

The

GRIMSEY

families of

Thorrington, Essex
and surrounding areas

and

Layham, Suffolk

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Introduction

My GRIMSEY line begins, or rather ends, with Emma Maria GRIMSEY, who was my father's maternal grandmother.

In my research of the GRIMSEY family I have had a great deal of help from my cousin (second, once removed!) Richard Smith¹. Although he and his wife Jeanette have lived in New Zealand for thirty years we have corresponded extensively via the Internet.

Some years ago I was contacted by Chris Carey, a third cousin; I have also corresponded with Alan Finch², a fourth cousin, who lives in London; and Sue Crook, a fifth cousin, from Basingstoke. Each has provided me with a considerable amount of information. My relationship to each of these is shown at the end of the 'Charts' booklet.

Our Grimsey family seems to have its origins in Polstead, Suffolk, although they later moved to Essex, particularly to the area around Frating and Thorrington, not far from Brightlingsea. Other branches – the COOPER and earlier lines – also came from Suffolk.

The outline tree for the family is shown.

As with other branches of my family, I have concentrated my research on the most recent six generations – that is, as far back as my 4xgreat-grandparents. In general this goes back to around the beginning of the 19th century. Before this my research has produced fewer results; mainly because there are fewer results to find, but also because it is much harder to establish and prove relationships at this distance.

This volume divides into two parts. The first is concerned with my direct (primary) ancestors on this line and traces each surname back; the second part contains whatever information I have found about my secondary and tertiary relative – that is, about the brothers, sisters and cousins of my direct line.

Information about my great-grandparent on this branch of my family continues in a companion volume "Recent Generations".

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² Alan Finch, 30 Tree Road, Custom House, London E16 3DZ Tel: 020 7476 9802

Early generations of the GRIMSEY family

Firm evidence relating to the middle of the 17th century is hard to come by, but information from other members of the Grimsey family suggests that my 6xgt-grandfather on this branch of the family was John, baptised on 05 MAY 1689 at Lindsey in Suffolk. This village is approximately halfway between Sudbury and Ipswich. John's parents were Thomas and Mary: likely possibilities are Thomas, son of Richard and Jane ROBINSON, born c1650 at Polstead; and Mary BLAND, daughter of John.

Thomas and Mary married on 02 NOV 1686¹ at Semer, just a couple of miles north-east of Lindsey. This was probably Mary's home village, and she is likely to have been several years younger than Thomas.

They had three children: Thomas (26 JUL 1687), John (05 MAY 1689), and Mary (20 MAY 1693), all baptised at Lindsey.

Thomas (1687 - ?) 352M

The IGI records a marriage for Thomas GRIMSEY, at Hadleigh, which is about four miles south-east of Lindsey², in 1716.

John (1689 - ?) 352

John, my direct ancestor, married Mary HOLDEN at Polstead, some five miles south of Semer, on 13 MAR 1710³. Their story continues below.

Mary (1693 - ?) 352N

There are no marriages for a Mary GRIMSEY in Suffolk between 1709 and 1736 recorded in the IGI.

There were several other GRIMSEY baptisms around this time, making it difficult to positively identify the correct family:

Joseph GRIMSEY, parents Robert & Mary, 03 MAY 1683, Kersey

John GRIMSEY, parents Robert & Mary, 18 MAR 1684, Kersey

Thomas GRIMSEY, parents John & -, 23 DEC 1690, Hadleigh

A Joseph Grimsey appears in the Poll Book for 1727, showing him resident at Lindsey. This is likely to be the Joseph above.

John GRIMSEY 352

John GRIMSEY and Mary HOLDEN were married on 13 MAR 1710 at Polstead, in Suffolk⁴. This is in the south of the county, about five miles south of Lindsey and less than three miles from the Essex border. A Mary HOLDEN was baptised on 02 MAY 1692, which would fit well, but this was at Barrow, some 28 miles north-west of Polstead.

John and Mary had eleven children, all but one baptised at Great Wenham, in Suffolk, about five miles east of Polstead⁵; Mary, the eldest, was baptised at Lindsey so presumably the family moved from

¹ the IGI shows a marriage between Thomas GRIMSEY and Mary BLAND on 02 NOV 1686 at Semer, SFK

² marriage to Elizabeth WARREN, 18 OCT 1716 at Hadleigh

³ IGI

⁴ IGI

⁵ all baptism dates are taken from the IGI; they have not been verified

Lindsey to Great Wenham around 1712. John is shown in the Poll Book of 1727, resident in Great Wenham.

Mary (04 JUL 1711) **176K**

A likely marriage was to Henry HAIST on 02 FEB 1737 at Hadleigh.

Jane (05 MAY 1713) **176L**

John (18 NOV 1714) **176M**

The most likely marriage was at Hadleigh to Elizabeth SCHOFIELD on 17 SEP 1751; two children (John and Thomas) were baptised on 17 JUL 1752 at Great Wenham¹ with parents John and Elizabeth. The NBI records the burial of John GRIMSEY, aged 88, at Great Wenham on 03 DEC 1802.

Robert (05 FEB 1716) **176**

Robert GRIMSEY married Martha LOTT on 05 NOV 1751 at Little Bealings². This is some 14 miles north-east of Great Wenham, directly through Ipswich. Family lore has it that Robert was my direct ancestor, but no reason for his move here has been given. Assuming he was my direct ancestor, his story continues below. I have found no relevant baptism entries in the Little Bealings register from 1722 – 1745 or from 1751 – 1765, or any burials 1751 – 1765.

