1866 ?

JOHN        b.1825      m.1846 to *Rebecca Courtney* of Bishops Tawton.

THOMAS     b.1828      m. ?

### Family tree of James (1748-1848) and Elizabeth nee Smallridge



### Caleb (1811-1902) and Anne Youatt of Yarnscombe

Caleb went to work on Delley Farm the home of **Anne Clarke**, and at the age of 39 married. Caleb then moved on to Hollick Farm in Yarnscombe parish where his grand and great-grand-children Hollick Farmhouse - Yarnscombe

Caleb and Anne had eight children four of whom were male. It is known that one son James became a Railway Guard. Another son was **William Clarke Youatt** b.1862, he inherited Hollick and had eight children of whom his daughter **Irene Netting Youatt** (Netting her mothers surname) was interviewed on Youatt history during a visit to Devon by the author in 1979.

Then married and with two farmer sons, Mrs.Dymond nee Irene Netting Youatt welcomed us to Hollick, it was a scene long to be remembered.

Hollick stems from a Saxon name given to one of their settlements that likely took the form of a longhouse. Now built of traditional Cob and thatched, Hollick farmhouse was very picturesque.

In the far distance could be seen the snow covered slopes of Exmoor, for in May there was a noticeable chill in the air. Not only was the front door open but so were all windows.

Inside an everlasting log fire simmered making the room quite warm, as cob is an excellent insulating material. In the corner of a quarry tiled floor room with its oak table and Windsor chairs was an ancient longcase clock majestically ticking away.

No doubt those early settlers located Hollick carefully for it looked very welcoming as it must have done to many a Youatt arriving after a hard day's labour.

In these days of change when such farmhouses pass into private hands to be ruinously converted it is heartening to learn that Hollick not only is subject to a preservation order but has been maintained by the local authority to heritage standards. At the time of writing Mrs. Dymond is well into her 90's and is still able to get about in spite of having lost a leg earlier in her life.

### ***JAMES b.1821 & PHEOBE HEDDON***

When James married Phoebe in 1848 he was a Labourer but by 1851 was a Butcher and Grocer with premises in Butchers Row and Gaydon Street, Barnstaple.

Butchers Row exists today and is an example of Georgian townscape, it comprises a row of single storey shop fronts built for open display of meat and fish. Conveniently opposite Barnstaple Pannier Market Hall the picturesque shops still sell meat today but hygiene regulations prevent open display.

Some shops are devoted to the tourist trade selling local specialities, which include offering to despatch tins of the famous Devon Clotted cream throughout the world. An ancient Pannier market opposite is regularly held twice a week. Apart from its traditional use for the sale of local produce and scenes of cattle sales market stalls have much to interest the visitor.

### **James Gold Youatt and Eleanor - an Australian emigration**

James and Phoebe had a son also named **JAMES** b.1853. James, according to the 1881 census, became a Wesleyan Teacher. In early 1878 **James** married **Eleanor Gold** at Bideford, later the couple went to Bassingham, Lincs. The most likely reason for James to undergo Teacher training

James and Eleanors daughter ***Evangeline Francis*** was baptised.in late 1878 whilst they were in Lincolnshire. At census time in 1881 the family had returned home and ***JAMES GOLD YOUATT*** had been born and was living with his parents at Northam near Bideford.

***JAMES GOLD YOUATT*** later emigrated to Queensland, Australia.

Whilst in Coomera, Queensland ***HERBERT GOLD YOUATT*** was born, he also was a schoolteacher and the father of ***MISS JEAN YOUATT*** who has corresponded with the author.

### **JOHN YOUATT b.1825 – the start of a WELSH YOUATT branch**

Whilst in the 19<sup>th</sup>. & 20<sup>th</sup>.C three distinct branches of the Youatt Family lived in South Wales, a branch from about 1850 can be traced to ***JOHN YOUATT b. 1825. Youatt found in S.Wales today is invariably from that root.***

Third youngest of the James (1786-1548) and Elizabeth sons, John was also baptised at Newton Tracey in 1825.

During 1846 John married ***Rebecca Courtney*** at Barnstaple.

The scene now moves to Neath in South Wales, then a town full of coal mining, iron foundries and Rolling Mills, all with shipping based on nearby Swansea.

John and Rebecca's first child was Susanna b.1853 at Neath, Margam Taibach where John was a Labourer in the CoalMines. Susanna however did not live long and the couple returned to Pilton just outside Barnstaple for the birth of ***Thomas*** in 1854. With shipping frequently linking the North Devon ports and Swansea- a return to Neath was made, there the family developed.

In 1874 ***Thomas*** married ***Susanna Jefford*** in the Welsh town of Melincrynan in the Neath area.

From that date onward there have been many descendants of Thomas and Susanna living working and playing in South Wales. One such achieved fame by representing the Principality in Rugby Football a sport the Welsh for which the Welsh are renowned.

In fact until recently descendants of John & Rebecca are still to be found today in South Wales both in Neath itself and nearby Briton Ferry.

At some future date these Cambrians will be rounded up and a suitable family relationship established. ***It is however satisfying to establish once more a link with***

***Newton Tracey thus bearing out what Thomas Youatt the Monkleigh Wheelwright once claimed that***

***'If the name was spelt YOUATT then they were a relative'!***

### **JOHN YOUATT 1782 – 1861**

**JOHN YOUATT** was the first son born to James and Elizabeth née Dallyn – and Caleb's first grandson, his baptism took place at Newton Tracey church on 7<sup>th</sup>. January 1782.

In our Youatt story five traceable branches arise from John's two marriages and an inter marriage liaison John was raised with his brothers and sisters at a farming tenement named *Grabbishaw*.

Located about a mile from Newton Tracey church; *Grabbishaw* was in Fremington Parish; James his father also held other tenancies in Newton Tracey to which the family returned in later years. John acquired the skills of his father as a farmer but became versed in other trades, as the text will relate. Other activities are revealed in an entry of the North Devon Yeomanry in which during 1803 a John Yewatt of Newton Tracey was listed as a reserve on the Muster Roll of the Fremington Troop. Most likely this was a precaution in the event of Napoleon's activities and a reserve created should cross Channel invasion occur.

### **1805 - John Youatt's marriage to Grace Heanes**

John married Grace Heanes of Fremington by special licence at Fremington church on 21<sup>st</sup>.April 1805. Use of a licence avoided banns having to be read and enabled the union to be made without delay.

Grace was aged 24 at the time and was of a farming family living in the area. Not much is known about the origins of the Heanes family but the surname is to be found in the Oakhampton area.

John and Grace's first child was also named **JOHN** and baptised at Newton Tracey on 6<sup>th</sup>.November 1805.

### **John & Grace's movements between 1807 and 1824**

Once more the *Land Tax Returns* provide a means revealing the movement of John and Grace and their increasing family for from 1807 onward John took on farming tenancies away from Newton Tracey.

Up until 1807 John was farming part of *Copplestones* in Newton Tracey where we find that the tenancy farmed was named *Cornwals* a name taken from a one time owner: John paid a tax amounting to 12s-6d.indicating a quite small area.

Other holdings between 1807 – 1810 were a tenancy for *Higher and Lower Coombe* located in the parish of SOUTH MOLTON the property of a Major Burgess.

Whilst in the South Molton parish a son **JAMES** was born and baptised on 23<sup>rd</sup>.July 1807 later followed by a daughter **ELIZABETH** baptised on 16<sup>th</sup>.August 1809.

Although by 1810 the tenancy had passed into the ownership of a widow Mrs.Susan Nott, John and his family retained their holding until 1817.

Farmers had help on the land from the cheap labour provided by apprentices. Taken at an early age clothing meals and often housing was the return. Such agreements were the subject of parish records, an example is that of Peter Allen aged 10, son of Edward, during 1810 he was apprenticed to John Youatt, ,Yeoman in the parish of South Molton.

A third son was born, he was named **GEORGE HEANES YOUATT** and baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup>.March 1812 at the parish church of South Molton.- as in fact were both James and Elizabeth.

For the first time in Youatt history inclusion of a mother's maiden name as a second name was made. It was a practice then fashionable but one repeated afterward in many Youatt baptisms. **MARY HEANES YOUATT** was the next child born to John and Grace. No parish baptismal entry has yet been found but census returns show this to have been during 1814 at a time when the family was resident in the South Molton parish.

An interesting find revealed that Mary Youatt was listed as number 222 on the rolls of the Torrington Baptist Church,Mary was baptised and received into the church on 14<sup>th</sup>.July 1833. It is likely that her middle name was adopted at that time when she was most likely living with Heanes relatives.

A change of tenancy took place during 1821 when a move to NORTH MOLTON was made

A large parish of over 15,000 acres and extending into Exmoor it was once rich in iron and copper working but had much land under cultivation. Two ennobled landowners Earl Morley and Sir G.W.Bampfylde (later Lord Poltimore) owned most of the land whilst premier Earl Fortescue was the next door neighbour.

Farming was, as elsewhere, carried out piecemeal with parcels allocated to literally hundreds of tenants.

So it was that John Youatt became tenant to Earl Morley for plots by the names of Harrishes Huntston, Wester Barton and in the village of North Molton itself of a small plot behind the Sun Inn.

Whether John had other associations such as landlord of the Sun Inn is unknown but he may have learned something about the trade as in later life, elsewhere, he became a licensee.

North Molton had a school adjacent to the church and Court House (as the Manor house was styled), this might have swayed the move into the parish. With children aged between 7 and 16 this could have been a factor. It is doubtful whether the 16 year old son John would be at school for as we have seen apprenticeships in agricultural labouring started at thirteen years and earlier.

**CALEB YOUATT** was the name given to the last child born to John and Grace when he was baptised at North Molton 10<sup>th</sup>.December 1818 – thus a distinctive Youatt Christian name was carried to a third generation – it was not to be the last.

1824 was an eventful year for John starting with a change of tenancy, and a move to Litchadon – still in N.Molton parish under the ownership of Earl Fortescue whose prestigious mansion at Castle Hill was nearby was in later years to find employment for stonemason William Youatt..

Sadly however **GRACE YOUATT** died aged 43 during 1824, she was buried on 24<sup>th</sup>.December 1824 at North Molton.

A happier event had taken place in the neighbouring parish of Bishops Tawton that was to lead to the uniting of two North Devon farming families. The occasion was the marriage of John's youngest sister **Susanna Youatt to John Rumbelow** the date was April 15<sup>th</sup>.1824 – however a liaison between John Youatt and Charlotte Rumbelow (sister of John Rumbelow) is likely to have taken place around that time as later events will show.

### **1825 - Birth of Thomas Rumbelow Youatt**

An event occurred during 1825 that seemingly had no connection with Youatt history but was in fact to produce another line of descent from **JOHN YOUATT.**, this was in fact the baptism at Landkey parish church in North Devon. The registry entry read :-

11<sup>th</sup>.June 1825 -Thomas, son of Charlotte Rumbelow - illegitimate

A father's name was not stated but as events will show JOHN YOUATT was the other parent.

It was a fact revealed when Thomas's wife Harriet registered the birth of several of their children Thomas Rumbelow Youatt was given. That was confirmed by John's Will of 1861 when Thomas Rumbelow was named as a "stepson".

Such illegitimate children were not unusual at that time, some were either adopted by the parish or supported by the mother's family. Thomas spent his early years with either Rumbelow or Youatt relatives. Charlotte married John some five years later Thomas knew both his father and brother William and lived near them suggesting a family group around 1841.

With rare exception Thomas was known as plain **Thomas Youatt** but for clarity the name **THOMAS RUMBELOW YOUATT** is used frequently in this history

### **Thomas was the Great Great Grandfather of the Author**

#### **1830 - Marriage of JOHN YOUATT to CHARLOTTE RUMBELOW**

John and Charlotte were living and working in the Tawstock area when Banns of marriage were announced in Tawstock church between the parishioners.

#### **JOHN YOUATT, widower and CHARLOTTE RUMBELOW, spinster**

The marriage took place on 27<sup>th</sup>.February 1830 in the presence of Susanna Joce, a niece of John together with John Rumbelow who was Charlotte's elder brother (he had only recently married Susanna Youatt – John Youatt's youngest sister)..

A study of the actual marriage certificate reveals that Charlotte was unable to write her surname, X appeared instead.

Witness Susanna Joce was the daughter of Mary Joce , during 1804 she had as Mary Youatt married a Yeoman farmer William Joce.

It is conceivable then that at the time of marriage John Youatt was farming for his sister.

As regards the Rumbelow family, they had origins in North Devon as old and with roots as uncertain as the Youatt, they were Yeoman Farmers and tenant farmers in a number of parishes.

Charlotte herself was from Landkey where her family consisted of 4 sisters and a brother.



## **JOHN and CHARLOTTE – the Swansea years**

Soon after their marriage John and Charlotte moved to Swansea in Glamorgan, South Wales there they christened their first (legitimate) child, a son whom they named:

### **WILLIAM YOUATT**

William was born on the 14<sup>th</sup>.July 1830 and baptised on 27<sup>th</sup>.July 1830 at St.Mary's Church Swansea 1830.

As will be related later William was to become a Stonemason and Builder in North Devon before later immigrating to the USA with his wife and four children.

The move to Swansea is unexplained but it was an area readily accessible from the North Devon ports of Bideford, Barnstaple and Ilfracombe with coal from the Welsh mines finding a ready market in the area. At least one other Youatt and several related Rumbelow families moved into South Wales where the attraction could be employment associated with mining compared to the relentless task of fighting the elements for a meagre return that farm labouring produced.

### **1830 – 1841 John, Charlotte & family**

Following the baptism of William in 1830 in Swansea town we have only the 1841 census to reveal the family movements.

John had taken on a farm at BRYNAFEL in the parish of Ilston on the Gower Peninsular with Charlotte and 10 year old William living under one roof.

From 1835 John held leasehold on the "Albion Public House" which may have some bearing on the 1841 location of his other son Thomas then in the employ of a Maltster.

Only a mile distant from Brynafel was PENGWERN COTTAGE that listed Thomas Rumbelow living at the home of John Corbett, Maltster.

By the time of the next census 1851 John and Charlotte were in Swansea, William was in Landkey Devon whilst Thomas Rumbelow had married in 1846 using his father's surname Youatt.

From 1846 onward the signature Thomas Youatt is found on his documents.

In searching the 1851 Census for Thomas & family one would have expected them be found living still in Gloucestershire but to date the entry remains elusive.

Earlier however Thomas Youatt was recorded in the 1843 Badminton Estate archives as *Thomas Hewett rearing game chicks on the Badminton Estate in Gloucestershire.*

As we shall reveal he then married the Head Gamekeeper's daughter and was set on a lifelong career as a Gamekeeper.

### **1835 - JOHN YOUATT – Mine Host at the “Albion”.**

A “Sale of Leasehold Property” notice - shown below – suggests that John Youatt took possession of “The Albion” public house in Swansea during 1835.

The location of the Albion Inn cannot be found on a 19<sup>th</sup>.C.map of Swansea but Nelson Street and other references to John & Charlotte’s life in Swansea give clues.

#### **SALE OF LEASEHOLD PROPERTY**

Public House. “The Albion”

Nelson Place, Swansea

Yearly Rent £32, Ground Rent £5 per annum

Lease for 84 years from 25<sup>th</sup>.March 1835.

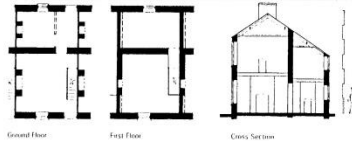
Now occupied by Mr. John Youatt

### **Excerpt from “The Cambrian newspaper dated 16<sup>th</sup>.Nov.1846**

John also found mention in newspaper reports – again from the local “Cambrian” newspaper. We are more fortunate that whilst the couple were living in Swansea the 1851 another Census took place and from this their home in Princes Street identified.



5-14 Princess Street, Swansea (Glamorgan) SW 6530-9275 were built between 1830 and 1837. These four-room houses had straight timber stairs, rising directly from the street doorway to both upper rooms. The back room downstairs could have been a back-kitchen or a bedroom. It was probably partitioned off from the space leading to the back door, part of which would also have been used as the larder. The longer rear roof slope and the thick internal wall suggest that these houses were related to the Merthyr Tydfil 'catslide outhot' type (page 28). The wall which separates two rooms of one house is much thicker than the wall between two houses at ground floor level.



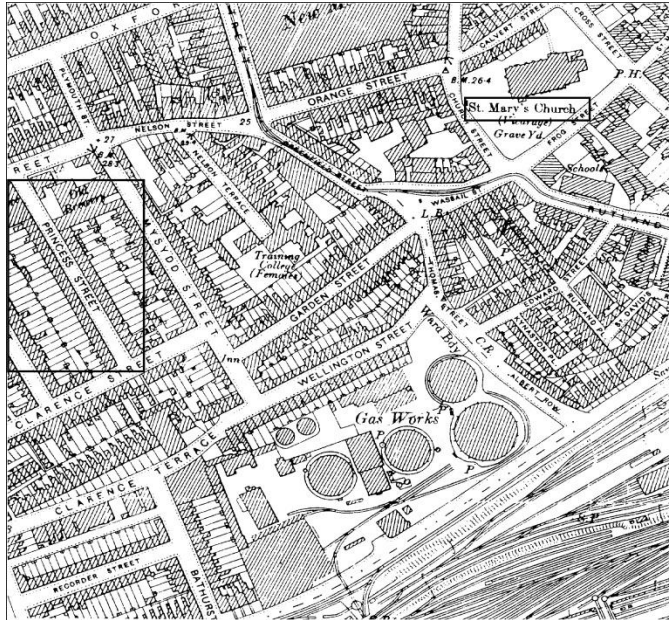
Reproduced from "Welsh Industrial Workers Housing 1775 – 1875"  
 Published by the National Museum of Wales

<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>
John	Youatt	Head	Married	69	Retired Farmer	Fremington, Devon
Charlotte	Youatt	Wife	Married	59	Landkey, Devon	
Mary	Smith	Visitor	Widow	68	Needlewoman	Tewkesbury, Glos
William	Rogers	Lodger	Unmrrd.	27	Academy Tutor	Swansea, Glamorgan
Hugh	Ward	Head	Married	27	Agricultural Lab	Landkey, Devon
Elizabeth	Ward	Wife	Married	24	Bishops	Tawton Devon
Elizabeth	Ward	Dau.	4	Scholar	Swansea	
John	Ward	Son	2	Infant	Swansea	
Mary Ann	Ward	Dau.	3 mnts	Infant	Swansea	
John	Rumbelow	Visitor	Unmarrd.	26	Journeyman Maltster	Bishops Tawton, Dev

**Census Return for No.25 and 25a Princes Street Swansea on 30<sup>th</sup>.March 1851**

## Comments on Swansea Illustrations and Findings

The “Cambrian” sale notice copied above is the basis for assuming that John Youatt was the original leaseholder and that with Charlotte remained in the area until about 1853 by which time Charlotte and most likely John must have returned to North Devon.



## Princes Street – Swansea

Extract from a six inch map of the 19<sup>th</sup>.C.

Princes Street (now Princess St.) and St. Mary’s Church can be seen but Nelson Place the site of ‘*The Albion*’ the Inn with John Youatt association had at the time of the map been demolished.

Reproduced from “Welsh Industrial Workers Housing 1775 – 1875” Published by the National Museum of Wales

This map shows the proximity of Princes Street – their home in 1851 – and Nelson Street where The Albion Inn at Nelson Place was most likely to have been situated.

St.Mary’s Church where William was baptised can clearly be identified.

Although a copy from a modern photograph the type of terraced dwelling occupied by John and Charlotte can be appreciated. From the census one can only conclude that space was at a premium unless there was a separate dwelling numbered 25A. Otherwise 25A was a census device to indicate another family with it’s own head of household

In any case the Ward and Rumbelow families were relatives of both John and Charlotte.

Hugh Ward, a North Devon agricultural labourer, had married Elizabeth Rumbelow of Bishops Tawton at Barnstaple. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Rumbelow and Susanna Youatt.

Hugh was an ancestor of the late Leslie Jenkins whose researches furthered Youatt genealogy considerably. In later life Hugh became a quite successful coal merchant.

John Rumbelow – the Journeyman Maltster shown was the elder brother of Elizabeth.

Introduction of regulations aimed at restricting the sale of liquor outside prescribed hours led John and his neighbouring landlord to be brought before the magistrates – an example had to be seen to have been made. The “Dirty Assault” is reported in the journalistic manner of the period but is confusing in detail plus the question as to whether the “young” John was in fact the retired Innkeeper. Other Youatt were in South Wales.

### **PETTY SESSIONS & POLICE NEWS**

SWANSEA POLICE – Friday, before John Richardson Esq.

Information's were laid before by the police against the following publicans for selling beer at improper hours and other offences against the laws regulating licensed victuallers viz., *William Rees of the 'Horse and Groom', Benjamin Howells of 'The Swan',*

*Thomas Bramble of the 'Talbot Arms', David Hughes of the 'Farmers Arms'*

*Union Street, John Thomas of the 'Dolphin', Robert Phillips of the 'Brewery Tap'*

*John Youatt of the 'ALBION', Morgan Davies of the 'Smiths Arms' Foxhole*

*David Davies of the 'Golden Lion'*

Being in nearly all cases the first offence, the several defendants were discharged on payment of the expenses incurred, on condition of their faithfully promising not again to offend. Positive instructions were likewise given to keep a strict watch on all public houses and beer shops in the town, and apply for summonses against all parties committing infraction of the law. Upon a second conviction a severe penalty would be inflicted.

***Taken from 'The Cambrian' dated 24<sup>th</sup>.November 1845***

## **A DIRTY ASSAULT**

**JOHN YOUATT** \* a young man in the employ of Mr.Haines, Temple Street (Swansea) was charged by Mr.Llewellyn Rees, landlord of the 'St.Ives Arms' with assaulting him by throwing a quantity of filth over him.

Mr.Llewellyn Rees, on being sworn said "On Friday evening the 5<sup>th</sup>.April, I was in a yard which I occupy in Goat Street, I was putting things to right there when a quantity of filth fell on me and knocked me down. When I got up I saw the defendant with a bucket in his hand. In the road his master, Mr.Haines was with him and both were laughing at me. The wall is four feet high where I saw the defendant, I said to the defendant " John, Why did you do that? He replied "Oh dear I did not know you were there" I said well, John that will do very well'

Cross examined by the defendant ' I was not standing on Mr. Haines manure ground at the time in question' Mr Haines had no right to put any manure in that yard at all. I did throw a stone at you and it went through Mr.Smyths window.

Defendant, in his defence said that he was not aware Mr.Rees was in the yard at the time that he was ordered to deposit the manure there as he had done so for several months past until the present time.

The Bench were of the opinion that what had taken place was not done willfully, therefore dismissed the case.

***From 'The Cambrian' newspaper 26<sup>th</sup>.April 1850***

(\* The John Youatt here was likely to have been a nephew of the 'Albion' Innkeeper John Youatt who in 1850 would have been aged 68 – hardly a 'young man')

**John and Charlotte – their final years.**

At some time after 1851 both John and Charlotte returned to North Devon where they lived we have no record in fact it is likely they lived apart with relatives for Charlotte died during 1854.

*It is apparent that John Youatt was not present when Charlotte's died.*

Death in the Sub District of Barnstaple

**Sixteenth September 1854 – Landkey**

**Charlotte Youatt - female, 63 years, wife of John Youatt**

**(Cause of death) Internal Cancer – not certified.**

**(Informant ) X the mark of Ann Harris present at death – Landkey**

**Dated nineteenth September 1854**

**(Photograph by courtesy of Colin Elworthy – taken 1999)**



The inscription reads

***SACRED to the Memory of***

***CHARLOTTE YOUATT***

***Wife of John Youatt of this Parish who died Sept 16<sup>th</sup>.1834 Aged 63 years***

The headstone was most likely the work of her Stonemason and Engraver son William Youatt.

Note the space left blank for John's memorial, in the event John was also buried in the parish.

## JOHN YOUATT - The final years.

John Youatt also returned to North Devon from Swansea but we have no indication as to where he lived until the time of his death.

William Youatt son of John and Charlotte had married and settled in Swimbridge where he lived at Tower Farm with his wife Martha two sons and two daughters. William was a fully-fledged Stonemason and stone engraver and later was to become a builder. Martha's Bale family relatives were farmers and lived nearby so it is thought they helped on the farm when stonemasonry works took precedence.

It was at Tower Farm that John spent his last years no doubt giving help on the farm although he was in his late seventies. John Youatt died on 24<sup>th</sup>.January 1861 as the following death certificate details show.

Whilst Devon newspapers do not seem to have carried an obituary the Swansea based "Cambrian" on 1<sup>st</sup>.February 1861 carried the following :-

On the 24th. Ult. At Swymbridge Devon. Mr.John Youatt, Farmer, formerly of "The Albion" Inn Swansea. Respected by all who knew him.

DEATH in the Sub-district of Barnstaple

Twenty fourth January 1861 at Swymbridge

John Youatt

Male 79 years, Farmer

Cause of death Old age – not certified

Informant, William Youatt present at death Swymbridge

John was buried in an unmarked grave at Landkey most likely alongside Charlotte.

Whilst Devon newspapers do not seem to have carried an obituary the Swansea based "Cambrian" on 1<sup>st</sup>.February 1861 carried the following:-

On the 24th. Ult. At Swymbridge Devon. Mr.John Youatt, Farmer, formerly of "The Albion" Inn Swansea. Respected by all who knew him.



John's Will is of interest as it recognises a "stepson" (which is taken to mean a son not of his recent marriage). Thomas had adopted his father's surname by the time of his own 1846 marriage.

### **Will of JOHN YOUATT 1782-1861**

This is the last Will and Testament of me John Youatt of Swymbrydge in the county of Devon -Yeoman

I give to my stepson Thomas Rumbelow the sum of £10. All the residue and remainder of my real and personal estate and effects of every description - (subject to just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses) I give to my son William Youatt, his heirs and administrators and I appoint the said son sole executor of this my Will.

In witness thereof I have hereto set my hand the 1<sup>ST</sup>. June 1858

John Youatt

Signed in the presence of John Barry and William Seldon

### **Contention of John Youatt's Will**

A daughter by John's first marriage **MARY HEANES YOUATT then Mary LANGBRIDGE** sought fit to contend the Will of her father.

Mary, a dressmaker, had during 1848 married a Great Torrington whitesmith (worker in non-ferrous metals) by the name of John Langbridge, by 1861 John had become a clockmaker resident in Bideford.

Cited as "*one of the natural and lawful children of the said John Youatt*" the contention was made on the basis that "*John was a widower and had died intestate*"

In the event the claim was rejected by the Registers of the Principal Registry on 15<sup>th</sup>.July 1865 and the Will was proved in Exeter on 3<sup>rd</sup>.August 1865 with Estate and Leaseholds valued under £200 passing to William Youatt.

Whilst it would appear that Mary and presumably other offspring of the Heanes marriage were unaware of her father's second marriage. However her father's Will brought William into contact with her and correspondence between siblings of William and Mary have been found. (A 1906 New Year card received in the USA now in the possession of Mary Youatt Steinbauer)

## **Comment upon the life of John Youatt**

In researching the history of such an important ancestor of both Youatt branches a lot remains buried in history with a number of intriguing questions unanswered.

Why in fact did John, the eldest and normal successor, to his father James's Newton Tracey estate relinquish this to his brother James?

Could the Heanes preference for non-conformist worship have a bearing on later relations between John and his children following Grace" death. Certainly George Heanes Youatt married a Baptist ministers daughter also his sister Mary, and several of his nieces and nephews in Great Torrington converted to the Baptists? Of course the preference may have been a trend or even the influence of the Heanes family.

John's liaison with Charlotte - which must have taken place whilst Grace was alive - casts a shadow on his reputation. There is also the possibility of at least one other child with a John Youatt as father, however the child born to an Elizabeth Lewis that was taken on to the Parish. (South Molton Ledger of Parish Bastards 1817-1822). Were these the reason for the apparent distancing of the Heanes and Rumbelow siblings?

Thus we come to the end of the story of John Youatt a hard working Yeoman farmer and Innkeeper whose life is best summed up as in his only known obituary –

***"Respected by all that knew him"***

### **The later lives of the Youatt / Heanes families**

Eldest son JOHN YOUATT became a Butcher by trade and married ELIZABETH EVANS who was born in Plymouth Dock (now Devonport), the marriage took place at Great Torrington on 4<sup>th</sup>.October 1829. Elizabeth had skills as a baker that she combined with John in his butchering business.

Several census and trade directory entries show John Youatt Butcher Baker of Potacre Street.

Great Torrington then was a thriving market town and known for its cattle market and for a thriving glove making industry. In 1801 the town was noted as "rich, populous and spirited". Potacre street is a short connecting street, centrally located and still retains what must have been the Youatt shop – (in 1960 a café and tea-rooms).

John died on 8<sup>th</sup>.August 1851 of an "abscess of the brain" – he was 45 years of age. Although quite early in life but not before 7 children had been born. These were: -

- William George Youatt 1832. He became apprenticed locally as a Tailor, later married, moved and settled in Kingston on Thames. As a Widower he married his niece Bessy Langbridge. Several children were born but as far as is known that line of Youatt is extinct.
- John Youatt 10<sup>th</sup>. October 1833 he became apprenticed to the Monkleigh Wheelwright Thomas Dennis (as previously had his Uncle Caleb Youatt b.1818).

John later took over the business that he later ran with his son Thomas who became Postmaster for Monkleigh village. After 30 years of service his daughter Gwendoline Bale later continued the Post Office service that eventually closed during the late 1970's – it had been in the family since 1892.

On the death of John Evans Youatt, grandson of John the Wheelwright, the Monkleigh branch became extinct.

A 1921 photograph shows the Wheelwrights house and workshop with most likely Thomas, his assistant outside and his wife Alice, daughter Gwendoline and a servant.

- Thomas Youatt 2<sup>nd</sup>. December 1835 by 1861 had become a carpenter Journeyman in Great Torrington later he moved to Torpoint on the Devon/Cornwall border where he married 1865 and became a builder. At his death in 1919 the local newspaper noted that Thomas was a staunch Wesleyan and was well known as a local preacher. He was twice married and had three daughters but no male heirs.
- Hannah Youatt 1836 has also been found as Maryanna in an early census. From age 15 if not earlier she became a Glover by trade. 1862 shows Hannah still living at home and recorded for census purposes as a “cotton glove machinist”. Recorded as No.269 on the roll of Torrington Baptist Church, Hannah was “dismissed to Dalston, London” in 1862 – an indication that Hannah had left her home in Potacre Street for life elsewhere.
- Fanny Youatt was b.1838 and was in 1851 at Potacre Street although working locally as a servant. By 1861 there is no trace in Gt.Torrington.
- Elizabeth Youatt was b.1843 at Potacre Street but by 1851 living with her Aunt in nearby New Street – no doubt because of space at home. Later to become a cotton glove maker Elizabeth married a Painter and decorator George Nixon Gunn and lived with him in High Street Gt.Torrington. By 1871 George had died and her mother was spending her evening years at Elizabeth's home.
- George Heanes Youatt was b.15<sup>th</sup>. April 1845 at Potacre Street the fourth son of John and Elizabeth. Similarly named as his piano making uncle little is known of George's movements except that in 1861 he was living with maltster George and his wife Mary Ann Walkey in Castle Street Gt.Torrington earning his living as a Maltsters boy.

## **JAMES YOUATT 1807 – 1888**

Second son of John and Grace was JAMES. He was baptised at South Molton on 23<sup>rd</sup>.July 1807 when John was holding a tenancy at Higher and Lower Coombe. James was to be a farmer and when of an age to leave home settled in Witheridge a large upland village between South Molton and Tiverton.

James – an Agricultural Labourer married ELIZA HODGE at the parish church on 25<sup>th</sup>.June 1833.

6 children were born to James and Eliza before her death at the early age of 35 on 27<sup>th</sup>.June 1847.

One of the children named Henry also died soon after his first birthday and was buried at Witheridge on 17<sup>th</sup>.May 1847.

The surviving children were:-

- George Youatt 1<sup>st</sup>.January 1834.at Witheridge. George has not been subsequently encountered during research.
- Mary Ann Youatt 2<sup>nd</sup>.January 1837 Born in the village of Witheridge at the age of 27 was noted as a spinster and dressmaker living in Russell St. Exeter when she married a John Pinn on 13<sup>th</sup>.December 1863. John was a joiner by trade.
- Thomas Youatt 1838 at Witheridge. No further details are known except an entry in the 1851 census noting Thomas was a scholar aged 13.
- John Youatt 1840 at Witheridge was at school in 1851 with his brothers and sisters. By 1881 however we have a census entry that reveals John had joined the Royal Navy and was serving in the last word in battleships HMS “Hercules” an Ironclad as these ships were known. At the time the ship was moored at Old Greenock; John was a Stoker and at 49 had no doubt seen something of the world.
- Grace Youatt 1844 was the last child born to James and Eliza at Witheridge for her mother died during 1847. Grace who carried her Grandmothers name may well have moved to Camberwell in London where in 1871 she was noted as a Dressmaker living at 12 Harvey Road at the home of John Grant and family.
- It is known that following the death of Eliza James sought employment as a Gardener and by the time of the 1881 census was recorded with a Hewett surname (a common enumerators error) as living at Stooks Cottage, Dawlish in South Devon.

James a widower had remarried on 25<sup>th</sup>.February 1858 a Mary Bradford, a laundress of Exeter where they were both living. It is noticeable that James’ father – John Youatt – was shown as an Innkeeper on the marriage certificate. At least one member of the Heanes siblings knew the whereabouts of John.

James Youatt died in Dawlish during 1888 and Mary during 1893.

Elizabeth Youatt the first daughter born to John and Grace was baptised at South Molton on 16<sup>th</sup>.August 1809. Elizabeth has not been found subsequently - did she die in her early years ?

George Heanes Youatt was baptised at South Molton Parish Church on 22 March 1812. Of George's life we have quite accurate accounts assembled by his many descendants.

After serving a cabinet making apprenticeship George as a journeyman cabinet maker moved on to the St.Pancras area of London.

A likely fellow apprentice named John Brinsmead b.1814 at Weare Gifford, N.Devon, from 1835 was also in London applying his skills to the manufacture of upright pianoforte instruments. Brinsmead became the epitome of a Victorian entrepreneur for he not only exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851 but later lithographs illustrate his "manufactories" with tall belching chimneys and pianos being assembled on modern flow line principles – Brinsmead died a rich man.

On the 7<sup>th</sup>.January 1839 George Heanes Youatt married Hephzibah Cocks

Hephzibah had found employment as a Straw Bonnet maker in Gt.Torrington where her father was a Baptist Church Minister. The actual marriage however was performed in the Independent Chapel. It is interesting to note that although no Pianofortes were then made in Devon George gave his occupation as a Pianoforte maker – he had in fact returned from London to marry.

1841 saw George, Hephzibah and their newly born first child Rhoda again in Gt.Torrington where at census time they were in residence with Hephzibah's mother/aunt and sisters in New Street.

After marriage George was in business in University Street London where there was considerable demand for pianos for home use. A skilled cabinetmaker could readily make the carcass of a piano and purchase keys, hammers and movements from specialist suppliers in the vicinity – so it was George made his living. From all accounts George was able to give his family the life of a successful artisan far better than those left tilling the fields in North Devon.

George and Hephzibah had a large family and they in turn gave rise to a large number of descendants named by the Author as "The Manchester Youatts" – of which more later.

George and Hephzibah's family consisted of ;-

- Rhoda Mary Youatt 18<sup>th</sup>.January 1839 at St.Pancras (the registration area) but died during 1842.
- John Youatt 1841-1925 b. at St.Pancras. John married Theresa Whitefield during 1865 in London but moved to Manchester where as a Merchants book-keeper he later qualified to become one of the first Chartered Accountants, John was a partner in the firm of Crewdson, Youatt and Hardy

Seven living children resulted from their marriage. These were all given a good education leading to the professions.

Frank 1886-1947 was a Chartered Accountant and worked in his father's firm.

Leonard 1868-1955 was a Doctor of Medicine a Radical Socialist and married the Great great Niece of Michael Faraday the famous scientist.

Alice 1869-? Married John Risque a Solicitor in the Manchester area.

Ernest 1873- ? is known to have gone to South Africa.

Gerald 1875-1952 was a Chartered Accountant in London.

Edgar 1877- ? was a Solicitor and partner in Smith Youatt & Smith of Manchester.

Claude Septimus 1880 - ? was a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with a pump manufacturing business at Stockport Rhodes Brydon & Youatt.

The whole family enjoyed a middle class style of life had musical talents and were supporters of the famous Manchester based Halle Orchestra. John in fact was a bass cello in the then amateur Halle Orchestra of 1857.

Many of today's Youatts are descendants of these Manchester Youatts.

### **Other children of George Heanes and Hepzibah Youatt**

- Mary Youatt 25December 1845 in the St. Pancras area and married Henry Whitefield in 1874
- Rhoda Youatt 11<sup>th</sup>.December 1847 in the St.Pancras area and by 1881 was a Principal of a college school and died at Hampstead in 1911
- George Heanes Youatt 25<sup>th</sup>.May 1850 in the St.Pancras area was at one time a Merchants Clerk and later an Accountant living with his parents in Regents Park Road London. Later he moved to Manchester where he died during 1915.
- Victor Youatt 19<sup>th</sup>.June 1855 was the last son born in the St.Pancras registration area. Victor followed his father into the Piano making business until this waned due to the

introduction of steel framed instruments. Later Victor has been found as a Librarian and the owner or manager of a restaurant. Married in 1877 and a widower five years later, he lived with his sister Rhoda until when aged 75 Victor remarried; he died during 1937.

- Hephzibah 15<sup>th</sup> August 1855 was known as “Effie” she too was born in the St.Pancras area. Described as a “Professor of Music” Effie taught music most likely pianoforte playing at least until her marriage to Horace Beach in 1885.

Thus we end the history of living children born to George and Hephzibah. George had his home and workshop at addresses around the Tottenham Court Road area later in Regents Park road. As a Piano maker he was one of hundreds in the area but unlike John Brinsmead did not amass a fortune but enjoyed a comfortable style of living. George and Hephzibah later moved to Primrose Hill area of Hampstead where he died in 1893 aged 83. Hephzibah had predeceased him aged 68 in 1882.

### **Later family events of John & Grace’s children**

Mary Heanes Youatt b.1814 at South Molton. We have already mentioned Mary when she challenged the Will of her father. It is known she lived in Great Torrington with her Uncle George Heanes and his wife Elizabeth in New Street and was a Dressmaker. On 13<sup>th</sup>.February 1848 Mary Heanes Youatt a spinster married John Langbridge a widower and Whitesmith by trade. In 1861 John, Mary and family were living in Bideford with John set up as a Watch and Clockmaker – his father’s trade. Mary followed the Heanes preference for the Baptist church and is found on their rolls at Gt.Torrington.

Caleb Youatt b.10<sup>th</sup>.December 1818 at North Molton, last of the Youatt/Heanes siblings, served an apprenticeship with the Monkleigh Wheelwright Thomas Dennis . Caleb lived with his Master and family until he married on 27<sup>th</sup>.January 1848.

Caleb Youatt married Elizabeth Lile a Dressmaker of Meddan Street Bideford at a Wesleyan Chapel. Soon after marriage Caleb and Elizabeth left North Devon to settle in the Lambeth area of London where Caleb established a very successful Wheelwrights business later known as the Lombard Wheel Works. Children of Caleb and Elizabeth at census time in living at 24 Newport Street Lambeth Surrey were :-

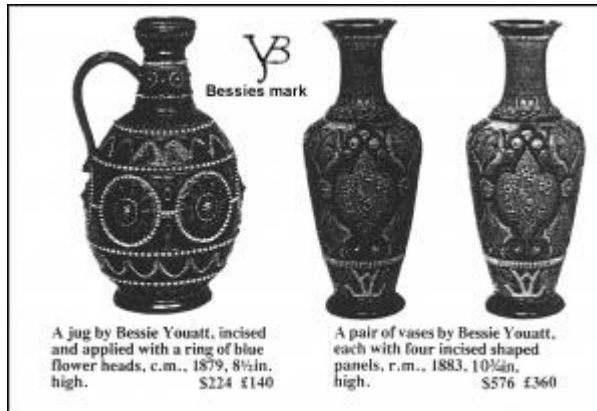
- Anna or Anne Mary Youatt 1851 – an unmarried Schoolmistress.
- Thomas Webb Youatt 1860 unmarried an Inland revenue clerk
- Bessie Jane Youatt 1860 a Designer in Art Pottery
- James Randall Youatt 1864 then 17 and a Pupil Teacher.

### **Later lives of Caleb & Elizabeth née Lile’s family.**

An elder son Alfred William Youatt b.1849 but not present at the 1881 census inherited his father’s business the Lombard Wheel Works in York Road Battersea and was the sole executor of his fathers Will valued under £3000 – a not inconsiderable sum.

Caleb had died in 1879 aged 61, Elizabeth his wife lived on until 1893 by which time she was 73.

- Thomas Webb Youatt. Moved around the country in his role with the Inland Revenue as evidenced by the record of his marriage in Newport, Monmouthshire. Thomas died as a Inland Revenue pensioner at Southampton during 1902.



- Bessie Jane Youatt attended the Lambeth School of Art and was later employed as an artist at the Royal Doulton Pottery in Battersea from 1873-1888 We would be fortunate indeed to find examples of her handiwork still available today. Such examples are few in number and very valuable as they are in Marqueterie Ware –a thin eggshell like ornamental ware with patterns in blues or purple. A characteristic monogram BJC identifies Bessie’s work – see illustration. Bessie married during 1891. Thomas Webb Youatt and his wife Annie Sarah (possibly Randall) had two sons



## Thomas Rumbelow Youatt 1825-1912



### The Gamekeeper & The Wiltshire Youatt story

We now introduce the Great Great Grandfather of the Author. It is a story researched in depth but one still incomplete in detail.