Joseph (08 JAN 1718) **176N**

The IGI records only one marriage for a Joseph GRIMSEY in Suffolk: to Susannah GILLBUN on 27 MAY 1751 at Hadleigh.

Elizabeth (03 MAY 1721) **176O**

It is likely that this Elizabeth, and also the one baptised four years later, died as an infant or young child, as another daughter was baptised with the same name in 1735, but no details have been found.

William (12 MAY 1723) **176P**

Elizabeth (26 JAN 1725) **176Q**

Isaack (03 DEC 1727) **176R**

Sarah (26 DEC 1731) **176S**

Sarah died in 1733.

Elizabeth (26 JAN 1735) **176T**

Robert GRIMSEY (1716 – 1763) **176**

The first written evidence of a GRIMSEY that I have found in Essex shows the baptism of John³, baptised on 23 AUG 1752, the son of Robert and Martha.

It seems (according to living members of the Grimsey family) that Robert was baptised on 05 FEB 1716/17 at Great Wenham, SFK, and married Martha LOTT on 05 NOV 1751 at Little Bealings (in

¹ IGI

² register for SFK Little Bealings (microfiche in Suffolk CRO, Ipswich)

³ Frating register of baptisms

the same county). Robert and Martha then, apparently, moved about 20 miles south to Thorrington, in Essex, where their seven children were born.

There seems to be little doubt that Robert and Martha were two of my 5xgt-grandparents: what must be open to doubt is their earlier history. How would Robert, born at Great Wenham, know of Martha? and why would they then move south, away from their families, into a different county?

A record of Robert's burial has been found (see later) and from the age given the birth-year of 1717 corresponds. I believe him to be one of my 5 x great-grandfathers.

In the Parish register for Frating, where the baptisms of Robert and Martha's children are recorded, on several occasions the mother's name is shown as 'Hanner' or 'Hannah'. On each occasion this has been crossed out and replaced with 'Martha'. It seems that the incumbent at the time was confused over various members of the GRIMSEY family, and he explains the error in a note at the back of the register, shown here.

"Entry of July 9th 1780. Altered from Sarah to Hannah GRIMSEY. She was the wife of John GRIMSEY, and died July 6th. See the tombstone in the churchyard. There was no Sarah GRIMSEY that died at this time.

"There were two persons of that name, viz. Sarah, daughter of John and the above Hannah, see register of Baptisms January 16th 1778, since married to Joseph DAWSON of Great Bentley; and Sarah, daughter of Robert and Martha GRIMSEY, baptised Sept. 16th 1760, married to Richard HOULDING.

"Entry of June 6th 1785 Martha GRIMSEY. She was widow of Robert GRIMSEY. In no less than eight sections of this register she is called Hannah. I have corrected these, and the above of July 9th 1780, on the authority of her own family, and other undoubted testimony."

Signed by the Rector, Nov 1st 1813

The Hannah referred to in the first paragraph above was the daughter-in-law of Robert and Martha – the wife of their first child, John¹.

Robert was buried at Frating² on 19 FEB 1763, leaving a will in which he disposed of over £250 – surely a considerable sum for a labourer to leave at that time, although – as may be seen – he is described in his will as a 'yeoman'³. Extracts from the will⁴ are shown below. His will was written only five days before he was buried; as he was only 46 when he died this suggests that he was suffering from an illness, or possibly an accident, that resulted in his death. It may appear surprising that he seems to have left nothing to his wife, but at that time any estate could not be disposed of in a will but passed automatically to the surviving spouse. He never saw his youngest child, Lucy; he died a little over five months before she was born. The entry for her baptism, on 07 AUG 1763⁵, reads 'Lucy daughter of Widow Grimsey'.

Will of Rob, yeoman, proved at Frating on 19 MAR 1763

. . . to John GRIMSEY my eldest son and to Robert GRIMSEY my second son and to Isaac my third son each of them £70 . . . I give and bequeath to Sarah GRIMSEY my daughter the sum of £50 . . . when she shall attain the age of 21. I appoint John LOTT and Martha GRIMSEY my wife . . .

Dated 14 FEB 1763.

¹ see Appendix 088L

² Frating register of burials

³ 'yeoman' was generally used by a freehold farmer – that is, one who owned his own land. He was thus of slightly higher rank than copyhold or tenant farmers, who were usually described as 'husbandmen'

⁴ will at Essex Record Office ref D/A BR 25/237

⁵ Frating register of baptisms

Robert's will confirms that at the time of his death only four children were still living, the elder Robert and Joseph having both died young. The reference to John LOTT as executor is a good indication that his wife's maiden name had indeed been LOTT.

Martha survived her husband by some 22 years and was buried at Frating on *06 JUN 1785*¹. She too left a will, which at that time must have been quite an unusual occurrence for a woman, and extracts from it are shown².

Will of Martha, widow, proved at Frating on 23 JUL 1785 (ERO ref D/A BR 27/541)

The will runs to three pages.

. . . my son John GRIMSEY . . .

. . . all my four children, that is, John GRIMSEY, Robert GRIMSEY, Isaac GRIMSEY and my daughter Sarah HOULDING now the wife of Richard HOULDING of Great Clacton . . .

John (1752 - 1813) ³

088L

John was the first child, and was baptised on *23 AUG 1752*. In 1777 he married Hannah ALLEN, and they had one daughter, Sarah, who was baptised on *16 JAN 1778*.

Robert (1754 - 1755)

088M

The first Robert, baptised on *31 MAR 1754*⁴, was buried ten months later on 17 JAN 1755⁵.

Robert (1755 - 1824)

088

The second Robert (and third son), one of my 4 x gt-grandfathers, was baptised only four months after the death of his elder brother of the same name, on *18 MAY 1755*⁶. When he was 14, he was apprenticed as a cooper to Richard MAY of St Osyth⁷. Ten years later, aged 24, on 13 JUL 1779⁸, he married Prudence HOLDEN, of Great Bentley, at the church of St Mary the Virgin in that village. I have a list of 'Admitted And Sworn Free Burgesses of Colchester' sent to me in 1990⁹ and among these is a Robert GRIMSEY of Great Bentley, cooper, apprenticed to Richard MAY, and admitted [as a Burgess¹⁰] on 02 OCT 1781. 'Our' Robert would have been about 26 at this date, and he could well have been this apprentice. His story continues on page 17.

Joseph GRIMSEY (1757 - 1757)

088N

Joseph, the fourth son, was baptised on *24 JUN 1757*¹¹ and buried just five days later on *29 JUN 1757*¹².

¹ Frating register of burials

² will at Essex Record Office, ref D/A BR 27/541

³ see Appendix 088L, page 100

⁴ Frating register of baptisms

⁵ Frating register of burials

⁶ Frating register of baptisms; the entry shows 'Robt'

⁷ UK Apprentices' Indentures

⁸ St Mary, Great Bentley, register of marriages

⁹ by Mr Alf Wakeling, 9 Queen Street, Brightlingsea, Essex CO7 0PH

¹⁰ a Burgess was originally a freeman of a borough; it later came to mean the representative of a borough in the House of Commons

¹¹ Frating baptism register

¹² Frating baptism register

Isaac (1758 - 1814) ¹

0880

Isaac GRIMSEY was baptised on 16 *JUL 1758*, and married Susan GOLDACRE on 01 NOV 1803 at Frating, by licence. They had two children.

Sarah (1760 - 1837) ²

088P

Sarah, baptised on 16 *SEP 1760*, married Richard HOULDING, of Great Bentley, on 02 OCT 1782 at Frating. It is likely that this is the same family as 'HOLDEN', and that Richard was the brother of Prudence, whom Sarah's elder brother Robert had married three years earlier.

It is also possible, though less likely, that Richard and Prudence were relatives of Mary HOLDEN, grandmother of Robert GRIMSEY.

Lucy (1763 - 1764)

088Q

Lucy, baptised as the 'daughter of the widow GRIMSEY' on 07 *AUG 1763*³ just eight months after her father Robert had been buried, was buried on 06 *FEB 1764*⁴.

¹ see Appendix 088O on page 116

² see Appendix 088P on page 117

³ Frating baptism register

⁴ Frating burial register

G6 – GRIMSEY family

Robert GRIMSEY and Prudence HOLDEN (Houlding?) were married at St Mary the Virgin, Great Bentley, on 13 JUL 1779¹. She had been baptised in that church on 03 AUG 1754, the daughter of Thomas and Mary.

They had eleven children: the family is shown. The first three were baptised at St Mary's, Great Bentley; the remainder were baptised at Frating, just a couple of miles away.

As can be seen from the tree, one child, Aaron, died at the age of 14; but all the others, with the possible exception of David, went on to marry and have children of their own. Their families are shown.

Robert died and was buried at Frating on 13 APR 1824; Prudence had died two years earlier and had been buried on 12 JUN 1822. In the register her age was shown as 64, giving a birthdate of 1758 rather than 1754.

Robert (1779 – 1828) ² [044G]

Robert, the eldest son, was baptised at Great Bentley on 12 SEP 1779. He married Susan GRIMSEY (née GOLDACRE) on 17 OCT 1820 at Frating.

John (1781 – 1859) ³ [044H]

John, who was Alan Finch's gt-gt-grandfather, was baptised on 01 JUL 1781. He married Mary PINNER on 02 NOV 1810 at Kirby-le-Soken.

Isaac (1783 – 1849) ⁴ [044I]

Isaac was baptised at Great Bentley on 25 MAY 1783. He was married twice, the first time on 05 DEC 1809 to Mary BENNEWORTH at Thorpe-le-Soken.

Lucy (1785 – 1867) ⁵ [044J]

On 18 JUL 1815 Lucy (baptised 17 APR 1784) married James TILLET.

Martha (1787 – 1875) ⁶ [044K]

Martha (baptised 14 JAN 1787) married Bruce PULFIER on 17 APR 1815; two children were baptised.

David (1788 – 1865) ⁷ [044L]

David was baptised, together with his brother George, on 30 APR 1790 at Frating.

George (1790 – 1877) ⁸ [044M]

George was baptised at Frating on 30 APR 1790 and married Sarah ROWLAND.

¹ Great Bentley marriage register

² see Appendix 044G on page 86

³ see Appendix 044H on page 87

⁴ see Appendix 044I on page 92

⁵ see Appendix 044J on page 100

⁶ see Appendix 044K on page 103

⁷ see Appendix 044L on page 104

⁸ see Appendix 044M on page 105

Joseph (1792 – 1855)**[044]**

Joseph was the sixth son and eighth child of Robert and Prudence. Baptised *09 APR 1792*¹, he was one of my 3xgt-grandfathers. His story is continued below, on page 19.

Aaron Lot (1794 – 1808)**[044N]**

Aaron Lot (baptised *10 AUG 1794*²) was buried on *29 JUL 1808*³ a few days before his 14th birthday. Was Aaron's second name in recognition of his grandmother's maiden name (LOTT)?

Nicholas (1797 – 1864)⁴**[044O]**

Nicholas (baptised *12 NOV 1797* at Frating) was another member of the list of 'Free Burgesses' referred to above. He married his cousin Susanna GRIMSEY, born about 1805, on 18 JUL 1826 at Frating.