Landkey, a small village just outside the North Devon town of Barnstaple was once the home of a branch of the farming Rumbelow family. So it was to her local church that Charlotte took her firstborn son to be christened on 11<sup>th</sup>. June 1825, Thomas Rumbelow was the name recorded in the parish register with the word illegitimate – the father's name was withheld.

As detailed earlier in this history the Rumbelow farming family was well known to John Youatt as the marriage had taken place during 1824 of his youngest sister Susanna to Charlotte's elder brother John Rumbelow.

During 1830, then a widower, John Youatt, also married into the Rumbelow family with Charlotte as his bride. Perhaps it is not surprising to find that Thomas's father was also John Youatt - a fact acknowledged when leaving a bequest to him in his Will.

Thomas was to use his father's Youatt surname after 1846 and use it when christening all his children. On rare exception – in fact only twice has the name *Thomas Rumbelow Youatt* been noticed - this when his children's births were registered by his wife Harriet.

A few months after their marriage John and Charlotte had a son William christened at St.Mary's church Swansea. By 1841 they were known to have set up home on the Gower peninsular not far from Swansea at a holding named BRYNAFEL in the parish of Ilston - John was farming again.

Living less than a mile distant from them was their other son Thomas Rumbelow who was recorded in 1841 as a 15 year old male servant working for a Maltster by the name of John Corbett - his address was PENGWERN COTTAGE.

It may be coincidence but John Youatt had taken out a leasehold starting in 1835 for a Swansea inn named the "Albion" so whether the Maltster and the Inn were connected with the farming activity has yet to be established.

A decade later things are different, for in 1851 William was living with his Uncle and Aunt, William and Mary Britton, at Landkey in Devon. William had started a career in stonemasonry, and emigrated to America.

## **William Youatt 1830 – 1883**

### **From Swimbridge, Devon to the New World**

#### **William Youatt - the early days**

**William** was born soon after the 27<sup>th</sup>. February 1830 marriage of John Youatt and Charlotte Rumbelow. Church records reveal he was born on 14<sup>th</sup>.July 1830 and baptised on 27<sup>th</sup>.July.at St. Mary's Swansea in Glamorgan, South Wales.

Many facts concerning Williams's early life have yet to be found - the following is the story as currently understood.

Swansea, in the Vale of Glamorgan located in South Wales was a centre for the Welsh coal industry. As a port Swansea had frequent connection with the North Devon ports of Ilfracombe, Barnstaple and Bideford thus affording easy access - and employment prospects. John Youatt, however was a Farmer, and with his son William and wife Charlotte were found in the 1841 Welsh census returns living on the Gower Peninsular at Brynafel near Ilston.

In Swansea a decade later, 1851, John and Charlotte were located living in Princes Road. Although John then was an Innkeeper his occupation was given as *Retired Farmer*. William was not with them. William was in fact working in North Devon as a Mason with his Uncle William Britton in the village of Landkey, home of his mother and his mother's elder Rumbelow sister Mary. His skilled namesake then employed seven men and had trained William, in stonemasonry.

Unfortunately masons works were usually carried out as a job lot so few if any records exist. However Pesvner in his Buildings of England series 'Devon' notes many churches being remodelled during the period: Stonemasons were in demand. Memorial headstones were an ongoing requirement and at least one census entry has William Youatt as a stone engraver.

### **William's marriage.**

On the 5<sup>th</sup>.June 1852 William married MARTHA BALE of Filleigh a North Devon village very much part of the Castle Hill estate of Earl Fortescue, Devon's premier Baronet. Whether Martha worked up at Castle Hill we have no indication, but her father was most likely to have been a tenant farmer of the Fortescue family of Castle Hill Filleigh.

The Bale family were part of the farming fabric of Devon with many families of the name still found today, so it is not surprising that a related Monkleigh wheelwrights' daughter - Gwendoline Youatt married into an unrelated Bale family ( *Gwendoline Alice Youatt b.1904; m.1932 to William Oswald Bale*).

Trade Directories of the late 19<sup>th</sup>.C., reveal William Youatt listed as a Stonemason and Builder but there is no reference to William Britton so it is likely he had retired or more likely to have died of a pulmonary disease. Stone dust was a killer.

William took over the business of his aging uncle and benefitted from building and repairing not only the Castle Hill property - with it's many stone buildings, arches, grottoes etc but from the rebuilding of Filleigh church which was taking place during 1876/7. The North Devon Railway also had need of traditional stone and building work so it is reasonable to expect William was not short of work.In fact evidence of William's involvement is hinted at by the presence of a railway employee lodging with the family as recorded by the 1871 census - and by family heresay.

### **Children of William & Martha.**

William and Martha had four children, who were: -

Mary Bale Youatt	b.16 <sup>th</sup> .June 1853	at Swimbridge
William George Youatt	b.10 <sup>th</sup> .October 1856	at Swimbridge
Samuel Bale Youatt	b.12 <sup>th</sup> .December 1858	at Chittlehampton
Elizabeth Youatt	b. 4 <sup>th</sup> .September 1861	at Swimbridge

William, Martha and family were found at various addresses. All their homes were in the Swimbridge area not far from Castle Hill or a nearby quarry - of which there were many to be found in North Devon. The children were fortunate for an early school was to be found in Filleigh village, it was one built and sponsored by Lady Fortescue. Generally education was by means of 'Dame schools' or from about 1870 onward schools built and run by the Church of England or by one of the non-conformist religions.

### ***William the Builder – Trade Directory entries***

As would be expected of skilled craftsman running his own business William was listed in the local trade directories. The following are extant entries.

From the Kellys Directory of 1862

*William Youatt Builder Swimbridge*

From the Post Office Directory of 1870

*William Youatt Builder and Farmer Clatworthy, South Molton*

From Whites Directory of 1879

*William Youatt Builder Leary, Chittlehampton, South Molton.*

Electoral Roll for 1874

*William Youatt of Clatworthy South Molton*

*Lease of 3 lives, 3 Cottages and Gardens at Swimbridge Newlands*

The entry on the Electoral Roll shows that William possessed property sufficient to entitle him to vote at General Election times. It is quite possible that he built the cottages in question.

Occupancy of one of the cottages on 5<sup>th</sup>.April 1881 at census time shows :

*James Youatt aged 80 a labourer born Shirwell*

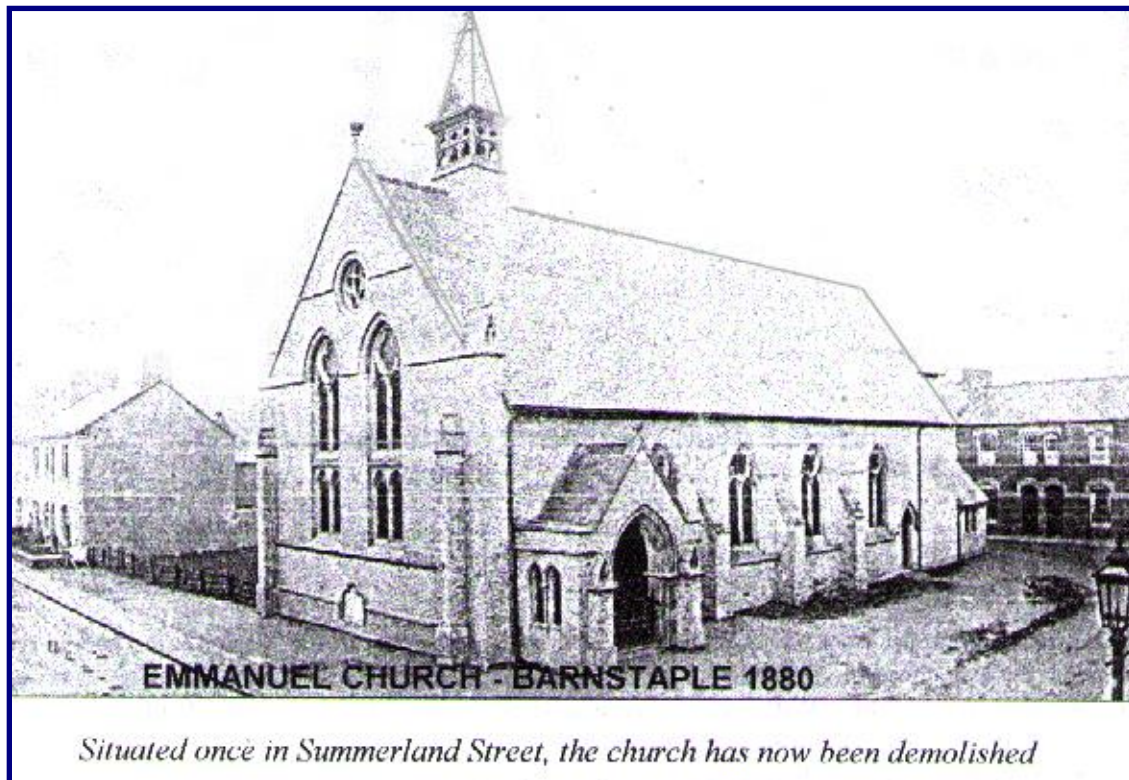
*Elizabeth Youatt aged 79 born Landkey*

*[Whether coincidental or known to William his tenant had roots also linking him to Exeter and the Wool trade. The link was William Ewart of St.Sidwell Exeter a wool gathering chapman*

*married Elizabeth Clark of Shirwell 1727 then settled down as a farmer. Descendant family surnames recorded in and around Shirwell vary between Ewart, Hewart and Youatt. No doubt the established Youatt of the landowner had prevailed in 1881.]*

The address given as Newlands Landkey - to all intents, Swimbridge.

### **An Example of William Youatt & Sons craftsmanship**



### **Emanuel Church Barnstaple – a few details**

Before the Emmanuel Church was built an account of the proposed project appeared in the ***North Devon Journal*** dated **6<sup>th</sup>.November 1879**.The article noted:

*‘New Reformed Episcopal Church to be built by Mr,R (?) Youatt of Castle Hill. Architect is W.C.Oliver. costed at £1020, to seat 400 people the design is noted as ‘of an Early pointed Gothic geometrical character faced with Chudleigh stone and box ground sandstone.’*

**The *North Devon Journal*** dated **November 4<sup>th</sup>. 1880** carried the following account of the opening ceremony.

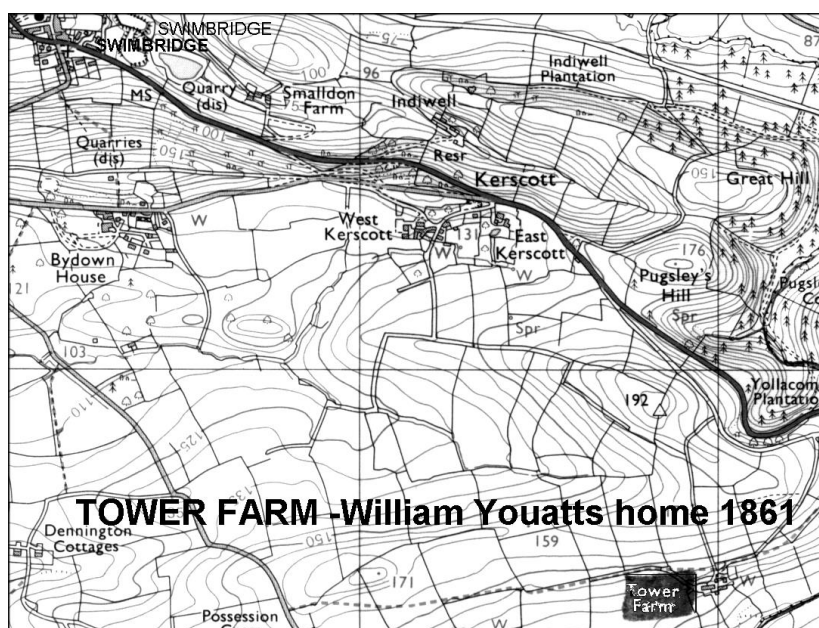
## Opening of Emmanuel Church.

*On Thursday last an addition was made to the number of comely and commodious places of worship of which Barnstaple possesses, the church which **Messrs Youatt & Sons of Castle Hill** have for ten months been erecting in Summerland Street for the accommodation of the Reformed Episcopal community being on that day dedicated by etc etc.*

A lengthy and tedious account of the ceremony then follows but there is mention of the fact that the original site was a brickfield and a repeat of the Gothic style.

From the above we see that the 'sons' are included. William George Youatt was then 24 and Samuel his brother aged 22. Both had early received apprenticeship training in London William as a carpenter and Samuel as a stonemason.

## John Youatt living at Tower Farm – 1861



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William and his family were living at Tower Farm when his father John Youatt came to live with them. It was at Tower Farm that John died. John's death certificate states that he '*died of old age*' – he was then 79 years of age his Will is described elsewhere in detail but in essence William inherited all but a small sum set aside for his *stepson* Thomas. Charlotte Youatt had died earlier during 1854 in her home village of Landkey

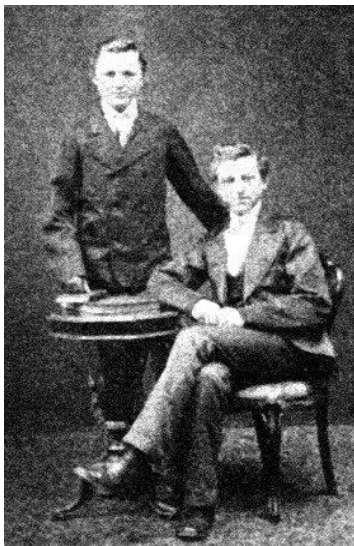
and was buried in the parish churchyard there. It is thought that her son William prepared and engraved her memorial headstone and left space for his father's name to be added.

In the event John Youatt did not have his name added just why remains a mystery for he certainly was interred in Landkey churchyard.

**Like so many of the early Youatt family no memorial to John has been left for later generations to see.**

### **THE WILLIAM & MARTHA PHOTOGRAPHS**

Courtesy of Mary Steinbauer and Marilyn Konruff a granddaughter of Mary Bale Youatt photographs have been found that allow us to see Martha, Mary, Elizabeth, William George and Samuel Bale Youatt.



Samuel Bale Youatt and William George Youatt.

Photo of Samuel and William by courtesy of Mary Steinbauer



Mrs. Martha Youatt nee Bale

Photo of Martha by courtesy of Marilyn Konruff



Elizabeth Youatt



Mary Bale Youatt

(Later Sherrod Anderson)

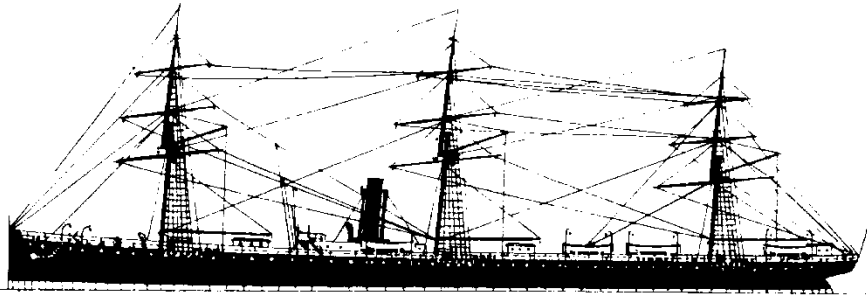
Photos of Elizabeth and Mary by courtesy of Marilyn Konruff

## **William & Martha Youatt & Family**

### ***America calls – William and family leave Devon***

It was probably Martha's Bale relatives, who had settled in the USA that persuaded William, Martha and their family to move, but it was a time when cheap passages to America and Canada were available. Steamships were regularly travelling across the Atlantic and enterprising shipping lines converted their vessels to carry larger numbers of the steerage class, SS *California* a vessel of the Anchor Line was just such a ship.





***CALIFORNIA (I), VICTORIA***

**57 CALIFORNIA (I)**

**B** 1872 Alex. Stephens & Sons, Linthouse, Glasgow. **T** 3,287g, 2,096n.

**D** 361.5/110.18 x 40.5/12.34 x 31.6/9.63.

**E** Sgl scr, 2 cyl compound, 420 NHP, 13 kts. By Finnieston Steamship Works.

**H** Iron. 2 dks. Steam deck cranes.

**P** 175 Saloon, 100 2nd, 700 3rd.

**1872** March 12: Launched. June 15: Maiden voyage to New York.

**1878** Transferred to the London-New York berth.

**1881** Re-engined and re-boilered, but still compound, by D. & W. Henderson. 480 NHP. Refitted by the removal of 2nd class. 1,200 3rd. **T** 3,413d, 2,214n.

**1882-87** Operated on the Indian service.

**1888** Placed on the triangular Mediterranean service to New York and made 58 voyages.

**1904** Dec 14: Arrived Genoa for scrapping.

On April 5<sup>th</sup> 1881 the census shows that William and Martha were living alone at a cottage near Chittlehampton. The address 'Leary' cannot be identified exactly for there are both at least two each prefixed with the owner's name *Buckinghams and Huxtables* – there may be others. Mary, Elizabeth, William George and Samuel were living at that time in Ilfracombe. Whilst Mary remained in England, the rest of the family journeyed to London to embark on **S.S. California** when she sailed on 2<sup>nd</sup>. July 1881 for New York. Lloyds signal station on Prawle point in South Devon reported on the 5<sup>th</sup>. July that she was steaming westwards.

The steamship arrived at New York on 16<sup>th</sup>. July 1881 and no doubt the family would have been screened before being allowed to enter the USA. A few years later all immigrants had to pass through Ellis Island and it is there today that the name **William Youatt** may be found.

Ellis Island is nowadays a museum and its sea wall carries names of many immigrants whose descendants have arranged for their ancestor to be recorded there. Through the generosity of Mary Youatt Steinbauer the names of both her great grandparents are recorded. Once landed, the family proceeded to Scales Mound Illinois where Bale relatives were living. Mary Bale Youatt remained in London and is thought to have

worked at the famous *Harrods* store in Knightsbridge before she sailed to join her parents during 1883.

### **Early days in the USA**

After a spell at **Scales Mound, Illinois**, William and his sons looked for work in Chicago but these were hard times. An earlier gold rush to the Black Hills in **South Dakota** had led to an influx, mainly of North Europeans moving into the area, a move no doubt helped by a railroad to Sioux Falls that had been completed in 1880.

William was known to have heard that a State prison was to be built at Sioux Falls so went with his sons to find employment. William however died during 1883. Glen Youatt, a grandson, in later years discovered that funding for the gaol was not forthcoming until 1884/5 so it is likely only his father and Samuel worked on the construction.

### **Death of William Youatt 1830-1883**

**William Youatt** died at Sioux Falls on 4<sup>th</sup>.May 1883, and was buried there. Several years later William George returned to Sioux Falls with the intention of placing a marker on his father's grave, unfortunately the cemetery had subsequently been built over.

### **Carthage South Dakota and Homesteading**

After the death of their father William George and Samuel Youatt then tried homesteading. Each purchased 160 acres of adjoining land and built a single sod house to occupy with their mother and sister **Elizabeth**; it is uncertain whether their eldest sister Mary was with them.

Homesteading was a scheme to settle lands for cultivation. A plot of usually 160 acres was made available to a settler on payment of \$10; title became available after five years on payment of a small charge. A settler was expected to farm the land and build his own housing. Such homes were made using earth sods which were the cheapest and only building material to hand.

**Carthage** in S.Dakota some 64 miles NW of **Sioux Falls** was the area where Sam and William and family settled. It was here that they experienced American winters the like not known in England. To add to their problems work was almost non-existent. One job they did undertake was to build a store during which William slipped through floorboards and damaged his nose - if that were not enough they were paid in kind with a pig or two rather than cash!

With a bitter wind whistling through cracks, having to use twisted hay for fuel and a monotonous diet of pork and potatoes these were really testing times - the Youatts however survived but gave up homesteading.

## **Move to St.Paul Minnesota**

After the trials of South Dakota the family moved to **St. Paul**, State Capital of Minnesota. Sam meanwhile went to **Kasota** Minn., a town situated on stone outcrop some 55 miles to the SW, to work as a stonecutter for the Babcock Stone Company.

Through earlier contacts in logging and lumbering, William was offered construction work for the St. Paul railroad. Extensions to the railroad were being built to form what was later to become the Northern Pacific Railroad. At the time they were building a terminal at **Staples** some miles away from St. Paul. William undertook to construct houses and other buildings for them. About this time – probably 1887 – William took up work nearer home with the State Trout Fish Hatchery at **Indian Mounds**, it was work that led to future employment, as we shall see.

On one occasion the job involved travelling to Montana to collect fish egg and spawn and it was whilst there that William tried his hand at panning for gold. He found enough to produce a nugget sufficient for decorating a tie or stick-pin. Another experience was sowing trout egg and spawn into the streams feeding Lake Superior using tugs out of Duluth to reach the intended breeding grounds.

## **A move to Hamilton, Minn.**

Another contact from St.Paul asked William to set up a fish hatchery at **Hamilton**, now named **Savage**, some 12 miles out of St.Paul. The businessman by name of Mr.Griggs of Griggs, Cooper and Co. wanted to open a hunting and fishing club there. Located on a small spring near the Minnesota River the hatchery was near to Prior Lake. William undertook the work.