Prudence (1799 – 1876)⁵**[044P]**

Prudence was baptised on *14 AUG 1809*, although she had been born some ten years earlier on 09 DEC 1799. On 28 FEB 1820, shortly after her 20th birthday, she married Josiah GUNN at Frating.

Other GRIMSEY entries

In the Kirby-le-Soken register of baptisms there are entries for several children of Joseph and Sarah: Daniel (1819); Joseph (1819); Sarah Ann (1821); Martha (1823) and John (1826). Other sources indicate that Joseph, the father, had been married on 22 JAN 1817 and came from East Bergholt (SFK). It is possible that this is another branch of 'my' family and further research is indicated.

There is also, again in the Kirby register, a burial of Joseph on 09 JAN 1795.

Mary Ann GRIMSEY, an infant, was buried at Frating on *09 NOV 1811*. Her burial as an infant suggests a birthdate during 1811, and it is strange that no baptism record has been found there for her. As every other GRIMSEY entry at Frating is part of the same family it is likely that Mary Ann was the first daughter of John and Mary (PINNER), who were married in November 1810.

¹ Frating baptism register

² Frating baptism register

³ Frating burial register

⁴ see Appendix 044O

⁵ see Appendix 044P

G5 – GRIMSEY family

Joseph, the eighth child of Robert and Prudence, was my 3 x great-grandfather. He married Mary CLARK, of Thorrington, in her parish church¹ on 22 DEC 1815. She had been baptised, at Great Bentley, on 03 JUN 1798². Both the 1851 census and her death certificate confirm her year of birth as 1797/8, , so at the time of her marriage she was only 17 or 18.

Joseph and Mary had ten children that I have found³, at least one of which died in infancy. Joseph is shown as a ‘husbandman’⁴ for the baptisms of the first nine children, and ‘labourer’ for the next two entries. The family is shown.

All the children were born and baptised in Thorrington; the Poll Book for Colchester of 1820 shows Joseph resident in Thorrington, occupation ‘husbandman’.

In 1851 Joseph and Mary were living in Thorrington⁵ with son George (Samuel) and grand-daughter Ann ROSE, who was the daughter of Ann (their third daughter) and Samuel ROSE.

Mary died aged 56 and was buried⁶ on 22 MAR 1854, and Joseph was buried⁷ the following year on 20 MAR 1855, aged 62. Both were buried at Thorrington.

Joseph (1816 – 1880)⁸

[022K]

Their first child (Joseph) was baptised on 02 APR 1816⁹. He married Maria BACON, who had been born in Alresford.

Thomas (1817 – 1818)

[022L]

Thomas, the second son, was baptised on 09 DEC 1817¹⁰ and buried less than nine months later at Thorrington¹¹ on 28 AUG 1818.

James (1820 – 1895)¹²

[022M]

James, baptised on 06 FEB 1820, married Caroline G(U)ILDERS at Brightlingsea on 02 NOV 1846.

Robert (1821 – 1902)

[022]

The fourth son, Robert (06/19 OCT 1821 – 08 FEB 1902) is my direct ancestor – my 2xgreat-grandfather on this branch of the family. The 1841 census return shows him living with his elder brother Thomas and his sister-in-law Maria in Thorrington¹³. More details follow in the next section, on page 21.

¹ Thorrington marriage register, page 3

² Essex Baptisms

³ in the Thorrington baptism register

⁴ a ‘husbandman’ was a tenant farmer; he usually held his land by copyhold or leasehold tenure. He was thus working his own land, rather than being paid to work on somebody else’s. It was a step midway between ‘ag lab’ and ‘yeoman’

⁵ 1851 census return for 75 St Osyth Road, Thorrington, HO107/1779

⁶ Thorrington register of burials, page 33

⁷ Thorrington register of burials, page 35

⁸ see Appendix 022K on page 58

⁹ Thorrington register of baptisms, page 5

¹⁰ *op cit*, page 7

¹¹ *op cit*, page 4

¹² see Appendix 022M on page 59

¹³ 1841 census return for Thorrington, HO107/338/11 f11 p16

Mary Ann (1824 - ?)¹ [022N]

The eldest daughter, Mary Ann, was baptised on *16 MAY 1824* and on 15 OCT 1843 she married Joseph ROSE, son of William ROSE, a labourer.

Charlotte (1824 - ?)² [022N]

The Thorrington register records two Charlottes, baptised on *12 MAR 1826* and *13 MAY 1827*, but no burial of a Charlotte is recorded between these two dates. The most likely explanation is that Charlotte was given both a private and a public baptism.

Ann (Nancy) (1828 - 1872)³ [022O]

The next daughter was Ann, also known as Nancy, baptised on *25 MAY 1828*. She married Samuel ROSE, another son of William, at Thorrington on 29 MAR 1846.

Elizabeth (1830 - ?)⁴ [022P]

Elizabeth was baptised on *06 FEB 1830*.

Emma (1833 - 1897)⁵ [022Q]

The youngest daughter, Emma (*25 JUL / 22 SEP 1833*), married John KING on 25 JAN 1852. She survived her husband John for seven years and was buried in Brightlingsea on *04 AUG 1897*.

George Samuel (1840 - 1915)⁶ [022R]

George Samuel, the youngest son, was born on 18 JUL 1840 and baptised ten months later on *16 MAY 1841*. He married Martha GARNETT on 12 NOV 1864 at Great Bentley; they had two children.

¹ see Appendix 4.5

² see Appendix 4.6

³ see Appendix 4.8

⁴ see Appendix 4.9

⁵ see Appendix 4.10

⁶ see Appendix 4.11

G4 – GRIMSEY family

Robert GRIMSEY and Phoebe COOPER, two of my great-great-grandparents, married at St Osyth on 08 MAY 1847¹; Joseph ROSE, husband of Mary Ann (ROSE née GRIMSEY) and therefore Robert's brother-in-law, was a witness.

In 1851 Robert and Phoebe were living at 'Cottage on Heath', St Osyth, next door to Robert's brother Joseph² and his wife Maria. Two children are shown in the 1851 census: Eliza, aged 3, and Octavia J, just seven months. The census also shows a lodger, John KING, who married Robert's sister Emma³ early the following year. The cottage was probably on 'Rough Heath', shown on the map, just north of Ampers Wick farm, where Thomas COOPER, a farmer employing six labourers, lived with his wife Eleanor and niece Rhoda. It seems likely that Robert, Joseph and John were three of the six labourers employed by Thomas. No definite connection between Thomas and the rest of the family has so far been established but it is likely that he was Phoebe's uncle, the younger brother of her father James.

Nine children – three boys and six girls – are recorded. Three died in infancy, two of whom were named Ruth. The family is shown, and it is worth noting that dates of birth, rather than baptism, are recorded: I am fortunate to have received a family bible, passed down from my great-grandmother (Emma Maria), in which such dates were recorded.

By 1861 Robert and Phoebe were living on Tenpenny Heath, Thorrington⁴, which is a few miles from Brightlingsea, with daughters Jane, Ellen and Emma and son Joseph. Jane is Octavia Jane; Emma's age is given as three, indicating that she was born in about 1858 (her birth certificate confirms a date of 05 SEP 1857). Eliza was not present; at the age of 13 she would have been rather young to have left home although, in fact, she had done so – see later, in Appendix 011K on page 37. Ten years later, the 1871 census shows them at Tenpenny Hill⁵, the incline leading up into Thorrington Cross.

By 1881 Robert and Phoebe were living in Little Bentley⁶, with just Joseph (aged 21) and Robert (14). This village is about five miles north and slightly east of Thorrington. The 1891 census shows that they had returned to Thorrington⁷.

Phoebe died on 12 MAR 1900. The following year Robert was living with Octavia and her husband Stephen in Lawford⁸ but he died of bronchitis the following year, on 24 FEB 1902⁹. The informant was Octavia Carey, their second daughter. Both Robert and Phoebe are buried in the churchyard at St Mary's, Lawford.

Eliza (1847 - ?)¹⁰

011K

Eliza (21 OCT/21 NOV 1847) was the eldest daughter. At the age of 22 she married Thomas ELLIS in London.

¹ marriage certificate

² 1851 census return for (household 4), Cottage on Heath, St Osyth, HO107/1779 f58; Joseph and Maria were in household 5

³ see Appendix 022R

⁴ 1861 census return for Tenpenny Heath, Thorrington, RG9/1092 f157

⁵ 1871 census return for Tenpenny Hill, Thorrington, RG10/1677 ED12 f58

⁶ 1881 census return for Manningtree Road, Little Bentley, RG11/1785 f91 p4

⁷ 1891 census return for Colchester Road School House, Thorrington, RG12/1405 f121

⁸ 1901 census return for Hungerdowns Lane, Lawford, RG13/1704 f58 p4

⁹ death certificate

¹⁰ see Appendix 011K

Octavia Jane (1850 – 1928) ¹ **011L**

The next daughter in line is Octavia Jane. She was born on 12 AUG 1850 and married Stephen CAREY on 03 OCT 1873 at Lawford.

Ellen (1855 – 1918) ² **011M**

Ellen, the third daughter, was born on 13 JAN 1855 and married Josiah WHENT, a mariner, at Christchurch, Bermondsey on 22 JAN 1874.

Emma Maria (1857 – 1937) **011**

The fourth daughter of Robert and Phoebe was Emma Maria (05 SEP 1857³), my great-grandmother on this branch of the family. She married George Henry HUMPHRIES on 04 APR 1880⁴. He was, at the time of their marriage, a gardener and the family bible records his birth as 24 JUL 1849.

This family's history is continued in 'Recent Generations'.

The 1881 census shows them living at 20 Weston Street, Clerkenwell where his occupation is 'stoker at Club' – his death certificate, some 42 years later, shows him as being a 'boiler minder at a Club'. Quite how and why they met is not known, but the most likely explanation is that Emma Maria came to London to work 'in service', although there is no occupation recorded on her marriage certificate. Ten years later, as noted in Appendix 011M, they were sharing a house with Ellen and Josiah WHENT, Emma's sister and brother-in-law; George was listed in the census return as a 'waterside labourer'.

Joseph Thomas (1860 – ?) ⁵ **011N**

Joseph was born on 04 JAN 1860 and baptised on 01 APR the same year. He married Emily Marsh, from Shotley, on 03 NOV 1881.

Ruth (1863 – 1864) **011O**

Ruth, the sixth child, was born 12 JUN 1863⁶, baptised 16 AUG 1863⁷ and was buried on 24 JUL 1864⁸.

Robert (1866 – 1919) ⁹ **011P**

Robert, born 17 APR 1866¹⁰ and baptised 20 MAY 1866¹¹, became a brickmaker. He married Mary Gosling. Robert died and was buried at Great Bentley on 29 JUL 1919.