The family consisting then of his mother and his sister Elizabeth moved to Hamilton from S. Paul. It was in the Hamilton area that Elizabeth met her husband, married and was the place where her mother Martha died.

*Martha Youatt died on 11<sup>th</sup>.January 1890 and was buried in the County cemetery at Prior Lake, where the Berrisford family had a plot. Her grave was marked with a flat stone slab carved with name and dates and was placed there by her son Samuel Youatt.*

## **Marriage of Elizabeth.**

ELIZABETH YOUATT married JOHN BERRISFORD a widower and veteran, who had at some time sustained a bullet wound in one leg. According to his military records, he was wounded during the Civil War in the Battle of Murfreesboro, TN, before joining the 20<sup>th</sup> New York Independent Battery.His brother Enoch rode with the Sully Expedition of 1864 against the Sioux.

John and Enoch ran a successful 'country store' at Burnsville a few miles out of St.Paul, at **Burnsville**. It was a settlement then full of Irish immigrants, a Catholic Church, and a tribe of Native American Indians across the river Minnesota.

The country store was one that stocked and supplied all the needs of the township including fuel and coal and 'fine stock' presumably livestock – it was a very successful venture.

John, a widower, had two sons and a daughter to look after with ages between 4 and 12 so Elizabeth had a family also to foster. According to the 1900 US Census, the Berrisford boys John and George both were employed as stonecutters. At the time of Elizabeth's wedding both she and John were residing in Dakota County at a place named **Regan**.

As both John and Elizabeth were Protestants living in an area where the only church was Catholic they arranged for a Episcopal Protestant priest to conduct the ceremony at Regan Station.

A St.Paul's newspaper carrying a section from the 'Shakopee Argus' reported the ceremony in rather quaint terms.

*'The marriage took place at Regan Station with the Protestant Episcopal Priest Rev.F.H.Potts of St. Paul travelling out to conduct the ceremony.Mr.Berrisford is an old resident of Hamilton and vicinity and is well and favourably known, for many years it's leading merchant.The bride is an estimable and worthy lady, having resided in the area for many years. The wedding presents to the bride were numerous and handsome, notably among them was an upright piano from the groom.*

*Mr and Mrs Berrisford will be at home to their friends after July 4<sup>th</sup> (1887).*

The wedding took place on 21<sup>st</sup>.June 1887, Samuel the bride's brother was a witness to the ceremony.

Several addresses have been found for John and Elizabeth after their marriage. It would appear that soon after 1887 they moved into St.Paul living at 306 St. Albans Street (1900 census) by then two children had been born these were Irene and Harriet, born during 1888 and 1891 respectively.

### **Elizabeth's visitors from Grittleton, Wiltshire**

It was in St. Albans Street that **Geo.R.William Youatt** and his nephew **Thomas Henry Youatt** from Grittleton Wiltshire in England stayed during 1895; they were both relatives of Elizabeth as previously noted. Correspondence between the Author's Grandfather and 'our cousins in Minneapolis' was known to have taken place and it is concluded that Elizabeth Berrisford or her daughters Irene or Harriet were 'our cousins'.

## WILLIAM GEORGE YOUATT (1856 – 1931)



With his sister married in 1893, William was very much left to fend for himself so he went to live with his brother Samuel who by then had married Flora Mae Laumann.

Adjoining Sam's home at **Kasota Mn.** was a Swedish immigrant family by the name of Johnson;

William married Anna Cecilia Johnson in May 1895.

William was then using his skills as a carpenter to contract for work and built several barns for farmers in the vicinity.

On 21<sup>st</sup>.February 1896 William and Anna had their first son Lionel Warner Youatt whom they named after one of the sons of Earl Fortescue of Swimbridge. It is quite conceivable that Lionel Fortescue and William Youatt had contact as boys whilst father William was engaged in stonework on the Castle Hill estate. Lionel Fortescue in later life was a victim of the South African wars of the early 1900's.

### William and Anna and the Brule river hatchery

During the autumn of 1896 an opportunity occurred to set up a fish hatchery at **Cedar Island** on the **Brule River** in Wisconsin. Mr. Pierce, an important man with Standard Oil in St. Louis Mo., had plans to bring friends there by private railroad car for trout fishing and a fish hatchery was required. Located about 15 miles upstream from the mouth of the Brule access to the actual site was by boat or by foot.

The construction William undertook involved damming streams to form holding ponds and building a hatchery tank to hold spawning trout and a cabin - well within William's skills.

Although the hatchery was several hundred miles distant from his wife and family, the following summer Anna and their infant son Lionel made the journey to the site. It was a long journey finally by canoe to a lonely place, one surrounded by Native American Indians and only one white person as a neighbour.

About a year later, on completion of the contract, the family travelled back to **Kasota**, it was there that their next child was born. Glenn Benjamin Youatt was the name given to William and Anna's second son; he was born on the 25<sup>th</sup>.January 1898.

Back at **Kasota** William took up stone cutting for the Babcock Stone Co. In 1908 their supervisor moved to Oregon and William was appointed Superintendent and Estimator

a position he held until 1913. Then, an agent for the Travellers Insurance Co. having land in Wisconsin required a fish hatchery to be built and managed.

The Hatchery was to be part of a businessman's sporting club with construction to take place at Big Spring Lake near Minong in the nearby state of Wisconsin. William took up the offer.

Apart from hatchery tanks and sheds a large log cabin, was built by William to house his family.

### **The Minong story**

The Hatchery was accessed by a mile long rough road and surrounded by pine trees - all part of a 1200-acre estate. Every year a group of Chippewa Indians camped nearby but were quite friendly and gave no trouble. The town of Minong was 7 miles distant but their mailbox at the end of the rough track. A basement wood burning furnace provided heat whilst illumination was by kerosene lamp.

It was in these surroundings that the sons spent there early days. The family also included a couple of foster children - Madeleine Horner and her sister Norma. Daughters of a travelling showman and his wife Madeleine had just been born when her parents were lodging with William and Anna at Kasota. The travelling life was not suitable for bringing up a baby so Anna – who longed for a daughter – took pity and Madeleine remained with them and was later joined by her elder sister.

Around 1920 William, Anna and family returned to St. Paul where he went to build the Midland Hills Golf Club. During 1921 a Mr. Marshal, of Marshall Wells & Co. of Duluth, took over ownership of the Minong hatchery and asked William to build the place up and market lots of trout. William returned with Anna together with a 6-month-old niece, Margaret Ann Johnson and the Horner children. William died of cancer on 20th. June 1931 and was buried at Kasota. Anna remained at Minong but on becoming ill, later, moved in with Lionel and his family at Richmond, Mich. where she died on 23rd. November 1944.

## Lionel and Glenn – a brief account of their lives.



### **LIONEL WARNER YOUATT (1896-1961)**

During early life in Kasota and Minong Lionel worked at odd jobs after school to finance his attending the University of Minnesota where he graduated as a Dentist. Lionel started his first practice at St. James Minn in 1925.

Lionel married Lela Granger and their first son was WILLIAM GRANGER YOUATT born on 2<sup>nd</sup>.January 1925 at his grandparents home of Kasota.

A move from Minnesota to Detroit was made and whilst at Detroit a second son was born he was NEDRUD GLENN YOUATT b.29th.March 1932.

Lionel, Lela and their two sons then moved to settle in Richmond MI where Lionel had acquired a practice. During January 1961 Lionel died.

## **GLENN BENJAMIN YOUATT (1898-1978)**

Glenn remained with his Grandmother Johnson at Kasota in order to finish High School where he graduated in 1915. In order to finance future further education he took on odd jobs and was briefly in the Army during 1918. From 1922/3 Glenn worked as a construction foreman for the building of a golf course in Bermuda. On return Glenn entered the University of Minnesota taking on further jobs to pay for his studies – one such job in 1927/8 took him to Santa Domingo for a year where a railroad for a sugar company was under construction.

During 1929 Glenn graduated with a degree in Architectural Engineering it was however at the time of the depression, however he found employment with the Minnesota Highway Dept.

GLENN married a schoolteacher PEARL HAZEL LEE during 1933 at Akeley, Minn.

Their first daughter MARY LEE YOUATT was born at Brainerd, Minn in 1936.

A Federal works programme introduced to provide employment for younger men, part of the 'New Deal' (the Civilian Construction Corps programme of 1933 – 1936) took Glenn to Tennessee along with Pearl and young Mary.

ELIZABETH ANN YOUATT was born in b.1943 whilst there where Glenn was engaged in designing Highways for the Tennessee Highway Authority. By 1944 Glen with is family had moved to Detroit, Michigan to work for the City of Detroit as a Civil Engineer.

CATHERINE HILDA YOUATT , a third daughter was born during 1945 at Detroit.

Glenn retired from work in 1965 and died during 1978 at the whilst living at Detroit, Mich.

### *AUTHORS NOTE*

*The above outline of the American Youatts is constructed from material supplied by Mary Youatt Steinbauer from her father Glenn's notes. Recent autobiographical accounts of his life by William Granger Youatt and various photographs supplied by both Bill and Mary have also been used.*

*Without this help this chapter of the first Youatts in America story would have been scant indeed.*

*Grateful thanks to the American cousins is readily given.*



## ***The Lives of Samuel Bale Youatt and Mary Bale Youatt***

### **MARY BALE YOUATT (1853 - 1933)**

*At the time of originally writing not a lot of detail could be related about MARY BALE YOUATT. However during the year 2000 Marilyn Konruff a great granddaughter contacted the writer and provided a wealth of detail including photographs of the family previously unseen. The following is an update of the 1998 account.*

Mary did not sail to the US with her family but was thought to have remained in London as a shop assistant at the famous Knightsbridge store of *Harrods*. News of her father's ailing health reached Mary from her sister and mother then suffering the privations of just existing in a sod house on the featureless plains of Dakota. Mary sailed to join the rest of her family in 1883.

William Youatt was seeking work away and died at Sioux Falls as previously noted. Mary did not however arrive in time to see her father and was shocked at the condition of life on the Plains - how different she contrasted the life in a warm Devon farmhouse with a servant (maid of all work) to the miserable struggle for life she found in America.

We now know that the Homesteading claims for the Youatt family were taken out 1884 in the name of Elizabeth and her mother. Paid for by her brothers it ensured a place to live for her mother Martha and sister Elizabeth and when not working away from home, her brothers William and Samuel. Adjacent to the Youatt claim was one taken out by Onley O. Sherrod who was divorced from his first wife in 1883. Mary married Onley Sherrod during 1884 - it is thought a travelling preacher carried out the ceremony.



Photo: Courtesy of Marilyn Konruff

Four children were born to Onley and Mary these were

Amy Sherrod b.1885. William Youatt Sherrod b.1886. Cleve Onley Sherrod b.1888

All were born in Howard Township, Miner County Dakota.

Mary and Onley sold their mortgaged quarter section to Onley's parents, who had a sod house on the adjacent claim.

A prairie fire led to the Sherrods abandoning their plot and moving to Paw Paw Michigan where they rented a red brick farmhouse on Red Arrow Territorial Highway, where Morris John Sherrod was born in January 1890.

The picture was taken in the summer of 1891 at Paw Paw MI, and shows all four children

With Mary then aged 38, Amy 6, William 5

Cleve 3 and Morris about one year old.

Onley Sherrod successfully bred Sulkey racehorses at Paw Paw MI but was fatally kicked in the face by one that led to his death 29OCT1891.

Mary remained in Paw Paw until estate matters were settled, a settlement that resulted in impoverishment for her and her young family.

### ***Mary - the Anderson years***

*With a haste she was later to regret, Mary remarried during 1895. He was a Blacksmith living in Cambridge Springs Pennsylvania, whose name was Alexander Anderson. Then aged 63 he had emigrated from Scotland at the age of 4. According to family memories of Amy as related to Marilyn Konruff, Anderson was a cruel man and would not have anything to do with Mary's children even initially restricting their visiting. There was no option for Mary but to board them out.*

Mary throughout her life was devoted to her sister Elizabeth and remained in touch with her Youatt family. So it was that when Mary had need to board out her children, William Youatt Sherrod was sent to his Uncle Samuel then living at Kasota. Later when Samuel Youatt moved to Texas his nephew was placed with and made to work for an elderly family. The 1900 US Census lists only the Andersons living in Cambridge Springs and only Cleve, then 11, could be found boarding and attending school in the vicinity.

Alexander Anderson died around 1907 but litigation was necessary resulting once more in Mary being left virtually penniless.



Elizabeth then married John Berrisford and settled in St. Paul Minnesota and gave Mary accommodation. She found work of a menial nature locally.

Amy, by then Mrs. Otis Lowry also lived in St. Paul Minnesota until retiring to Seattle Washington.

Mary Bale (Youatt) Sherrod Anderson died on March 3, 1933.

### **SAMUEL BALE YOUATT (1858-1924)**

Sam we know was a skilled stoneworker and was living in Kasota when he married **FLORA MAE LAUMANN**. The date would be in the early 1900's. Samuel spent most of his life in the Seattle area where his four children were born, these were

FAY (1899-1943), HELEN (1896-1990), RALPH (1903-1991). WALTER (1904-1986), GERALD (1905-1989).

SAMUEL BALE YOUATT died at (it is thought) Kasota during 1924. FLORA died in 1948.

DON YOUATT b.1931 , son of RALPH is the only living descendant of Samuel Bale Youatt, he currently lives in Miami, Florida. Married to Judy - they have a son JON YOUATT.

### **Thomas Rumbelow Youatt**

Thomas on the other hand has, so far, had not been found until 1843 when his name appears in the Badminton Estate records in Gloucestershire. Thomas had started on his future gamekeeping career.

## Days at the Badminton estate

The mansion and estate at Badminton was the home of the Duke of Beaufort a premier Baronet and Master of the Horse to the reigning sovereign. The Beauforts were a family well known for known participation in Field Sports notably foxhunting for which they maintained a well-known pack of hounds. A large staff was employed to ensure all field sports were carried out to perfection.

Nowadays Badminton is world known on account of the Badminton Horse Trials held on the extensive estate.

An entry in the estate records dated 1843 records - *Thomas Hewitt was employed rearing game birds* such work would involve feeding and rearing young pheasants under supervision of a gamekeeper.

A useful archive known as *Gamekeepers Deputations* was placed with the Justices; for Gloucestershire these are well preserved. On 28<sup>th</sup>.November we read that in 1839 James Snell was appointed Gamekeeper to the Duke of Beaufort *for his 15.000 acre estate covering Great and Little Badminton, Didmartin, Oldbury on the Hill* etc. etc. It was a vast tract of land in Gloucestershire that spread over into neighbouring Wiltshire.

**James Snell** was the Head Gamekeeper and lived on the Badminton estate at Swan Grove and it was to James that Thomas Youatt was to owe his professional skills and to give his daughter Harriet a long and happy marriage.

## Hawkesbury and Marriage.

The area around Badminton is where the next part of our story moves, a description of the area may help convey its true beauty.

Hawkesbury and its Kilcote valley is justly famed for its beauty. Located at the SW end of the picturesque Cotswolds the terrain is a series of 600 ft knolls and steep wooded valleys. The Vale of Berkeley is nearby itself alongside the Bristol Channel with Bristol itself at its head.

The large parish of Hawkesbury has a village centre named Hawkesbury Upton (up-town) with stone cottages, a school, Inn, Chapel and a very large pond. Hawkesbury Parish Church however is situated on a hill about one mile from the village.

Kilcote is a name given to the hamlets Upper and Lower Kilcote situated on a winding lane connecting Hawkesbury with hilltop village of Hillesley.

Nowadays the whole area is classified as an “Area of outstanding natural beauty” and is carefully preserved. Well-wooded combes line one side of Kilcote valley whilst a fast flowing stream with several lakes and a couple of water mills run through the area.

Agriculture and its supporting industries were once the mainstay, earlier however, corn milling and wool processing took place the fast flowing stream well suiting cloth manufacture.

Field sports also brought local employment with use made of the woods for game rearing and the lakes for angling.

By 1844 Gamekeepers Declarations show that Thomas Youatt had the responsibility of being appointed Gamekeeper to the Manor of Kilcote whose Lord of the Manor was Miss Anne Burlton of Alderly a spinster. To the 19 year old Thomas, such an appointment was true testimony to his skills.

With a responsible position to uphold and probably accommodation made available it was time for Thomas to marry. His bride was Harriet Snell the daughter of James and Sarah Snell.

At Hawkesbury Parish Church on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. March 1846

THOMAS YOUATT a Gamekeeper married HARRIET SNELL daughter of James and Sarah Snell of Swan Grove on the Badminton Estate, witnesses James Snell jnr. And Charlotte Helsam.

From the marriage certificate we note Thomas Youatt not Rumbelow for the first time also his father was John Youatt an Innkeeper, if needed another confirmation of his father's name.

A rather quaint request can be found confronting those about to enter Hawkesbury church reads:

*“It is desired that all persons coming to the Church would be careful to leave their dogs home and that Women would not walk in with their plattens on”*

No doubt those attending Thomas and Harriet's wedding respected the request!

### **Early days in the Hawkesbury area.**

Soon after marriage the first of some thirteen children were born to Thomas and Harriet, a son who was named JAMES SNELL YOUATT. Baptised on 13<sup>th</sup>. December 1846 at Hawkesbury.

On the birth certificate the address "Splatts" is recorded. On the map it is both the name of a farm located above the village of Hillesley and of a wood nearby.

It is likely that Thomas and Harriet lived at a cottage in Splatts Wood or near the farmhouse.

CHARLOTTE SARAH YOUATT the second of the children was baptised at Hawkesbury on 9<sup>th</sup>.July 1848. Unlike her brother Sarah was to have a long life living to the age of 77.

A move up the Kilcott valley was made to a very wooded area known as Bowcote on the outskirts of the town of Dursley.

Like so many of Thomas's moves we have no record of his reasons but it could be that larger premises were made available to accommodate a growing family for the next birth was that of

JOHN THOMAS YOUATT he was baptised at Dursley on 16<sup>th</sup>.March 1850.

When the Bowcote address registered for the birth of John is looked for one is immediately drawn to its picturesque surrounds but remoteness of a gamekeeper's home. Unlike today water came from wells or a spring and certainly had to be fetched as did groceries from villages or the town of Dursley a journey by carriers or farm cart otherwise a walk of many miles. Harriet however had been brought up as a 'keepers daughter so would have endured such hardships as normal. One item the family would not have been short of was meat for venison, rabbits, pheasant, fish would all be perks of the job and Harriet learned from her mother just how to prepare such game.

Harriet also must have had time to practice another skill learnt from either school, or more likely her mother, that of lacemaking, for Harriet was born in the Honiton an area famed for such.

1851/2 The move to Leicestershire – the Wanlip days

The reasons for leaving Bowcote cannot be qualified but it is most likely to have been an offer made at a shoot in which Thomas's gamekeeping skills made an impression. At such meetings the Head Gamekeeper was very much the key man in not only expected to provide a good bag of birds but in control of beaters and the guns of the gentry.

Perhaps the career change was through a recommendation of James Snell at one of the Badminton parties, however Thomas and Harriet with Charlotte and John moved to WANLIP in Leicestershire.

On the 30<sup>th</sup>.March 1851 a National census took place but Thomas and family were on the move and are not to be found in either Gloucestershire or Leicestershire.

However their youngest son was recorded. at the home of James and Sarah Snell at Hawkesbury Upton 4 year old Grandson James Snell Youatt was being fostered, there is every indication that James remained with them for many years.



**HAWKESBURY Area of Gloucestershire**

**THE HAMPSHIRE YOUATTS**

**THOMAS ANNING YOUATT 1853-1890**



Of the gamekeeper THOMAS and HARRIETS 13 children THOMAS ANNING YOUATT was the only one to prolong the line.

Born in Leicestershire and moving with the family first to Wiltshire then Devon then returning to Wilts with his parents Thomas experienced the tough and often isolated life of a gamekeepers family.

Thomas A. was unsuited healthwise for following his father as a gamekeeper but undertook more scholarly work as a bookkeeper after being taught in several village schools.

Not far from the family home at Grittleton home was the village of Hawkesbury - the location of his parents marriage of 1846. It was in nearby Hawksbury Upton that Annie Gowin lived with her parents John and Louise, they were servants at one of the nearby 'big houses' – most likely Badminton - Annie was to be Thomas Anning Youatt's bride.

Thomas had left school and found employment in nearby Bristol where he was employed as a 'tallyman' – one who checks a ships manifest against goods loaded or unloaded.

Thanks to the remodelling works to the Docks by I.K.Brunel the great Engineer, Bristol in the 1870's was then busy with imports of wine, sherry, sugar cocoa and tobacco and exports of manufactured goods to the Empire and Dominions. It was a very busy port.



## Marriage of Thomas Anning Youatt

It was up to London that Thomas travelled to marry Annie who was living with her parents helping to run a lodging house in Little Stanhope Street – coincidentally George Heanes Youatt the piano maker was living nearby. Travel from Wiltshire to the capital was rapid thanks to another of Brunel's works the Great Western Railway.

Thomas stayed with Annie and her family so that marriage locally in the local parish of Mayfair presented no residential problems.

On 15<sup>th</sup>.April 1876 THOMAS ANNING YOUATT married ANNIE JANE GOWIN

## Bedminster and the early days

After marriage Thomas and Annie returned to Bristol and set up home in the suburb of Bedminster. Their first child was named THOMAS HENRY GEORGE YOUATT he was born in 1877 but was not to remain long with his parents as he later was taken in by his Gowin relations in London and later lived with his Gamekeeper grandfather at Fosse Lodge.

An 1881 Census took place whilst the family was at Bedminster, this is copied below: -

### ***BEDMINSTER –St.John – RG11/2457/f73 - 29 Green Street.***

<b><i>First Name</i></b>	<b><i>Surname</i></b>	<b><i>Position</i></b>	<b><i>Status</i></b>	<b><i>Age</i></b>	<b><i>Occupation</i></b>	<b><i>Born</i></b>
Thomas A.	Youatt	Head	Married	27	Commercial Clerk	Wanlip
Annie J.	Youatt	Wife	Married	26		Hawkesbury
Ernest W.	Youatt	Son	Infant	2		Bristol
George R.W.	Youatt	Brother	Unmrrd	15	Commercial Clerk	Maristow Devon

## The move to Southampton

By 1887 Thomas and Annie and their family were living near the picturesque Wiltshire village of Castle Coombe – registration district of Yatton Keynell - when the couple had their last child - named Edith Annie.

Thomas had taken on the role of Insurance salesman – whether this was in addition to other work is uncertain. One supposes that transport was by horse and trap for selling and collecting insurance premiums would involve a considerable amount of travelling in a country area.

The family by 1888 comprised:

***Children of Thomas and Annie Youatt***

Thomas Henry George Youatt	b.1877	Bedminster, Bristol
Ernest William Youatt	b.1878	Bedminster, Bristol
Bertie Snell Youatt	b.1881	Bedminster, Bristol
Arthur Edward Youatt	b.1883	Keynsham, Wilts
James Snell Youatt	b.1885	Keynsham, Wilts
Ethel Annie Youatt	b.1887	Castle Coombe, Wilts.

Notice how both Grandparents name Thomas, Uncle's name William and Grandmothers maiden surname SNELL are carried on as middle names.

Just why the family moved from Wiltshire to Southampton has not been discovered. Southampton was a busy port – as was Bristol - and Thomas was selling Insurance but probably worked in the port as well. Annie took over the licence of a beerhouse *Nags Head* at 63 Pound Street in the Millbrook, Shirley district. Records show however that at most Annie was a publican for only two years no doubt the early death of Thomas was the cause.

## ***Death of Thomas Anning Youatt***

Like many of Thomas and Harriet's children Thomas Anning Youatt died, aged 37, of a tubercular complaint known as Pthisis. It can only be assumed that the damp and isolated locations of Thomas's earlier life had contributed to his death.

A death certificate lists his younger brother George R.W.Youatt was present when Thomas died on 10<sup>th</sup>.April 1890 at Pound Street in Southampton; he had been under observation medically for a year.A mistake on the certificate was his occupation of Innkeeper : contemporary trade directories list Annie as the licensee.

## ***Life after 1890 – Annie's remarriage***

Annie was left with children whose ages ranged between 3 and 12 but her brother in law George R.W. Youatt (William) remained to see her through what must have been a terrible time. It is likely that the Insurance agency that George was engaged in with his late brother helped finance Annie and her flock. Fortunately her eldest son Thomas HW was boarding with his grandparents and was probably training as a gamekeeper's assistant as the picture suggests.



Photo courtesy of Mary Youatt Steinbauer

The photograph shows Thomas Rumbelow Youatt and Harriet Youatt with their youngest son George Richard William and youngest daughter Flora, and grandson Thomas Henry George Youatt

Seated is the son of Thomas Anning Youatt their elder son and his wife Annie.

### **1891 Census a picture of the Southampton times**

On the 5<sup>th</sup>.April 1891 another census was taken and this yields several interesting facts. Firstly Annie and her family had moved to Lion Street in Shirley Southampton an address still in the Millbrook district and not far from Pound Street. The following copy shows details.

*1891 Census Return –RG12/928/p27/f.17*

*Southampton-Millbrook-Shirley-No.4 Lion Street*

Annie J.	Youatt	Head	Widow	36	No occupation	Hawkesbury Upton, Glos
Ernest W.	Youatt	Son	Unmrd	12	Scholar	Bristol
Bertie S.	Youatt	Son	Unmrd	9	Scholar	Bristol
Arthur E.	Youatt	Son	Unmrd	7	Scholar	Bristol
James S.	Youatt	Son	Unmrd	5	Scholar	Bristol
Ethel A.	Youatt	Dau	Unmrd	3	Infant	Yatton Keynell Wilts
George R.W.	Youatt	Brother in law	Unmrd	25	Insurance Agent	Tamerton Devon
Clement	Lowe	Lodger	Unmrd	37		Chale I.O.Wight

Clement Lowe was to play a decisive role in the Youatt family story although facts about him have been impossible to confirm. As will be seen he favoured the name JOHN Lowe.

By 1883 George R.W.Youatt had left Annie and the family and taken his nephew Thomas H.W.Youatt with him to visit their Berrisford Aunt Elizabeth then residing in St.Paul Minnesota USA.

*Clement*, or as he chose to be known, **John Lowe** had taken over and married Annie, probably during 1892, when their first child was born.

Just when the marriage took place has not yet been found but the birth certificate gives the following detail: -

*Alice Maud Lowe b.12 th. December 1892 at 13 Wellington Rd. Millbrook, Southampton*

*Father; Clement Lowe – General Dealer Mother, Annie Jane Lowe, née Youatt.*

The family did not stay long at Millbrook but moved to EASTLEIGH a new town some 7 miles north of Southampton; the reason was that John Lowe had taken on a Milk delivery job as a journeyman. It is said that Arthur, and Edith left home – most likely they went to Gowin relatives.

### ***EASTLEIGH – The 20<sup>th</sup>.C. Home of the Wiltshire Youatts***

Originally a quiet country farming village named Bishopstoke, the decision of the London and South Western Railway to transfer their workshops to the then green field site led to a new town springing up; this was named EASTLEIGH. As factories were built and families moved down from Nine Elms in SW London, Eastleigh became a growth area with dozens of terraced houses constructed to house the workers.

EASTLEIGH the early days

In about 1895 John Lowe with Annie their daughter Alice Lowe and presumably the Youatts Ernest, Bertie and, James had taken up residence at Allport Place Eastleigh. John Lowe was operating as a milk retailer with the Youatt boys employed for doorstep deliveries.

At Allport Place – long since demolished – John and Annie's next daughter was born she was Connie, the birth certificate gives the following detail :-

*Constance May Lowe, born 20 May 1895 at No.2 Allport Place, Market Street Eastleigh. Father, John Lowe – Dairyman Journeyman, Mother, Annie J.Lowe late Youatt, formerly Gowin.*



The map shows **Eastleigh** as it was in 1931. Considerably larger than in 1895 when Constance first saw the light of day.

It was to be the home of the Youatt and Lowe families well into the 20<sup>th</sup>.century.

Eastleigh brought into being as a Railway town soon had a well known Cable works – Pirelli, printers Cawston, and to the south of the town several aircraft manufacturers the most famous being Supermarine makers of the ‘Spitfire’. In fact the Spitfire first flew from ‘Atlantic Park’ as Southampton Airport was then known.

Highlighted above are the 20<sup>th</sup>.C.homes of :-

**Ernest William Youatt** and family

**James Snell Youatt** and family

**Bertie Snell Youatt** and family

**Allport Place** the home of John & Annie Lowe, Alice, Constance and some of the Youatt children.

**Dairy shop** used in early 1900’s

**EASTLEIGH – Lives of the Youatt families from 1900 on.**

*Authors note. As grandparents and others of their generation were not questioned about early Eastleigh life of the family the following is the best that can be pieced together. Considerable help was given by Triss, Elsie and Connie during their lifetime but many facts remain undiscovered.*

John Lowe was running a milk delivery business, which entailed delivery by handcart, or horse drawn floats. Each would have had a churn our two of fresh unpasteurised milk together with standard measures for gallons, quarts, pints and probably gills. Milk would have been dispensed into a customer's milk jug on the doorstep – these usually had a muslin cover with bead weight surround as protection against summer flies.

It is claimed with some authority that **John Lowe** was a cruel man and used the three Youatt boys to carry out deliveries over a wide area. It was demanding work from dawn to dusk in all weathers and was to result in rheumatic problems for Ernest if not his brothers in later years.

Some time after 1895 a retail shop was acquired, Edith and probably Arthur rejoined their mother. The effects of a wastrel husband who drank and gambled away business profits had its toll on **Annie** for she died at Eastleigh during 1901 – the details have yet to be found.

The boys **Ernest, Bertie and James** had remained with their mother to buffer her against the excesses of John Lowe but upon her death they forced him to relinquish the business.

Whilst **James** remained in the dairy business under its new owner 'South of England Dairies' in the interim he found work as an errand boy to a local doctor.

**Ernest** also remained in milk but took up employment some 7 miles away in historic Winchester.

**Bertie** probably started what was to be a long career with the South Hants Water Company.

Apart from hearing that John Lowe lived to be over 90 e.g. died 1944 we have yet to learn the details.

### **Lowe & Youatt lives after Annie's death**

Starting with the Lowe family. As far as is known Alice and Connie were brought up in Eastleigh, both married, and spent the remainder of their lives in Southampton.

Connie kept in touch with the Youatt family and through her we know she married a Mr. Howell who was connected with the docks or shipping either as a sailor, steward or similar. Connie was met by the Author on several occasions when she lived in Cumberland Street in Nichols Town – a district named after the 19th.C builder of terraced houses. Connie, a widow, suffered with arthritis and spent her last years in warden attended accommodation at Bassett on the outskirts of Southampton. An alert and prim lady Connie corresponded during her 85<sup>th</sup>.year in a clear but shaky hand. Thanks to her we know that her sister Alice was then still alive, living nearby, was housebound and had several grandchildren. Connie died some time in the mid 1980's.

We now arrive at the Youatt boys now, post 1901 making independent lives for themselves having deposed their Lowe stepfather.

### **Thomas Henry George Youatt 1877 - ?**

Although the eldest son of Thomas and Annie the details of Thomas' life has yet to be found. So far he was found 1896 at Duluth in the USA but whether returning home or to start a life in the States remains to be discovered. Thomas was not to be found in any of the public records of marriage or burial in the UK. There is some doubt as to whether Thomas actually lived in Eastleigh as no mention was ever made by Ernest of his elder brother.

### **Arthur Edward Youatt 1885 – 1915**

Arthur lived in Eastleigh until his early death at the age of 30. It is presumed that he helped in the Dairy activities of Lowe but as he was consumptive it cannot be expected he undertook hard work. The only picture seen of Arthur was as him in costume as a Chinaman dressed for the annual Eastleigh Carnival then held to provide funds for a local Hospital. Today, still run in mid August, the Carnival nowadays benefits charities often with a medical connection – sums of up to £5000 are collected.

Arthur was said to be a practical joker and a very cheerful cove.

### **Bertie Snell Youatt 1882 – 1959**





Uncle Bert, as he was always known to the author, was the third of Thomas and Annie's sons. (his name was in fact Bertie not Bertram) He helped with the Dairy enterprise and at some time after took up employment with the South Hampshire Water Board. A man of moderate height Uncle Bert always had a military bearing no doubt enhanced in his Water Board hat and waistcoat with a chain and pocket watch – see photo.

In his early years he belonged to the Parish Church Athletic club and pictures show a very fit young man.

During 1904 Bertie Snell Youatt married Bertha Harris the daughter of a Eastleigh Postal worker, they were married at the Parish Church.

After marriage the couple set up home in one of Eastleigh's better-built terraced houses in Desborough Road – they were to live there all their lives. Aunt Bertha was a formidable and somewhat outspoken lady but one with a very kind heart, she involved herself with the Church and its Women's activities.

Uncle Bert became the South Hants Water Inspector for Eastleigh and its environs.

As can be seen from the picture Uncle Bert had a military bearing enhanced by his official uniform. By all accounts he carried his work out well and retired on a pension from the very much larger Water Authority it had then become.

Norman Norris a one time Mayor of Eastleigh, once an employee of the Water authority, related a story concerning Uncle Bert and his sense of responsibility – it is worth repeating.

During a very icy spell, one weekend, in the early 1920's a main water supply valve feeding Eastleigh froze and split. The location was at Allbrook on one of the few hills a few miles from the town. After locating a replacement valve, Uncle Bert and his one and only fitter Cecil, loaded a handcart with tools and the new valve then trudged through the snow up hill to Allbrook, dug out the faulty one and restored supplies. Work was continuous with no break for warm drinks or food, after 12 hours they returned home. As the ex-mayor remarked in the 1970's 'today it would involve several teams, authorization of overtime and meal breaks'.

The fitter accompanying Uncle Bert was named Cecil Austin, he was in fact son his in law having married 'young' Bertha – Bertie and Bertha's daughter.

Cecil was a very good mechanic who during WW2 was employed as an Armourer locally at Vickers Supermarine. In fact Cecil fitted and tested Browning guns fitted to the legendary Spitfire. It was a task that robbed him of most of his hearing.



The picture shows Bertie and Bertha Youatt in their back garden in Desborough Road Eastleigh. As keen gardeners, both were proud of their very modest plot.

Two daughters were born to the couple at Eastleigh.

Bertha Maud Youatt b.1907 and Edith Rose Elizabeth Youatt b.1910

Bertha married Cecil Austin and had a daughter Patricia Ann in 1947.

Edith lived at home but suffered most of her life with a spine curvature, she was a shy person but was very kind.

Bertie Snell Youatt died in Southampton Hospital in 1959 aged 78 and his wife Bertha died during 1963 at Winchester Hospital. So ends the chapter of Bertie Snell Youatt and his family.

### ***James Snell Youatt 1885 – 1964***

As noted earlier James – or Uncle Jim as he was best known to the Author – found employment running errands for a local Doctor after his stepfather had been deposed. At that time he took up lodging with the Burford family who had roots in Derbyshire. After his sister Ethels marriage in 1911 he married and moved to South Wales. Rose Burford was his bride.

Uncle Jim was to return to milk deliveries and ran his own business from 1 Margam Road Mynachdy - a suburb of Cardiff.



The picture shows a horse drawn milk float with Uncle Jim suitably dressed for his role as a doorstep delivery milkman. The location is most likely to have been in Mynachdy. During the period the family were living in South Wales and three daughters and a son were born. They were:

<i>Elsie Beatrice Youatt</i>	<i>b.1913</i>
<i>Rosetta Monica Youatt</i>	<i>b.22<sup>nd</sup>.November 1914</i>
<i>Ronald James Youatt</i>	<i>b.17<sup>th</sup>.June 1920</i>
<i>Gladys Joan Youatt</i>	<i>b.10<sup>th</sup>.October 1924</i>

The Great War 1914-1918 intervened and James with his two brothers joined the colours. Although they served in different regiments, see photograph. All survived the

carnage of WW1. And must have suffered in some way but apart from Ernest not much is known, suffice it to say they returned with no loss of limb. Many WW1 soldiers returned similiary but for years suffered nightmares of their experiences in the trenches.

About 1934 Uncle Jim, Aunt Rose and their family returned to Eastleigh where they took the tenancy of a confectionary and tobacconist shop located at 22 Station Hill. It was a large premises with accomodation above the shop and in a location that took advantage of passing trade. Eastleigh in the 1930's was a bustling town with the Works – as the Southern Railway Locomotive and Carriage works were known – providing employment for much of the town. Regularly in the morning, at lunchtimes, and early evening streams of bicycles passed Station Hill on the way to and from the Works. Then there was the engine drivers, fireman, signal and booking staff on shift work at differing times – all brought in trade to Number 22 Station Hill.

Elsie, Hettie and Gladys were all of working age and very enterprisingly used part of the premises for Ladies hairdressing and it can be claimed that many an Eastleigh lady left 22 Station Hill with a new hairstyle to show her friends – the shop was a busy place. For Uncle Jim and Aunt Rose however it meant an early start to the day and late closing.

About 1940 a move was made to premises at 232 Market Street Eastleigh, it was a much smaller sweetshop and tobacconist with still room for a small hairdressing salon. Situated on a corner again the shop was convenient for passing 'Works' trade. Again there was living accommodation alongside and over the premises.

## **The Pianola mystery**

A rather intriguing item in the Market street house was a Player-Piano or Pianola bearing the name YOUATT in gold lettering on the hinged keyboard lid.

The instrument looked like an ordinary upright piano but had two rather large foot pedals. Music was made by pedalling rather than touching keys. The pedal action moved a perforated roll through a reader which pneumatically operated the keys – it was an automatic piano.

Such instruments were very popular from about 1907 onward and displaced when the wind up gramophone was introduced.

Until recently a Youatt maker of a player piano made after 1907 could not be reconciled with known family facts. George Heanes Youatt certainly made upright pianos but he had died in 1895 and his son did not carry on the business after about 1902. Enquiries were made of the Player Piano Society and they confirmed 1907 was the earliest UK Pianola introduction but a date around 1920 was most likely. A suggestion was however made that seemed to be the answer *the instrument had been made before the turn of the century and converted to receive a pianola action.*

So George Heanes Youatt was most likely the maker but just how it came to be in the possession of Uncle Jim is not known for certain but it was probably a possession of his Maiden aunts Charlotte, Flora and their brother Richard Geo Wm. at Brinkworth.

It will be recalled that both Ernest and James were executors of Flora's Will.

Ronald meanwhile was employed in the building trade with a local builder probably at nearby Horton Heath. It was through his work that he became friends with Robert Hallett later to become his brother in law. Both Ron and Bob encountered Uncle Bert in the course of their work and had amusing tales to relate of their experiences – Uncle Bert was a stickler for the rules and was obliged to approve drainage installations as well as water supplies.

Elsie was the first to marry, the marriage took place during June 1939 when she married

Robert Hallett. The couple settled in Bishopstoke the village about a mile or so the east of Eastleigh. Bob by then was working as a foreman at Thorneycrofts famous shipbuilders and repairers in Southampton. During WW2 Bob had to work very long hours on all sorts of ships and liners which meant often working in blacked out conditions imposed during wartime. It was due to the darkness that Bob had a nasty accident when he fell into a dry dock. Although laid up for a long period Bob returned and was involved post war with the refit of the famous ocean liner 'Queen Mary', once the largest boat afloat. In the late stages of the war a warship HMS Curacao had been nearly sliced in two by the mighty liner with the result the liner had a nasty gash in her bows ( reports at the time said the liner did not feel a jolt and continued on her way). It was during the refit that Bob arranged for the Author to visit the liner, then in graving dock. It was a memorable visit as the boat was entered through one of its propellor shaft housings – the 4 massive propulsion screws being removed at the time for overhaul.

Whilst Bob was engaged doing vital war work Elsie worked at the Eastleigh Fire Station helping in many ways particularly in the canteen – her works were really appreciated by the crews.

Apart from moving to another location in Bishopstoke Bob and Elsie led a quiet life.

Early on in their married life the couple adopted a little girl Carol, she was to be a comfort to Elsie when Bob died during 1969. Elsie herself spent her last days in a retirement home in the same village and died early in 1997.

Ronald spent the war years employed in the Southern Railway workshops where apart from keeping the locomotive and carriage stock working the 'Works' were constructing landing craft to be used during the Normandy invasion. Ron was a skilled machinist/turner and no doubt carried out other tasks in the vital machine and repair shops.

In mid 1944 Ron married Teresa Pullen who was always known as 'Triss'. It was a wedding held in a Catholic church for Triss was an adherent of that Faith – one that sustained her considerably in later life - Ron and Triss set up house in a Nutbeam Road Eastleigh. Ron employed his building skills to remodel the terraced house to his and Triss's liking and with the arrival of a family additional space was required. After the war Ron entered into partnership with a friend - with similar mechanical skills – to make parts for artificial limbs. Unfortunately Ron suffered a heart attack whilst still quite young and died in early 1983.

Ron & Triss had two daughters, Rosemary and Christine.



The picture shows the family group of James Snell and Rose Youatt gathered for the wedding of Teresa (or Triss, as she was always known).

From L to R on the back row are Elsie, James Snell or Uncle Jim, Aunt Rose, Ronald and Mr. & Mrs. Pullen (?) and a relative.

On the front row are seated Gladys, an unknown bridesmaid then the bride herself – Triss – then Hettie and a young pageboy. The date 7th. August 1944

Rosetta Monica or Hetty YOUATT was the next daughter to marry – during April 1945 - it was to George Crosswell who worked for a butcher in Eastleigh until he died and George took over the business. Hetty was a Ladies Hairdresser and carried the business to the Market Street shop for a while when her parents moved there. Hetty died at the fairly young age of 54 during 1968. There were two children George and Sonny.

Hetty is remembered as a jolly person with a delightful Welsh lilt to her voice due to her Cardiff childhood. It was a characteristic of all the Cardiff born children but particularly so in the case of Hetty.