¹ see Appendix 011L

² see Appendix 011M

³ birth certificate

⁴ marriage certificate

⁵ see Appendix 011N

⁶ Thorrington register of baptisms

⁷ Thorrington register of baptisms

⁸ Thorrington register of burials, p42

⁹ see Appendix 011P

¹⁰ Thorrington register of baptisms, p95

¹¹ Thorrington register of baptisms, p95

Wille (1869 – 1870)**011Q**

The sole evidence for Wille is his birthdate, given as 12 DEC 1868¹; his burial on 08 MAY 1870, at the age of nine weeks, is recorded in the burial register² for St Mary Magdalene, Thorrington. The dates given don't correspond to a life of only nine weeks: the ONS records the birth registration in the 1st quarter of 1870³ and the death registration the following quarter⁴, so perhaps the entry in the family bible was wrong and it should have been 12 DEC 1869, although the age of nine weeks remains a mystery.

Ruth (1869 – 1870)**011R**

A second Ruth was born 23 NOV 1869⁵ and buried 21 APR 1869⁶. Clearly, either one of these dates is wrong or they refer to two different people. Registrations for a Ruth GRIMSEY are recorded: a birth in the 4th quarter of 1869⁷ and a death in the 2nd quarter of 1870⁸. The NBI shows the burial of Ruth GRIMSEY on 21 APR 1870, so apparently the burial was recorded incorrectly in the parish register.

These two youngest children are something of a mystery. The table below summarises the available information.

| | Wille (William) | Ruth |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| birth recorded in family bible | 12 DEC 1868 | 23 NOV 1869 |
| birth in ONS records | Q1/1870 | Q4/1869 |
| burial in church register | 08 MAY 1870 (9 weeks) | 21 APR 1869 (infant) |
| NBI record | 08 MAY 1870 (9 weeks) | 21 APR 1870 (infant) |
| death in ONS records | Q2/1870 | Q2/1870 |

Perhaps significantly, neither child is recorded as being baptised in the Thorrington register.

William. The burial record and the ONS record together indicate that the burial date of 08 MAY 1870 is probably correct. If the recorded age of nine weeks is correct this would give a birth date of 06 MAR 1870; this agrees with the ONS record but not at all with the family bible.

Ruth. The ONS birth and the bible agree and therefore it is likely that the birth was indeed on 23 NOV 1869. Clearly the burial date recorded in the church baptism register is wrong and it is possible that my transcription was recorded incorrectly.

With the assumptions made above, Wille and Ruth were apparently born within three weeks of one another. An explanation could be that they were not, after all, children of the same parents and were from different families – but both births were recorded in the family bible (with one apparently giving an incorrect date). Another possible explanation is that one of the two children was born to an elder sister, rather than to Phoebe; for further discussion of this see Appendix 011K, on page 37.

¹ family Bible

² *op cit*, page 48

³ ONS birth reference for William GRIMSEY, Q1/1870, Tendring, 4a 281

⁴ ONS death reference for William GRIMSEY aged 0, Q2/1870, Tendring, 4a 164

⁵ family Bible

⁶ Thorrington burial register, page 48

⁷ ONS birth reference for Ruth GRIMSEY, Q4/1869, Tendring, 4a 257

⁸ ONS death reference for Ruth GRIMSEY, Q2/1870, Tendring, 4a 163

Early generations of the HOLDEN (HOULDING) family

Two of my 5 x gt-grandparents were Thomas HOULDING (sometimes HOLDEN) and Mary NUNN, who were married at Ardleigh in 1744¹. A possible birth has been found for Thomas (1719) at Ardleigh, but it is likely that Mary was born some eight years later, about 1727, at Great Oakley.

They had seven children, all baptised at Great Bentley.

Little research has been done into this side of the family and little is known about it, with the exception of Prudence who was my 4 x gt-grandmother.

John (1749 - ?) **089K**

John, the first child, was baptised on *20 NOV 1749*². No further record has been found. The NBI records two burials of John HOULDING: 14 JAN 1762 at St Mary, Great Bentley; 09 DEC 1801 at St Mary, Little Bentley. Either of these is a possibility.

Estofidelis³ (1751 - 1755) **089L**

Estofidelis (a very uncommon name!) was baptised on *13 AUG 1751* and buried less than four years later on *23 MAR 1755*⁴.

David (1753 - 1760) **089M**

David's baptism is recorded in the parish register on *20 APR 1753*. The NBI shows the burial of David HOULDING at Great Bentley on 28 OCT 1760 and this is likely to be the same person.

Prudence (1754 - 1822) **089**

Prudence was baptised on *03 AUG 1754* with the surname HOLDEN. Prudence is not a common forename and it seems almost certain that she is my ancestor, the same Prudence who became the wife of Robert GRIMSEY. 250 years ago most of the labouring class were illiterate and when names had to be written, as they were in church registers, the parish clerk wrote what he heard. It is highly probable, therefore, that HOLDEN and HOULDING are the same family. Her story is continued on page 17.

Ann (1754 - ?) **089N**

Ann was baptised on *10 OCT 1754*, two months after her sister Prudence. This seems a little odd, unless Prudence and Ann were twins and Ann was not healthy enough to be baptised on the same date as her sister. There is another possibility, that the transcription is incorrect and Ann was baptised on 10 October but in 1755 or 1756. No further record of Ann has been found.

Richard (1758 - 1758) **089O**

The elder Richard, baptised on *28 MAR 1758*, was buried only a few months later on *23 OCT 1758*⁵.

Richard (1759 - 1815)⁶ **089P**

The seventh child, baptised 'Rich' on *04 DEC 1759*, later married Sarah GRIMSEY, the sister of his brother-in-law Robert, as shown in the pedigree opposite.