## **Gladys Joan YOUATT**

Youngest of the family was Gladys who was born in S.Wales in 1924. With her sisters Gladys she helped run the hairdressing salon both at Station Hill and at Market Street. Gladys married John Young during 1945 and the couple set up house in Bitterne a NE suburb of Southampton. John died in recent years and Gladys is nowadays very much an invalid. It is thought the couple had one daughter but contact with Gladys was lost some years ago.

## **Ethel Annie Youatt**

As far as is known Ethel helped at the Dairy of her stepfather Lowe and stayed with her brothers until her mother died thought to be in the early 1900's. At some time after this she took up training as a nurse and might well have moved with her brother James and Rose his wife to South Wales.

The known facts are that Ethel met a 28-year-old gardener by the name of George Frederick Merry from Rossaperina in Llanishon in Wales, near the city of Cardiff.

Ethel and Fred Merry married at Eastleigh Parish Church next door to where Ethel was staying at School House, the home of her brother Ernest. Both of Ethel's brothers Ernest and Bertie witnessed the event. Ethel and Fred (as he was always known) returned to settle in an area of Wales on the outskirts of Cardiff. With her brother James and his family resident in a Cardiff superb contact was maintained and happy times have been enjoyed by both families until James returned to Eastleigh.

*(Ethel and Fred and their lives remain otherwise unknown to the Author)*

## **Ernest William Youatt 1878 – 1960**

We now come to the life and times of the Grandfather of the Author - it is a story not without some unknowns but one that can be related with some accuracy.

The recently released 1901 Census returns record that in 1901 Ernest was boarding in Southampton Road Eastleigh although his brothers Arthur, Bertie, James, sister Ethel were living in Leigh Road with their mother Annie, stepfather John Lowe and stepsisters Alice and Connie Lowe. 43 Leigh Road was where John Lowe carried on his Milk and Poulterers business.

From the census recorded occupation of Footman Domestic we can conclude that Ernest was employed elsewhere most likely at the Bath Hotel in Bournemouth (Grandad once remarked he had been a "buttons" there).

As previously related Ernest left his stepfather Lowe and found employment as a Dairyman in the once ancient Wessex capital City of Winchester. Whilst living in Avon Terrace and at the age of 22 Ernest married Lottie Elizabeth Pressland then only 20 years old. Lottie had been in service in 1901 at Spye Park House, Chittoe, Wilts as a Domestic Cook.

The marriage took place at Holy Trinity Church one of the many Parish churches to be found in a Cathedral City. Inspection of their marriage certificate shows that Lottie was the daughter of George Pressland a bricklayer and that both Bertie Youatt and John Lowe were witnesses to the wedding of 3<sup>rd</sup>. July 1902.

Lottie Elizabeth Pressland was born in Ampthill Bedfordshire during 1883 where her mother was a Hat Sewer – Bedfordshire was then famous for straw Hats.

On 8<sup>th</sup>.September 1903 their son was born he was named Thomas Henry William Youatt

The birth certificate states that Ernest his wife were living at 11 The Square Winchester and he was a Milk Seller. Just how far Ernest travelled to sell milk is unknown but he related often of the struggles with a Horse drawn milk float negotiating hills some 7 miles distant in snowy weather. Certainly being out all weathers gave life long problems with rheumatoid arthritis.

### **School House Eastleigh**

About 1904 a position arose offering accommodation and a change for Ernest and Lottie and their infant son, this was to work for the local authority – Hampshire County Council (with its formidable address The Castle, Winchester !). The position was that of resident caretaker to a recently acquired Church School Winchester Road School – Eastleigh.

It is perhaps of interest to outline the history of the school Ernest was to lie at for over 40 years.

### **Winchester Road School - Eastleigh**

The picture shows the school as originally built but with gables painted as they were from about 1900. On the RHS is the house intended for the Master but occupied from around 1900 by a resident caretaker. A door and passageway ensured that the house was separate from the school itself fencing also ensured privacy.





School House - the home of Ernest and Lottie Youatt and their family from 1904.

The school was designed in 1870 by C.N.Beazley, a pupil of G.E.Street - who designed the Parish Church adjacent and is best known as the architect of the Law Courts in London.

The layout below shows how extensions and buildings were added to the original structure.



### PLAN OF WINCHESTER ROAD SCHOOL as it was in the 1930's

The above layout was constructed from extant school plans (courtesy of Hampshire Record Office) and augmented by the Authors recollection when living there during the '30's.

(Classrooms are marked with notional letters as part of a history written by the Author during 1990).

The school name changed over the years becoming firstly Twyford Road School to avoid confusion with another Winchester Road added to the town in the late 1930's then a final change to Crescent School for similar reasons resulting from borough status.

Families moving in from Nine Elms (a London suburb) as a consequence of the transfer of the London and SouthWestern Railway workshops into the town very quickly overwhelmed resources. In 1870 the school had an attendance of 58 pupils but by 1888 324 pupils were under instruction. Until new buildings were available use was made a disused brewery was used as temporary school premises. Other, separate Boys, Girls and Infants schools of size large enough to deal with the numbers were eventually built so taking the pressure of what was Eastleigh's Premier School.

Responsibility for school management also changed over the years from 1870 as various parliamentary acts dealing with education were enabled. 1878 introduced Board Schools in which a locally elected ratepayer's body took over from the Church – the theory was that over emphasis on religious instruction would be reduced by including other denominations by a locally elected body or Board. In fact the first Eastleigh Board had a Methodist as Chairman but most of the other members including the Rector were communicants of Eastleigh Parish Church.

In 1902, responsibility devolved to the County Council with a similar governing body to regulate day to day running. And so, as the century progressed more and more changes took place but throughout there was a strong local C of E representation – and influence.

Unlike many schools taken over when Board and County Council changes were introduced Winchester Road was retained by the Church and leased to the local authority. It was an arrangement that enabled school buildings to be used by the Church for their own activities – but only out of school hours. In practice well into the twentieth century the premises were used to hold concerts, flower and produce shows, lectures and magic-lantern shows (before the cinema) and all sorts of fund raising schemes for the school and church and the church overseas (missionary funding). Additionally, school premises were used at election times to accommodate a polling station.

All these extra curricular activities meant additional work for the caretaker who was expected to have the premises spick and span for school opening – often the morning after the event!

As far as is known no additional salary accrued to the caretaker, it was all part of the job.

## **Ernest and Lottie at School House 1904 onward.**

Shortly after they had set up home at Winchester Road School at what was always known as '**School House**' Ernest and Lottie saw the birth of their second child it was a daughter whom they named Irene Flora Annie Youatt the date was 22<sup>nd</sup>. April 1905 created outside the house - as was normal then.

A large garden was situated in front and to the side of the dwelling together with a strip of land to the side and back of school premises. These had well-established apple, fig and soft fruit trees plus of course large beds for flowers and vegetables. A lawn and greenhouse completed the scene.

Duties at the school were mainly early morning and evening but of course there was always an unexpected request for help when things were spilt etc. In between whiles Ernest was able to look after his garden and Lottie to make full use of produce from the garden.

A delicacy not found in ordinary household gardens, Asparagus was grown at School House. Whether Ernest sowed the original seed or not, asparagus was a seasonal treat, it had other uses for Lottie was very adept at preparing bouquets and wreaths and made use of asparagus fronds.

The preparation and sale of floral displays were occasionally a useful source of additional income, it was an income that needed some addition for whilst Ernest received about ten shillings a week there was little to bring up a family on. It should be noted that the house was rent-free with all rates, lighting and fuel provided—nevertheless there were few luxuries.

Both Thomas and Irene attended Winchester Road School, as did the Author as an infant. Departments for Infants, Boys to 9 or so years and Girls up to 13 were catered for in those days.

In later years the school became a Juniors only establishment but when Thomas attended he transferred at the age of 9 to attend Chamberlayne Road Boys School a new and large school furthering education to provide basic technical skills suitable for later employment.

Irene, remained throughout at Winchester Road where domestic skills entered the curriculum in her final years when cooking by gas was taught – probably at the Brewery Street school – a temporary establishment pending the construction of a modern Girls school in the town.

## **Wartime life at School House 1914 – 1918**

During 1916 the school logbook records that E.W.Youatt joined the colours and that Mrs. Youatt would act as caretaker in his absence. For the first time women were undertaking men's jobs in the factories and on the land so releasing men for Army service.

With a growing young family Lottie carried out all caretaking duties so well as to merit mention of satisfaction in the school log. In doing her husband's work Earnest's job would be available to him on his return – and so it was.

When Ernest signed on however it was to serve it with the famous Gloucester Regiment. It was a regiment whose traditions entitled them an unusual distinction that of wearing a regimental badge on both the front and back of their headgear. Not that he entered into front line service with his chosen regiment for soon after basic training Ernest was transferred to the Royal Engineers.

Within the Royal Engineers, specialist groups had been set up each under direction of a chemist to fill shells with poison gases (Mustard and phosgene were amongst those used. Whilst these filling stations were well behind the front line it was a task not without danger and one that was to leave Ernest with respiratory problems lasting over many years.

Following the 1918 Armistice Ernest returned to take over his caretaking role which Lottie was well able for to deputise for when bouts of respiratory trouble laid her husband low.

Fortunately Ernest suffered less as he grew older but then Arthritic problems from his Dairy days became ever more evident – these were to eventually cripple him.

### **Ernest and Lottie & family in the 1920's and beyond.**

Thomas H.W. Youatt – his early career

When Thomas left school his first job was to train as a plumber with Messrs Holloway the towns principle Building, Decorating and Plumbing firm. In those days – before the availability of ready mixed paints, copper fittings and a variety of plumbing fittings – paint was ground up and mixed with pigment as required, white lead was widely used and many coats of varnish were applied when it came to painting. Plumbing, which was Thomas's scene, made much use of lead piping with craftsman wiped lead joints and roofing seals involving carefully beaten and cut lead sheet. Holloway's were much in demand and were on permanent call for emergencies at Winchester Road and other County run schools in the town.

It was not as a plumber that Thomas remained for this did not employ his natural handworking talents to the full. An apprenticeship with Mr. D. Ruff & Sons Watchmaker

and Jeweller in Market Street Eastleigh was secured for young Tom and this became his trade for life.

When not at work he found interest in anything mechanical or scientific so when wireless broadcasts were being experimented Thomas made sets capable of receiving the new medium soon to be named 'radio'. Crystal sets came first then as hobby magazines showed the way home he made coils and capacitors were linked together with a single valve, home made loudspeakers were also constructed. Radio had arrived and Thomas was in the forefront much to the embarrassment of Eastleigh Post Office who were asked to find and then issue the town's first receiving licence to him.

School House had no electricity, a state incidentally not remedied until the late 1940's, so these early radios had to be powered by one lead-acid battery, a large HT battery and a smaller grid bias one.

Amongst Thomas other interests was a fascination in natural history probably the result of his gamekeeper great grandfather whom he met as a very young lad. A tale he related was of a trip to Grittleton when his Great Grandfather showed how to track deer. At School house evidence of young Tom's pursuits were a couple of large Vipera caught in the New Forest by him and bottled in wood alcohol – these were prepared for the school and each contained in a pickle jar.

By the 1920's Thomas acquired a Rudge motorcycle that enabled him to get away from the town on his free days.

Thomas's marriages are related later, meanwhile the story of Irene.

### **Irene Flora Alice Youatt**

At the time of leaving School Irene was said to be "good at sums" this led to her taking on a job as a sales assistant in a local sweetshop. Whether a mothering instinct or disaffection with her work was the reason we shall never know but Irene applied for the post of a nursemaid. Most likely a Southampton based family the name of her employer was Hely- Hutchinson. The lure of America was not far away for it was not long before Irene found employment with a member of the famous shipowning family of Cunard. Southampton was the homeport of the Cunard line with many ocean-going liners including the ill-fated "Titanic". In the 1930's such liners as the ss. Berengaria, ss. Aquitania, ss. Majestic were regularly leaving their home port for New York: it was to New York that Irene sailed.

Irene liked life in America and found work as a nursemaid with the family of Jock Whitney a figure well known in the States. The Whitney home was on Long Island and it was there at Brookville, Wheatley Hills that Irene met and married William Ganderton then employed as a Groom and chauffeur.

According to daughter Melita, the marriage took place during November 1927 at Roslyn on Long Island, New York State. Irene and William had a civil marriage carried out by a Justice whose normal employment was that of electrician.

Irene and William had two children Melita Ganderton (Lita) who was born in Winchester in Hampshire – Her mother came over for the birth – and a second child William Ganderton (Billy) born 1932 in the USA but brought up with Ganderton grandparents in England. The Ganderton family was then living in Gamlingay in Cambridgeshire where they owned a Butchers shop.

Both Melita and William junior married in the USA. Both became US citizens with Melita marrying a Herbert Habenicht by whom she had three children – she is now living in Albuquerque New Mexico.

William junior married a Swedish girl, has children and served for a while with the US Navy where he specialised in hydraulics. Billy now lives in San Diego and works for the Emery Aviation Company.

Aunt Irene visited her home country several times after marriage in fact both Melita and William junior was both born in England. During a visit during 1937 Melita accompanied her mother. It was not possible for Irene to come over when her mother or her father died but she made a final trip with Uncle Billy in about 1952 when her father was still alive; Irene also visited High Wycombe and the Ganderton homes in the Gamlingay, Bedfordshire, area.

During WW2 Aunt Irene sent several parcels of food and comforts over to both her Father and to the Authors family, she was a very generous person. During WW2 it was suggested that the Author and his sister Joyce were evacuated to Canada where Aunt Irene would then take charge but in the event this did not happen.

Apart from knowing that Irene died in New York State – they lived in Farmingdale at one time – the time and place of death is not known. The date of Aunt Irene's death was thought to be about 1958.

The demise of Uncle Billy is also uncertain. It is claimed that he was murdered on the streets of New York City during 1960 however the facts are difficult to come by.

Currently Melita is living in Albuquerque and corresponds annually in a disjointed manner. She has talked of moving to Mexico to take advantage of cost of living. It is uncertain just what employment she has whether it is in teaching, or whether university studies are undertaken in anticipation of employment. However, the subject seems to have some connection with the psychology of mental disorders

Melita has visited England several times but when last seen seemed to be uncertain of her future and its prospects. Herbert her husband had died and a son had tragically committed suicide. Lita pronounced with some authority that the death was due to a deficiency in the Ganderton genes.

By 1926 Both Thomas and Irene had left home, Thomas to marry and move to High Wycombe and Irene to the USA. Then for a short while Ernest and Lottie were on their own for the first time in years, however a grandson (the Author) had been born and was to be fostered by them for seven years.

Both grandparents welcomed their grandson and brought him up with all the love and care they could bestow, they were however strict in discipline and were careful not to spoil their charge.

Life at School House went on as usual with Ernest attending his large garden between School duties and Lottie bottling fruit, making jam from the garden produce. Another speciality was the bottling of home made wine from parsnip, elderflower and dandelion.

Ernest grew a variety of flowers and these were utilised by Lottie for bouquets and wreaths of which there was always a demand. Not much resulted financially from the floral work but it was a craft Lottie enjoyed.

The school routine involved cleaning and tidying classrooms every evening, it was a task shared. Breaks took the form of perhaps a Saturday afternoon trip by rail to Southampton where in the summer the Royal Pier afforded relaxation with the worlds liners on view either arriving or departing then there were the cargoes being unloaded from boats bringing their bananas and other produce. The scene was one that was fascinating for infant and grandparents alike.

An annual holiday was taken during the school break when arrangements were made for other caretakers to "keep an eye on things", usually a week near the sea with Bournemouth, Ventnor on the "Island" (Isle of Wight) being the venue. Other trips were made to lodge with friends in Chichester and to Lottie's half-brother Peter Robinson who with his wife Grace took in guests at their home in Milton – a suburb of Southsea.

"Uncle Peter" as he is recalled had been a stoker in the Royal Navy and had served on many ships including the famous HMS Hood and had travelled the world. During the 1930's there had been a dramatic cut back in both Navy men and ships with the result that many ex-navy men had to find employment where they could. One employer of these surplus men was Messrs Walls whose ice-cream products were then being promoted. Walls had the innovative scheme of selling its products from a cold box mounted on a tricycle the box being painted in a distinctive blue. It was one of these Walls tricycles that Uncle Peter found seasonal relief from his paltry pension.

When the Fleet was remobilised for WW2 Uncle Peter was recalled but was invalided out early in the War when both he and Grace had settled in High Wycombe. Peter then was employed as a boilerman until his death in the late 1940's.

From about 1931 Lottie began to suffer from an illness that, at that time, had no cure. The circumstances that led to the tragedy were most unusual so are related here.

Although operated by the Local Authority the School was owned by the Church of England and used by them out of normal school hours. The caretaker and his wife were also called on to assist with these extracurricular activities and the Church influence was strong in other ways.

So it was that when the nearby Rectory had a house full of guests, Ernest and Lottie were asked to provide accommodation for a visiting cleric thought to be a Bishop from an African diocese.

The request was complied with and the cleric made welcome for his brief stay, however the Bishop brought another guest: one most unwelcome, a tsetse fly – believed to have been trapped in his luggage. Lottie unknowingly suffered a bite by the released insect, which fortunately did not survive. Trypanosomiasis was the name of the disease although it is better known as sleeping sickness as the result of the profound sleepiness it causes.

Sleeping sickness has other effects including a shuffling gait, headache and the swelling of various glands – it is distressing to both the victim and all who see and know the sufferer.

There were in the mid 1930's no known treatment for the disease but life could be prolonged and so after treatment at St. Thomas's teaching hospital in London Lottie went to a nursing home at Lyndhurst in the New Forest and there during 1936 she died.

With hindsight it is surprising that the symptoms were not diagnosed earlier than was the case for repeated visits were made to an Eastleigh doctor before the suffering was diagnosed. With a major port only seven miles distant one would have thought that the symptoms would have been recognised even though treatment was minimal.



## **SCHOOL CARETAKER FOR THIRTY YEARS**

### **DEATH OF MRS. L. E. YOUATT**

Eastleigh people in general were sorry to hear of the death at Lyndhurst, on Friday, of Mrs. Lottie Elizabeth Youatt, of the School House, Winchester Road, Eastleigh.

Aged 51, Mrs. Youatt was the wife of Mr. Ernest William Youatt, and they had been caretakers of Winchester Road Schools for the past thirty years. Mrs. Youatt carried out the whole of the duties during the time her husband was away during the war. She had been ill for the past five years.

The funeral took place at Eastleigh Parish Church on Tuesday, and there were no flowers, by request, and no mourning. The service was conducted by the Rev. S. C. Kell.

Those who attended included the husband, Mr. and Mrs. T. Youatt (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. P. Robinson (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. B. Youatt (brother-in-law), and a number of friends.

Mr. W. Bush carried out the funeral arrangements.

The copied obituary appeared in the Eastleigh Weekly News. Burial took place in Eastleigh Cemetery and a headstone erected.

Lottie was a very caring person and her loss was felt by many but most of all by her family particularly the Author whose role of a loving mother she fulfilled.

Some years later when researching material for a Winchester Road School history it was poignant to read that at a meeting of the School management committee a minutes silence was observed in memory of Lottie, such was the wartime and later contribution to staff and school duties.

### **The life of Ernest 1934 onward**

For several years following Lottie's death Ernest looked after himself whilst still living at School House. School duties were carried on with the help of schoolboys during the evening cleaning task. A sum of sixpence was paid for the weekly help of stacking chairs and benches enabling floor cleaning to be carried out without delay. More than one "old boy" has commented on the sixpence he received!

Another hired help who became a family friend was Fred Simmonds an ex Royal Navy man whose employment was as a crane driver at the nearby Southern Railway "Works". Fred lived at Stanmore just outside Winchester some 7 miles distant and was a keen cyclist; his daily route passed the school so that an hour spent on two evenings a useful contribution to his family budget.

Of course there were other perks for Ernest had a garden yielding much in excess of his needs.

After a short period Ernest employed a Housekeeper whose name was Amy Appleton. A prim lady in her forties with quite a sense of humour Amy came from a Bishopstoke family with fervent Chapel affinities. As far as can be remembered Amy lived in but went home to her family on Sundays.

Amy and Ernest got on well and he was well looked after with regular well-cooked meals, laundry attended to – in fact Amy was companion help. After a few years Ernest wanted to marry Amy but it was not to be.

### **Wartime Eastleigh 1939-1945.**

From September 1939 the Second World War commenced and from then until 1945 Eastleigh was a target for the German bombers. After attacking Southampton and its Docks there were several choices of targets in Eastleigh itself notably Vickers - Supermarine, makers of the legendary Spitfire fighter plane.

Barrage balloon sites surrounded the town and air-raid shelters were erected throughout, one adjacent to the school in the Vicarage garden.

Grandfather and Amy spent many a night sheltering with neighbours in the shelter. Whilst a few bombs fell on the town none fell at all on the school premises – in fact the major hazard was shrapnel from defensive anti-aircraft fire. The period of the war was one of continual interruption with frequent air-raid sirens sounding and taking shelter, school lessons continued when possible inside the air-raid shelter.

One lasting legacy of WW2 was the loss of the schools weathervane. For years a gold painted cockerel had served well to show the winds direction but a breakaway Barrage balloon brought the vane to earth – never to be remounted on its steeple mounted perch high above the school.

Grandfather survived the war years augmenting his meagre rations with garden produce, he was particularly proud of his Runner Beans proudly showing them growing to a length of 18 inches or more. Loganberries were a treat in the summer a treat well remembered.

Visiting School House in wartime usually was by rail and no problems can be recalled, however when German invasion threatened earlier in the War for several weeks the South coast was a restricted area the fear being possible activity of German spies.

A Wycombe fruiterer at that time made regular visits to Southampton where imported and rationed fruit such as oranges and bananas were collected from the port. On one such restricted occasion the Author and his father joined the fruiterer on his trip. The police on the outskirts of Winchester duly stopped us but an orange produced and given

the Constable was sufficient for us to be waived through, however it is true to say that the Invasion scare was then less of a threat.

Whilst Grandfather had much garden produce to sustain him, he like everyone, was coupon rationed for butter and cheese: in fact wartime margarine was substituted for butter – and it was foul tasting.

By 1943 Grandfather was due to retire as his 65<sup>th</sup>. Year had been reached. However he remained until late 1945 as occupation of School House went with the job.

The local authority - his employer - were responsible for rehousing him and they had the foresight, in a growing town, to build an estate on the edge of Eastleigh specifically for old folk these were semi-detached bungalows with a small garden attached to each.

It was to one of these dwellings that Grandpa was eventually allocated. Number 60 Cherbourg Road was the address and to his delight it was a corner plot with a larger than normal garden.

During early 1946 he took up residence.

Shopping could have been a problem for the centre of town was a good mile or more away but the problem was soon solved for somehow Grandfather came to purchase an unusual vehicle - a hand-powered tricycle.

A description of this unique vehicle is worthwhile. A couple of cranks coupled to a chain sprocket and fitted with handgrips were mounted on a steering column. A long bicycle style chain took the drive down to a single front wheel all arranged such that the comfortably seated driver could not only propel himself by hand but steer from the same position.

Fortunately Eastleigh was very flat and had few hills of any serious gradient so at once Grandfather was mobile. Once on the streets Grandfather was fearless and the few motorists kept well clear of him. It was however a traumatic experience to accompany him on foot for there was no doubt as to who had the right of the road!

### **The Cherbourg Road Years**

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Inside the bungalow were two bedrooms a living-room, kitchen and toilet whilst outside a sort of lean-to covered the side entrance door. The front door can be seen in the accompanying picture Gas and electricity were provided and of course mains water. Heating was from a single coal fired grate in the living room. Overall it was a cosy but not spacious home.

Shopping could have been a problem for the centre of town was a good mile or more away but the problem was soon solved for somehow Grandfather had earlier come to purchase an unusual vehicle - a hand-powered tricycle.

Soon after settling at 60 Cherbourg Road Grandfather acquired a companion to share the accommodation this was a Mr.Tapper a gentlemanly figure who was referred to as my "chum" - the two got on very well.

As mentioned above the garden of this end plot gave additional growing space to the side of the bungalow so that Grandad and Mr.Tapper could grow vegetables and flowers. Indeed mentioned in a letter around 1946 some 28 dozen Aster flowers were grown and sold by Grandad a useful addition to the State pension.

During evening entertainment apart from playing Board games such as Cribbage and dominoes was provided by a cable service radio. Eastleigh being a very flat area was well suited for a Radio Relay station to be set up and three BBC programmes rebroadcast by wire to simple receivers throughout the town.

It was an alternative to the more expensive wireless sets then coming on the market.

Grandfather however had enjoyed listening to the radio when at School House as son Thomas was a keen experimenter and had built a simple valved receiver which required lead-acid accumulators and a large grid-bias battery - both needed either regular charging from an electric mains or replacing. At the bungalow however mains electricity was available making the relay system preferable and simpler.

Once a week during afternoons the old folk were able to take part in a "Grandfathers Club".

Although Grandmothers were also included...arranged by helpers from the Church, tea and cakes were provided with entertainment by the folks themselves with a regular sing-song in which Grandad's voice was undoubtedly heard.

It was here that a friendship with a widow grew, she was EMILY RIDSDALE

Emily a true Yorkshire woman was a jolly person and came from Leeds.

Mr.Tapper had planned to leave Cherbourg Road to join his son and wife in their retirement, soon after Ernest and Emily married - in early 1947. Once Emily had brought a few of her possessions to their home she certainly made a change in Grandad's life not only with her companionship but with regular meals and what meals! All sorts of Yorkshire cakes and delicacies appeared and Sunday Lunch was something of an experience.

For instance if Sunday lunch of roast beef was served the accompanying Yorkshire pudding came as a separate dish with gravy as was the practice in the North (Southerners had meat, vegetables and Yorkshire pudding all on one plate) - Emily's way made a very filling meal.

It was not long before they went on holiday to stay with Emily's sister at a place named Guyhirne in Lincolnshire on the Fens. The sister and her husband ran a smallholding.

For Grandad it was quite an adventure for he had not left Eastleigh for years however by arranging with the various Stationmasters at changing stops on the journey a porter and wheelchair was on hand with use of Goods lifts where levels were involved.

Cherbourg Road also received a stream of visitors with Emily's sister, staying for short periods and visits from the Author and his then fiancée. Yorkshire hospitality abounded.

Grandfather was able to spend time in his garden without the worry of pots boiling dry and his lunch spoiling as was later to be the case.

Emily and Ernest were not to be together for long for during early 1952 Emily was taken into Winchester hospital and died during June.

It was a devastating loss but Grandfather soldiered on alone with friends and helpers from the Grandfathers Club visiting, he too kept in touch with his brothers James and Bertie. Visits were more frequent to James and Rose for they ran a confectionery and Tobacconists not far distant. Grandfather enjoyed his pipe and St.Bruno tobacco.

During 1953 Irene, daughter of Ernest, and her husband William Ganderton made a trip over from the USA by boat to visit her Father and Ganderton relations in Bedfordshire - it was the last time

During the visit an overnight stop was made in High Wycombe.

At the end of April 1954 Grandfather made the railway journey to High Wycombe for the Wedding of the Author. A wheelchair was hired from the Red Cross enabling him to be pushed around the town prior to the wedding.

One anecdote from that time was a visit to dairy shop on the way to a local park. In those days milk, butter and cheese was sold over the counter of very clean cool marble countered and tiled shops, it was the shop where doorstep deliveries were paid for usually on a weekly basis.

A Dairyman for many years Grandfather took us in to the shop for a glass of milk - no soft drinks were even considered. From a cool container on the counter fresh milk was ladled into a glass; somehow that milk always tasted sweeter and certainly cooler than the bottled variety.

Such shops no longer exist.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>.1954 Gurnard Jack Youatt married Daphne George a ceremony that took place at St.Mary's Church Amersham in the parish of the Bride. Grandfathers singing voice was clearly heard on the occasion.

Grandfather soldiered on at Cherbourg Road. Letters of the time still in a very firm hand (on occasion written on any piece of paper that was readily available) told how cooking was spoilt whilst he was in the garden - however he kept cheerful in spite of adversities. Although neighbours, most of his generation, generally kept an eye on his welfare it became apparent that things would have to change.

In late 1954 a foot infection from a chilblain led to hospital treatment once gangrene had set in - amputation followed.

Connie Lowe, then Mrs. Howell, a half sister lived at Bassett (a northern part of Southampton) and whilst she too was arthritic nevertheless journeyed up to visit Ernest at Cherbourg Road. It was Connie who helped prior to Grandfather's confinement to St.Pauls Hospital.

The Cherbourg Road home was vacated and contents disposed with the help of brother James and his son Ronald and of course Connie.

St.Pauls a geriatric hospital in the County town of Winchester was to be Grandfathers last address for whilst he lived on a few years he died in December 20th 1960 aged 82.

Memories of visiting Grandfather at the hospital are of a person always cheerful and none more so on the couple of occasions when taken out for the day by car. Local spots were visited including a lunch at Fishers Pond and a trip around Allington Lane near Swaythling - once the home of friends from his milk delivery days.

Ernest was buried just prior to Christmas 1960 at the Stoneham Crematorium at his request. The mourners were his son Thomas H.W.Youatt and Grandson and wife, brother James Snell and half sister Connie.

For the Author it was a sad loss for seven early and very happy formative years had been spent living with Grandfather who was thought more often as a real father.

Father of the Author, whose early life at Eastleigh has been described above, continues with his marriage followed by a move to the Buckinghamshire town of High Wycombe.

## Lily Knight (1906 - 1926)



The accompanying picture shows Lily the bride of THWY she was a childhood sweetheart and the second daughter of a LSWR Railway Guard Walter John Knight and his first wife.

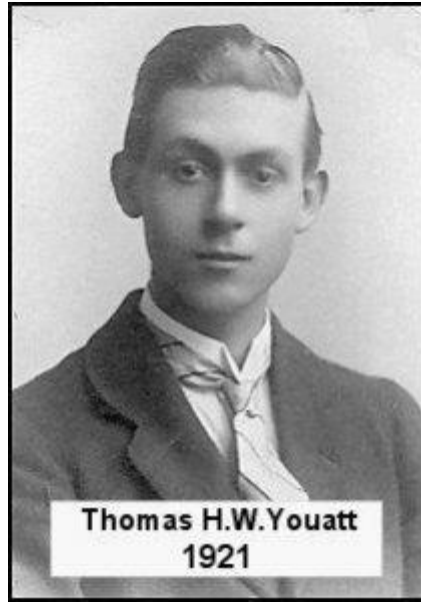
Grandfather Knight came from the Somerset village of Evercreech and retained the soft and kind Somerset brogue associated with the county.

Lily had been born on 15<sup>th</sup>.May 1906 at the London district of Wandsworth where her father was then based with the London & S.Western Railway - later they moved to Eastleigh.

Living then at 5 George Street Eastleigh - a few streets away from Thomas' address School House Lily at the time of marriage was employed as a domestic servant at a large house not far from her home.

It was a marriage not approved by either parents but took place all the same at the Eastleigh Registry Office on 8<sup>th</sup>.November 1925. To qualify for marriage without parental consent Lily stated she was 21 - in reality were only 19. Thomas H.W.Youatt her husband was then aged 22.





After marriage the newly weds travelled to High Wycombe where Thomas had secured a position as Watchmaker /repairer and Jeweller to an established business run by Albert Emler. Located in the centre of the town Albert Emler claimed to be the "County Jeweller"

Accommodation to start with was at 5 Castle Place where a couple of rooms were rented. A short walking distance from Cornmarket where Thomas's workshop was located.

### **Birth of Jack Gurnard & Rita Youatt**

Lily gave birth to twins in August 1926 firstly a son (the Author) named Jack Gurnard Youatt 16th.August 1926 at 10 pm (Gurnard from Gurnard Bay in the Isle of Wight - a favourite spot of the couple, Jack from Lily's fathers name John)

Then a daughter Rita Youatt was born on 18<sup>th</sup>.August 1926 at 9 am.

For Lily it was a difficult birth with complications leading to the deaths of both Rita and of Lily who died on the 10<sup>th</sup>.September 1926 at the War Memorial Hospital in High Wycombe.

The funeral of Lily took place from School House Eastleigh the home of Thomas's parents followed by interment at North Stoneham church.

## **North Stoneham Church**

The site of Lily Youatt's burial at North Stoneham is situated a few miles north of Southampton and on the outskirts of Eastleigh only separated from the outskirts of the port by a "green belt". Nowadays a motorway runs nearby and the once village houses replaced by modern corporate business offices - Southampton Airport (Eastleigh) is closeby.



The beautiful church of St.Nicholas has parts dating from the 14<sup>th</sup>.C but was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup>.C; particularly interesting is the ancient tower clock that had an hour hand only making an estimate of actual time a matter of guesswork.

Lily's memorial stone is situated in her mothers' family plot located more toward the top left hand side of the picture.

### **Events after September 1926**

With the death of his wife the problem for the grief stricken THWY was that of caring for his son. It was soon resolved for young Jack Gurnard was immediately cared for by his grandparents Ernest and Lottie at School House Eastleigh.

Little did they realise their kindness would entail seven years of fostering (for the Author these were seven very happy years).

### **THW Youatt's life after Sept. 1926**

Thomas returned to the rooms at 5 Castle Place in High Wycombe and to his employment as a watchmaker/jeweller with A.Emler.

Albert Emler had become a naturalised citizen shortly after the outbreak of the First World War when German nationals living in the country were victimised. Albert had then married and taken over the Cornmarket premises of Johnson who had established a successful business.

The future Mrs.Emler had been running a sweetshop shop next door to the Jewellers shop but this was later sold but kept running as such for a few years before becoming a Chemists shop.

Whilst the flat above the shop was quite spacious toilet facilities left much to be desired being limited to an outside facility.

After two children had been born the Emlers had a suitable house built on the hills to the north of the town. Although then a greenfield site it was an area where successful business folk were taking up residence.

Once Mrs.Emler had relinquished her interest in the sweet shop it became necessary to disconnect the shop from access to the flat above as both the Jewellery shop and sweet shop had a staircase connection.

Once changes were made the Emlers moved to their new home appointing THY to become caretaker. At first the change from living in two rooms to a spacious flat took some getting used to. Working with THWY was a clockmaker/repairer by the name of Ernest Todd he too was in lodgings so it is likely he also shared the flat and the necessary guardianship of the business premises.

Adjoining Emler's premises was a bakery & pastrycooks by the name of Johns which was convenient source of refreshments for Thomas and his colleague Ernie Todd. Serving in the shop was a WW 1 widow Alice Lizzie Parker who had been born and brought up in the town. Alice knew of the tragic loss suffered by THWY - the two became friends over time and eventually married.

Before continuing it is of interest to give a brief description of High Wycombe then in the 1930's very much a country Market town.

### **High Wycombe town in the 1930's**

With a borough charter going back into the mists of time Chepping Wycombe (Chepping = Market) became known as High Wycombe. The town is situated in a valley with steep hills rising both to the north and south. A40 the trunk road from Oxford to London runs East/West along the valley floor generally following the River Wye - itself a tributary of the Thames.

High Wycombe in the '30s was very much a furniture town with beechwood chairs of the Windsor style being the principle "export" for Wycombe chairs found demand from all over the World.

Whilst several advanced brick built factories even employing flow-line manufacturing techniques were operating - many of the claimed 200 factories were no more than small two storey wooden buildings to often subject to destruction by fire (heated glue pots and shavings were frequently the cause).

A considerable "cottage industry" fed the manufacturers with components for their chairs so it was a frequent sight to see alleyways between terraced houses in the town stacked with chair parts such as seats, splats and spindles. These were the self-employed craftsman working long hours for a low return - the furniture trade was a cut-throat business; there were only a few rich "Chairmasters".

Women also were employed in the furniture industry using their sewing skills or in upholstery. Once married some wives worked at home as Rush or Cane seat makers a craft that involved nimble fingers to plait the raw material on to supplied frames. Not much other than a board on the floor and one at one's back were required, and preferably a stone flagged floor for it was a dusty operation.

In the many country villages surrounding the town one could occasionally still see lace makers.

On sunny days sitting outside their cottages, were old ladies practising a craft centuries old. They sat with a large pillow on their lap with a pattern card marked with pins. Cottons or silks carried by a multitude of bobbins were rapidly manipulated to produce lace of a fine pattern.

Although also dying out at the time it was also still possible to find a genuine "chair bodger" at work in the beechwoods. Using a bendy tree bough the bodger tied a rope, which was fastened around a roughly hewn stick, mounted horizontally between two steel points to form a pole lathe. A foot treadle attached to the ground end of the rope affording foot power to revolve the work. To trim the spindle being turned a long handled chisel was held on a rest.

The bodger moved his lathe to his source of supply always in the woods with a tarpaulin sheet as only weatherproofing. Such craftsman turned out spindles by the thousand and was paid a pittance.

Wycombe was above all a Market town a tradition carried on even today twice weekly. The market of the '30s supplied the needs of those living in villages away from the town. Farmers and their wives regularly came in, one for stock and the other housekeeping.

A practice of Hiring Fairs when farm workers attended and were selected for annual employment had ceased.

Still to be seen those days were the corn and grain sellers who set up a covered desk on a pedestal under the Guildhall - in the "Cornmarket", by 1933 they too were no longer to be seen.

At least two large stores in the town had premises providing their staff with live-in employment. It was a practice that allowed young ladies from outlying villages to live on the premises learn a trade and work longer hours without the need for returning home each night.

Those live-in trainees quickly acquired rapid mental arithmetic skills for example one in Drapery would rapidly cost the price of say 3½ yards of dress material at 2shillings and 11pence three farthings a yard @ Ten shillings and five pence farthing.

Nowadays with the Metre, decimal pound and electronic calculator such skills are long gone.

Wycombe of the 1930's was above all a centre for shopping and well served by several private bus companies that provided regular daily services for many except the very outlying villages - there it was Market Day only services with an early start for Wycombe and a late afternoon return.

On Saturdays for instance Market smallholders remained open until 9pm shops however were usually closed earlier. Astute townspeople bought their market greengrocery late on Saturday evening at give away prices often assured that display goods were sold last!

There was competition for trade in the local shops for example for grocery there was the Coop (Cooperative Wholesale Society - they gave dividends on purchases), International Stores, Maypole, David Greig, Pearks, Imperial stores, Home and Colonial all had shops.

Butchers were also well represented as were hardware but when it came to furniture shops few were to be found-the craftsman either made their own or obtained their requirements "through the trade"!

Several other manufacturing industries were well established in the Town included high quality furniture makers some employing carvers recognised as very high class earning for their employer the Royal Warrant as did a bed and mattress maker.

Another specialist was a company producing Marquetry using thin laminar rare woods to build up pictures or just for decorative purposes. Marquetry found application in Art Nouveau furniture and for decorative panels used on the RMS. Queen Mary ocean liner and later her sister ship.

Locally there were a few support services and specialist machine makers for the furniture trade, but the chairmasters were never great spenders.

The largest engineering employer Broom & Wade manufactured Air compressors and pneumatic tools. With the largest premises in the area they had extensive machine tools together with a foundry. Engineering workers came in daily by bus, bicycle, motor cycle or foot from outlying villages. A powerful (ex Ocean Liner) hooter announced not only to the employees, but also to the town, it was five minutes before starting time. Lateness meant a quarter of an hour pay stoppage!

Postage stamps were also printed locally in a large factory by a photogravure process. A Royal Mail warrant entailed manufacture of postage stamps in high security conditions so that the printing of Bonds foreign postage stamps and similar documents could be undertaken.

Around 1930 the pressing need for road widening particularly the North South route (Amersham to Marlow) was undertaken. Land once owned by the Carrington family was sold to form the prestigious Wycombe Abbey a premier Girls school and land released as a result enabled not only a through route but new Civic buildings to be constructed.

Built in a Georgian style a Municipal Offices with Council chamber and Mayoral facilities was followed by a Public Library and a Borough Police Station for the Borough had its own force and Chief Constable

The Towns Fire Brigade was not so fortunate for it was a voluntary brigade. With one paid mechanic whose garage was conveniently next to the Fire Station. A motor driven Fire Engine was the sole appliance and the mechanic its driver.

On call out the Brigade workers in areas near the fire or station were summoned by telephone and used their bicycles to arrive at the station, or fire, some already in uniform.

Public subscription and Fire Insurance payouts kept the vital service in being - the crews served for years and were fully dedicated.

Traffic on the main roads of the Town was gradually building up with Lorries, Delivery vans timber carts but few private motor cars - these were the prerogative of the professionals such as Solicitors and Doctors.

Not all shops offering delivery services however used power or horse drawn delivery purposes. For instance bespoke Tailors in the Town employed an aged man and bicycle, he could be seen cycling miles from the town with a single string bound brown paper parcel in his tray. Personal attention really mattered!

Soon however the A40 trunk road was designated as the London to Oxford trunk road with the seven miles through the town considered a bottleneck.

This brief description can only give a cameo of a town that was to change beyond recognition during and the aftermath of the Second World War.

## **THE MANCHESTER YOUATTS**

Until recent years a talented cluster of the Youatt family lived, worked and died around the Northern City of Manchester, itself very much the scene of Britain's 19<sup>th</sup>.C Industrial Revolution. "Manchester Youatts" is the title given for grouping purposes by the author for the root of a group whose descendants are now to be found spread throughout the country and abroad. In reality this monograph is an account of the descendants of John & Theresa Youatt the son of

GEORGE HEANES YOUATT and his Wife HEPZIBAH née COCKS

of Great Torrington and later the St.Pancras area of London.

George Heanes Youatt was the third son of John Youatt (1782-1861) and Grace Heanes (1781-1824), he was baptised on 27 March 1812 at the Parish church at Great Torrington in North Devon.

John Youatt, a tenant farmer in 1812 was farming in the Gt.Torrington parish before later moving into the next parish of North Molton, where in December 1824 Grace died; it is likely that the young of the family were then fostered by Heanes relatives living in Great Torrington.