¹ IGI; no specific date is given

² all baptism dates in this section are taken from the Great Bentley register of baptisms

³ *esto fidelis* can be translated as 'be faithful', 'strong to the end'

⁴ Great Bentley register of burials

⁵ Great Bentley register of burials

⁶ see Appendix 088P

Other Holden (Houlding) families

There are three HOLDEN families in the Brightlingsea parish registers (John and Jane, Isaac and Mary, Thomas and Sarah) all of which were baptising children between about 1811 and 1823; it is likely that the three fathers were brothers and descendants of one of John or Richard from the above family.

Early generations of the CLARK family

It is likely that the CLARK line of the family starts with Henry CLARK and Ann, although no record of their marriage has been found.

The IGI records the baptism of a John CLARK at Great Bentley on *21 MAY 1721*¹ and this is a possibility, although one reference indicates that he later married a Martha. A second IGI reference for Great Bentley records the baptism of a John CLARK on *18 APR 1731*, this time with parents Henry CLARK and Ann; as John's son was named Henry this is rather more likely.

My 5xgt-grandparents on this branch of the family were John CLARK and Susannah WEBB. They were married, at Great Bentley, on 21 JAN 1755².

The IGI lists several baptisms of a Susan WEBB between 1720 and 1740, but only one of a Susanna³; while this is not conclusive it is at least a strong possibility and the date (1730) is approximately correct.

I have found five children from this marriage; baptism dates are shown below⁴.

John (07 DEC 1755) 090K

Susan (19 FEB 1758) 090L

Benjamin (17 JAN 1760 - 06 MAR 1760) 090M

Henry (20 SEP 1761 - 1860) 090

Henry is one of my 4xgt-grandfathers; he married Jane WEBB on 22 JUN 1784 at Great Bentley. It is tempting to assume that his mother and his wife were directly related, but Jane's baptism has not been found. His story continues in the next section.

Thomas (17 APR 1768 - 03 JUN 1768) 090N

¹ IGI baptism for John CLARK on 21 MAY 1721 at Great Bentley; parents were Samuel CLARK and Elizabeth MANNING

² IGI

³ IGI baptism for Susanna WEBB on 21 MAY 1730 at Colchester St Nicholas; parents were John WEBB and Susanna

⁴ all baptisms were at Great Bentley and all dates are taken from the IGI; none has been confirmed

G6 – CLARK family

Henry CLARK was baptised at Great Bentley on *20 SEP 1761*; his parents were John CLARK and Susannah WEBB. He married Jane WEBB on *22 JUN 1784* at Great Bentley. Henry and Jane were two of my 4xgt-grandparents.

Only two children from the marriage have been found, although with an eleven-year gap between them it is reasonable to assume that there were more children born to this couple. Both children were baptised at Great Bentley.

Henry (1787 - ?)

045M

Henry was baptised on *25 NOV 1787* at Great Bentley. A likely death was in 1860 (buried at Great Bentley on *13 SEP 1860*) but there are several other possibilities.

Mary (1798 - ?)

045

Mary, one of my 3xgt-grandparents, was baptised on *03 JUN 1798*. She married Joseph GRIMSEY on *22 DEC 1815*; the marriage took place at Thorrington, Joseph's home village, so perhaps her parents had moved there from Great Bentley – a matter of only a couple of miles. Her story continues on page 19.

At the date of their marriage she would have been only about 17 and thus a minor (the register states that she was married with her mother's permission, and by licence rather than by banns). One of the witnesses was Thos. CLARK – an uncle, or a cousin?

Early generations of the COOPER family

The earliest members of this branch of the family found so far are John COOPER and his wife Elizabeth (surname unknown).

The IGI lists five children, all baptised at Polstead, Suffolk.

Robert COOPER (1733 - ?) **092K**

Robert, baptised on *28 NOV 1733*, married Anne AYERS on 25 JUL 1761 at Polstead¹.

Mary COOPER (1735 - ?) **092L**

Apart from her baptism, on *28 DEC 1735*, no further record of Mary has been found.

Jane COOPER (1737 - ?) **092M**

Jane, the third child, was baptised on *20 FEB 1737*.

James COOPER (1744 - ?) **092**

James, baptised on *19 SEP 1744*, was one of my 5xgreat-grandfathers. His story continues in the following section.

Judith COOPER (1747 - ?) **092N**

Judith was baptised on *06 MAY 1747*. The IGI records the marriage of a Judith COOPER on 14 JAN 1774 at Capel St Mary, which is about six miles east of Polstead. Her husband was James FALLOWS.

It is likely that another child, possibly more than one, was born between Jane and James, but they have not been found.

¹ dates in this section are from the IGI; they have not been verified

G6 – COOPER family

James COOPER, son of John and Elizabeth, and Hannah PAWLEY, daughter of William and Sarah, both from Layham in Suffolk, were married in that village on 04 NOV 1767. Hannah had been baptised on 20 APR 1745¹; the IGI indicates the baptism of James COOPER in Polstead on 19 SEP 1744.

Just 11 days after their marriage the Layham parish register records the marriage of a Thomas PAWLEY to an Elizabeth BIGGS. Both marriages were witnessed by Philip BIGGS, presumably a relative. Thomas was an elder brother of Hannah – see page 33 for further details of this family.

The parish register records the baptisms of seven children by James and Hannah; all were baptised in Layham.

Both James (senior) and Hannah were buried at Layham²; James as a pauper on 13 JAN 1799 aged 54 and his widow less than two years later on 05 SEP 1800, aged 56.

Mary (1767 - ?) 046J

Mary was baptised on 29 NOV 1767. On 25 DEC 1791 she married John PAWLEY, perhaps a cousin.