It was in Great Torrington that young George learnt his craft as a Cabinet Maker.

Whilst apprenticeship records are not to hand recent research shows that William May a Cabinet Maker of New Street (1830 Trade Directory) most likely to have been George's tutor.

As later events tell a fellow apprentice was John Brinsmead of Weare Gifford.

A shift of worship from Church to chapel was most noticeable in siblings of the Heanes marriage. Whether there was an upsurge in Baptist or Wesleyan persuasion taking

place in Great Torrington or a Heanes preference has not been established. It was a change that affected George who married at the Independent Chapel to Hephzibah Cocks daughter of John Cocks a Baptist Minister on January 7<sup>TH</sup>.1839.

George then aged 27, had an occupation given as Pianoforte Maker and Hephzibah 26 that of Straw Bonnet maker.

Hephzibah was born in Wandsworth but her father John, a preacher, was not a witness at her wedding; he was later known to be in the Amersham Bucks area. According to local trade directories of the period members of the Cocks family were glove makers in New Street Great Torrington.

The manufacture of pianos in Devon was unknown in 1849 but George had moved to London and was working in the St.Pancras area. In fact George (GHY for short) had set up a workshop in University Street London - an area where cabinet makers were turning their hand to constructing carcasses of upright pianos then very much in demand. Mechanisms to complete a finished instrument - such as keyboards, hammers, wire etc were readily available having been sourced from French and German makers.

GHY kept in close contact with John Brinsmead who preceded him in 1837 by coming to London and setting up a workshop with one man and apprentice at Windmill Street. George and Brinsmead are recorded as intending to travel to France together (1849) - most likely to ensure a supply of piano and keyboard components. GHY set up in business initially at 3 Stanhope Street, Hampstead Road near Regents Park - now Delancey Street.

Unlike GHY, Brinsmead ultimately became very successful as a pianoforte maker and exhibited his patented instruments in the Great Exhibition of 1851. Such was his success that he eventually had factories producing instruments on a near production line process.

## **PIANO MAKING TIMES in London**

Trade directories of the period list many hundreds of Pianoforte makers including occasionally GHY, some such as Broadwood, Collard and Brinsmead are recognised today but George Heanes Youatt is alas all but unknown.

However the Writer actually played (or rather pedalled) a piano bearing a Youatt makers name although it was not quite what it seemed for it was a conversion.

The instrument was a Player Piano or Pianola - In practice the Player Piano or Pianola had a perforated paper roll that was pedalled to reproduce automatically a professional played piece.



During the 1940's the writer on holiday with his Grandfather at Eastleigh Hants visited a Great Uncle - James Snell Youatt [1885-1964] (One of the Rumbelow/Youatt (Wiltshire Youatt line). A recent acquisition of an automatic piano a pianola - or Player piano was shown. And an opportunity to play the instrument was seized. On lifting the lid the name a surprise lay in store for the name *YOUATT* was found in gold lettering!

After instruction a reasonable rendering of a piano piece recorded by an established artist was pedalled through.

In appearance the Pianola was an upright instrument with two brass candlesticks in fact an idea of the general appearance of the instrument can be seen in the Lannoy oil painting of George Heanes Youatt & son. However there were differences for centrally was a piano roll - a roll of perforated paper in which the notes were punched as holes and reproduced by pneumatically operating the piano keys. Instead of tone foot pedals a treadle was fitted and this was the means of playing the music.

An opportunity to question as to how the instrument came into the hands of Uncle Jim was not taken - and subsequently regretted!

From known facts it would seem that the pianola had been in the Wiltshire family and had been one of the artefacts of Sarah Snell Youatt of Brinkworth. Both Ernest and his brother James together with their sister Edith were bequeathed items when the estate was wound up so that the pianola undoubtedly came from that source.

By sheer coincidence during about 1959 when being interviewed for a job as Instrumentation Development Engineer (work that involved the application of the air power of pneumatics) the writer was surprised to be asked if he had connection with the maker of a pianola. It transpired that the interviewer's mother then living in North London possessed such an instrument. Unfortunately after the passage of some years when asked for details it was too late for that particular instrument was disposed of from a holiday home in the Isle of Wight so another "sighting" was lost.

When in later years the period of manufacture of pianos by George Heanes Youatt was better understood it became obvious that there was no evidence to support automatic pianos being made in GHY's lifetime. The firm of G.H.Youatt & Son carried on by GHY's son Victor ceased trading around 1905 a date before such automatic playing pianos was known in this country.

Contact with Mr.Ord Hume author of "The Pianola - History of the self playing Piano" revealed that such instruments were popular in the period 1910- 1920 after which the gramophone took over.Mr.Ord Hume suggested that the Pianola seen would have been certainly made by George Heanes Youatt and to later be converted by the fitment of a mechanism from Germany.

Contact made in recent years with Pianola restorers and societies with specialist knowledge of such instruments have all been fruitless not one had encountered a GHY instrument as an automatic or original piano.

It was a disappointment to learn that such automatic pianos were produced long after GHY had died although George Heanes Youatt must have made the original carcass.

Living in houses around the Regents Park area with workshops nearby if not on the premises GHY appears to have remained a one-man business, one suspects GHY made full use of his cabinet making skills for furniture as well although we have no record of this.

Copied reproductions of two George Heanes Youatt family oil paintings of about 1849 by Lannoy an unknown artist - now in the possession of Lady Judy Buckley - is gratefully reproduced below.

These portraits show George Heanes Youatt and son John Youatt whilst another by the same artist is shows Hephzibah and her daughters.

From the pictures it is apparent that the family enjoyed a middle class standard of living.

Children of George Heanes and Hepzibah Youatt were :-

Rhoda Mary Youatt b. 1839, but died 1842 St. Pancras

JOHN YOUATT b.1841, m.1843, d.1925 Manchester

George Youatt b. 1844, d. 1845 St. Pancras

Mary Youatt b. 1845, m. 1874 d. 1924 Manchester area

Rhoda Youatt b. 1847, d. 1919 Hendon

George Heanes Youatt b. 1850, d. 1915 Manchester

Victor Youatt b. 1852, m. 1878, d 1937 Hampstead

Hephzibah Youatt b. 1855, m 1885, d. 1939

All children were born and registered in the St.Pancras registration district one that covered the various addresses around Regents Park that GHY lived before he retired to 17 Oppidans Road Hampstead his address when he died a widower during 1895. Hephzibar had died in 1882.



*George Heanes and John Youatt*

*Hephzibar with Mary and Rhoda*

*(Oil paintings about 1949 by unknown artist Lannoy - copied by courtesy of Lady Judy Buckley.)*



Mrs.Hephzibah Youatt - George Heanes Youatt - Rhoda - John Youatt (Standing)

Hephzibah (Effie) - Victor - Mary - Geo Heanes jnr.(George)

JOHN YOUATT [1841-1925] was the founder of the "Manchester Youatts" and so merits a separate account however his early life was spent with his parents in the St.Pancras area until around 1864 when he moved to the Lancashire area.

MARY [1845-1924] lived with her parents and married Henry Whitefield in 1874. It is thought Henry was the brother of Theresa wife of John. The Whitefields had origins in Barnstaple however their marriage took place in St.Pancras before the couple moved to settle in the North near John & Theresa.

RHODA [1847-1919] lived with her parents remained a spinster and became a Schoolteacher. When her mother died Rhoda looked after her father and later her brother Victor, for many years a widower.

GEORGE HEANES YOUATT (jnr.) [1850-1919] became a Merchants Clerk in the London area and later described himself as an Accountant. Little is really known of George except he died at Moss Side Manchester so had moved near to his brother at some time. George did not marry.

VICTOR [1852-1937] was the son to carry on the pianoforte business set up by his father, he married had a daughter Mary and a son John. Victor became a widower from 1882 living with his father and sister Rhoda until in 1927 he married again.



Victor carried on his father's business until he was forced to close in about 1892 however he was also a piano tuner and Librarian for a religious society (and raised funds for provision of books). From 1901/5 Victor was involved in a restaurant. Environmental issues were defended by Victor when railway development threatened the environs of his Hampstead home that would have defeated its claim of being "Hampstead Garden Suburb".

HEPHZIBAH [1855-1939] was the youngest daughter known to her family as 'Effie'. Growing up in what was a musical family Effie became 'a Professor of music' a subject she taught from her parents' home in Oppidans Road Hampstead.

Effie married Horace Beach an assistant in his father's Ironmongers shop situated most likely in Camden town.

## **JOHN YOUATT and the Manchester Story**

John Youatt [1841-1925] lived with his parents and shared the musical talent and lifestyle of the family. During his early life, Grandfather John Cocks - a Baptist Minister - lived at Amersham, Bucks so the family's religious overseer was never far away.

John, noted as a craftsman, had an appreciation of things mechanical and musical. For a living however, John opted to exploit his undoubted scholarly skills to become a Bookkeeper. One suspects that demand for cabinet making/pianomaking was falling off for John to follow his father.

Marriage to Theresa Whitefield took place in 1865 in St.Pancras. Theresa had roots in Barnstaple so it is likely that she came into contact with the Youatts through Cocks relatives. John's sister Mary Youatt also married a Whitefield - Henry Martyn Whitefield brother of Theresa.

Soon after the London marriage the couple moved to Heckmondwyke in Yorkshire.

John had secured a position in the Yorkshire town as the bookkeeper to a cotton mill at a time when the North was very much at the centre of Britain's 'Industrial Revolution'.

During his clerical duties John came into contact with accountants vetting the firms books, a turning point that led John to see his future in the profession - he left to join the firm Jones Crewdson and Co. in the bustling city of Manchester. Business then took the form of preparing accounts for business and work in connection with bankruptcies and receiverships, for those were the days of firms run on partnerships rather than limited liability companies as was later favoured.

Early accountants were unregulated professionally but the formation of a Royal Charter was enacted to control standards - John became an early member of what became the Royal Institute of Chartered Accountants.

John then became a partner of the firm that then became known as Jones, Crewdson & Youatt. In later years a branch in London under the name Crewdson, Youatt & Howard was set up and lasted into the 1940's.

With amalgamation amongst the great cotton companies of Manchester John was in a good position to benefit from his chosen profession as an early accountant his name and reputation brought business to his firm and a handsome income with it.

John Youatt thrived professionally and moved to a substantial house on the outskirts of Manchester, the first to be lit by electricity. Things mechanical and electrical fascinated

John and interest in the arts was never far away, for he had inherited his father's interest in music and had a fine collection of musical instruments.

Some eight children were born to John and Theresa and all but one survived to live quite rich and talented lives. With a professional and artistic background all the siblings of John were either, or married into, the professions.



A group photograph of the family of John and Theresa Youatt.  
(Estimated to have been taken around 1894)

Standing in back row were *Edgar - Leonard - Alice - Frank - Ernest*

Seated are *Gerald - JOHN YOUATT - Theresa Youatt - Claude Septimus*

#### **Alice 1869**

Alice married a solicitor John Risque of Manchester during 1893.

#### **ERNEST 1873 - ?**

Ernest married in Chorlton Lancs in 1902 and subsequently went to South Africa he had a son John b.1903 and a daughter Marie Therese b.1907.

#### **FRANK 1866 - 1947**

Frank became a partner in the firm of Jones Crewdson & Youatt of Manchester - he was a Chartered Accountant.

Three children from his second marriage in 1928 followed four children from his first marriage of 1890. Several descendants are known to exist.

### ***LEONARD 1868- 1955***

Leonard became a Doctor of Medicine and married Hannah Edith Faraday Whitaker whose family was linked genealogically with the famous scientist Michael Faraday. After a practice in Yarmouth Norfolk with Hannah's brother the couple sold up and moved to Prescott Lancs to a much poorer practice - a move reflecting their humanitarian and radically socialist beliefs. Leonard's partner Whitaker advanced in Government circles to become involved in establishing a National Health Bill.

Whitaker did not forget his one time partner by sending referee work on workman's compensation claims, these aided Leonard's finance. Later his good works amongst the poor were given recognition by naming a street in Prescott *Youatt Street*.

### ***GERALD 1875 - 1952***

Gerald became a Chartered Accountant in the London branch of Crewdson Youatt and Howard he married in 1906 and descendants are known to exist.

### ***EDGAR 1877 - 1963***

Edgar trained and became a Solicitor and became a partner in Smith Youatt & Smith of Manchester.

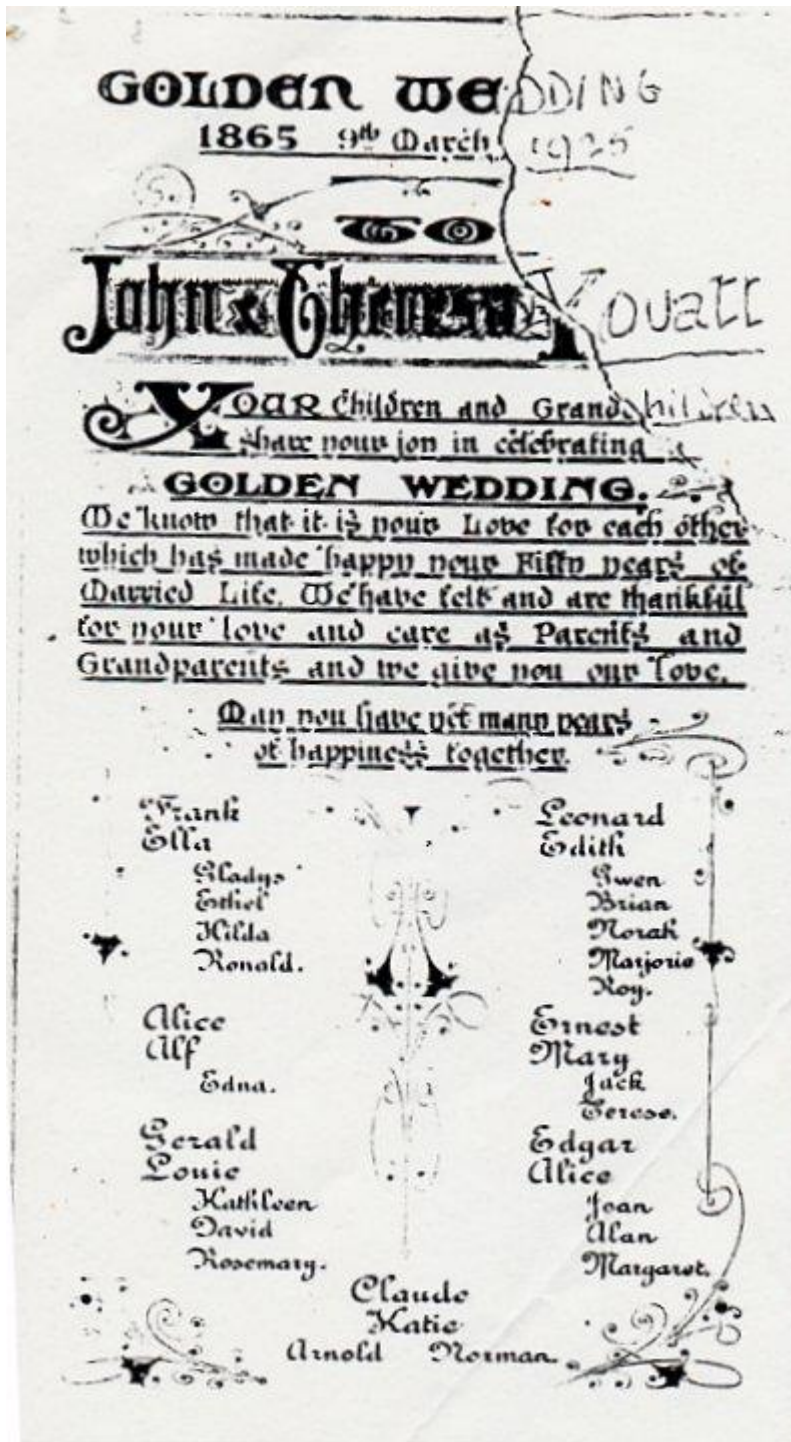
### ***CLAUDE SEPTIMUS 1880 - 1972***

Claude like most of his brothers received an education at Manchester Grammar School. By profession he was a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and was well known in the profession. Claude was the Managing Director of a centrifugal pump manufacturers Rhodes Brydon & Youatt situated at Waterloo Works Stockport near Manchester. Claude was proud of the works address as it reflected the birthdate of his grandfather George Heanes Youatt (he was however in error by muddling Waterloo 1814 with Napoleons Moscow defeat of 1812)

About 1957 Claude and his son Norman - also a Chartered Engineer courteously met the writer at their works and gave a tour around a small but busy factory. An ingenious combination of an integrally mounted electric motor and pump patented as "Mo-pump" was the basis of their success. The firm was eventually sold to a larger pump maker Norton.



When the writer applied for chartered recognition by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1955 Claude wrote a congratulatory letter. Queries as to how we were related led to very helpful correspondence and were eventually solved thanks to the spur given by Claude's query. In reality we were second cousins twice removed!



The illustration is printed from a damaged original and lists the guests present at the Golden Wedding party of John & Therese Youatt on 9th March 1925.

All the family was present with their wives.



Shown above is the MoPump that was the mainstay of Claude Septimus Youatt and Norman Youatt.

Both were Chartered Mechanical Engineers.

They sold out eventually to Norton a larger manufacturer.

Their letter head of 1955 was

Rhodes Brydon & Youatt, Engineers, Waterloo Engineering Works, Gorsey Mount Street, Stockport

### **Acknowledgements**

The Manchester Youatt Story is one of Youatt/Heanes descendants and owes its telling to the help of many living descendants of John and Theresa's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren many of whom have corresponded on the subject of Youatt genealogy. Grateful thanks are given by the writer - one of the Youatt/Rumbelow descendants - for all the data and pictures so freely given.

## List of Sources

The following list of organisations and persons is gratefully acknowledged for their help in assembling this account of our YOUATT history.

### *County Record Offices.*

Devon including offices at North Devon, and the West Country Studies Centre.

Devon and Cornwall Record Society.

Gloucestershire Record Office

Leicestershire Record Office

Hampshire Record Office

City of Southampton – City Records

West Sussex Record Office

Wiltshire Record Office

Public Record Office

Somerset House

### **Professional Researchers**

Mrs. M. Snetzler      North Devon  
Records

Madame M.Audin      France  
Univ.

Mr.Frank Dorman      Boston USA

Mrs. Jean Jensen      Minnesota USA

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Berrisford Society      England

Huguenot Society, London

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London

Mr.Roy Campbell Swansea

**Persons contributing from their own knowledge or researches into Youatt history**

**From those with Youatt-Rumbelow roots**

**From those with Youatt - Heanes roots**

Ernest Wm.Youatt Eastleigh Claude Septimus Youatt Lancs Cheadle

Triss Youatt Eastleigh Martin Phelps Notts.

Elsie Hallett Eastleigh Peter Rowe London

Connie Howell Southampton Kate Youatt Somerton

Leslie Jenkins Plymouth John Youatt Dunning Yorks

Mary Youatt Steinbauer USA Peter Youatt E.Sussex

William G.Youatt USA Richard W.Youatt. USA

Marilyn Konruff USA Lady Judy Buckley Kent

Anne James Youatt USA

Melita Habenicht USA

Carol Regan (Berrisford) USA

***Those with other Newton Tracey links***

Marilyn Konruff	USA	Miss Jean Youatt	Australia
Don Youatt	USA	Colin Elworthy	Swimbridge
Alan Rumbelow	Sussex	Mrs Dymond	Yarnscombe
Cliff Cooper	Torpoint	Mrs.Gwen Bale	Monkleigh

***Other helpful sources***

Boyds Marriage Index

Mormon Genealogical Index

Weavers, Tuckers & Shearmen Guild  
(Sec.)

***Other helpful people***

Mrs.Hewitt of The Athaneum Barnstaple

Rev.B.M.Tinsley      Newton Tracey

Rev.John Hornby      Challacombe

Rev.Paul Avis      South Molton

Rev.Frank Day      Grittleton

Ralph Neeld      Bath

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Claude Septimus Youatt M.I.Mech.E and his son Norman. - through Claude a sight of the College of Herald's Youatt pedigree of Mrs.Ethel Dunning was the start of the author's genealogical researches.

Peter Rowe - husband of Mary Granddaughter of Dr. Leonard Youatt. - Peter amassed considerable data of his late wife's family and shared this freely.

Lady Judy Buckley - Great Granddaughter of Victor Youatt. - Judy has intensively researched the life of George Heanes Youatt the pianomaker and has kindly allowed use of the Lannoy oil painting copies of GHY and son John and that of Hephzibah and children Also the picture of Victor Youatt.

Mrs.Kathleen Youatt - the late wife of David (son of Gerald) together with Richard Winter Youatt son of David and Kathleen. - Kathleen allowed the family group photograph of John & Theresa to be freely copied.

Dr.Martin Phelps - a great grandson of Frank Youatt. Martin carried out quite detailed research into Youatt family history and generously shared this.

John Youatt Dunning - a Grandson of Frank Youatt. Youatt genealogy owes much to John's mother Mrs. Ethel Dunning who commissioned the College of Heralds for a pedigree revealing her descendency.

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