William (1770 - ?) 046K

William, the eldest son, was baptised on 18 FEB 1770.

Susan (1772 - ?) 046L

Susan, the second eldest daughter, was baptised on 05 AUG 1772. She married William MANN³ in 1795.

Sarah (1775 - ?) 046M

Sarah was baptised on 23 APR 1775; there is no further information.

James (1779 - ?) 046

James, baptised on 10 DEC 1779, was one of my 4xgt-grandfathers. His story continues below.

John (1783 - ?) 046N

John was the sixth child and the third son. He was baptised on 10 AUG 1783. The only marriage recorded in the IGI of a John COOPER in Layham was that to Elizabeth HALSEY⁴ on 13 OCT 1821. He stayed in Layham, and the 1841 census shows him living with Eliza, aged 16 – perhaps his daughter. He has not been confirmed in the following census return, that of 1851, and it is possible that he had died by then. However, there are no ONS deaths recorded of a John Cooper between 1841 and 1899.

Thomas (1786 - ?) 046O

Thomas was born on 25 MAY 1786 (the register gives both a baptism date and a birthdate for Thomas).

¹ the IGI records the baptism of Hannah POLLY, dau of William POLLY and Sarah, on that date at Layham

² these details from the Layham burial register

³ IGI marriage reference for William MANN and Susan COOPER on 11 OCT 1795 at Layham

⁴ IGI marriage reference for John COOPER and Elizabeth HALSEY on 13 OCT 1821 at Layham

G5 – COOPER family

James COOPER, the fifth child and second son of James and Hannah, was baptised on *10 DEC 1779* in Layham, Suffolk¹. It is likely that he married Bridget THEOBALD on *30 SEP 1812* at Thorrington, although there is no apparent reason why he should have travelled the 20-odd miles south to Thorrington.

Bridget had been born in Aldham, to the west of Colchester, on *13 FEB 1790* and baptised the following day². Her parents were Jacob and Susannah. Following their marriage, James and Bridget had two sons, both baptised at Thorrington (James on *13 JUN 1813* and John on *12 MAR 1815*). Bridget died soon after giving birth to John and was buried on *14 MAR 1815*; John lived for less than two weeks and was buried on *24 MAR 1815*.

James married for the second time on *05 AUG 1816*³, this time to Maria COOK. The wedding took place in her home village of Kirby-le-Soken, about ten miles east of Thorrington. James and Maria soon moved to St Osyth, about four miles south of Thorrington, and they were recorded here in the 1841 census⁴ with five children. All their children were baptised here.

A likely baptism for Maria was on *26 FEB 1796*, at St Michael, Kirby-le-Soken. This record⁵ shows her parents' names as Chisnel and Sarah.

The St Osyth register shows the baptisms of all the children with the exception of Sarah; however, it does show a Sarah COOPER baptised on *18 AUG 1823* with parents James and Susan. As Sarah appears on the 1841 census return, aged 15, it is likely that this was a mistake and the parents should have read James and Maria.

Ten years later they had moved, but stayed within the village⁶. Esther, the youngest child, was still living with them.

By 1861 James had died, although a conclusive death has not been found; the four possibilities, all registered in Tendring⁷, are 1852, 1858 or 1859. Maria is listed in the census of 1861⁸, having moved to a new address in the same street. Thomas, aged 29 and still single, was also there at the time. A likely death for Maria was in 1867, although this was registered in Chelmsford⁹; Maria was buried on *22 MAR 1867* at St Andrew, Boreham¹⁰ (a mile or so outside Chelmsford, to the north-east).

James COOPER (1813 – ?)

0231

James was the first son of James COOPER, by his first wife Bridget. He was baptised on *13 JUN 1813*, a couple of weeks less than nine months after their marriage. No entry in the 1841 census has been found, but a probable marriage to Jane WRIGHTON took place on *15 JAN 1838*¹¹ at St Anne's, Liverpool. Jane had been baptised at the church of Our Lady and St Nicholas on *29 JUN 1817*¹².

¹ Layham parish register

² Baptism register for St Margaret and St Catherine, Aldham

³ Essex C of E marriages 1754 – 1935; image supplied by Jeanette Smith

⁴ 1841 census return for High Street, St Osyth, HO107/338/23 f34

⁵ Essex Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538 – 1812

⁶ 1851 census return for 75 Mill Street, St Osyth, HO107/1779 f13

⁷ ONS death reference for James COOPER: Q3/1852, 4a 142; Q2/1858, 4a 132; Q1/1859, 4a 143; Q2/1859, 4a 138

⁸ 1861 census return for 20 Mill Street, St Osyth, RG9/1092, f106 p4

⁹ ONS death reference for Maria COOPER aged 73, Q1/1867, Chelmsford, 4a 129

¹⁰ Essex Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813 - 1994

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for James COOPER and Jane WRIGHTON, Q1/1838, Liverpool, 20 117; date of marriage supplied by Jeanette Smith. Address of both was Cunliffe Street, Liverpool

¹² BTs for Liverpool; address was Circus Street

An entry in the 1851 census¹ gives James (37) and Jane (36) living in the parish of St Paul, Shadwell, with daughters Sarah (8) and Hannah C (4) and son Jacob T (1). James was a ‘Mariner & chemist’², whilst Jane, who was born in Liverpool, was a shoe binder. Shadwell is close to Wapping and thus to the London docks; James had been born in Thorington, which confirms that this family is the right one.

Jacob Theobald was born on 05 JAN 1850 and baptised on 27 JAN 1850; father James was a ‘labourer’.

By the time of the following census in 1861³, however, Jane had returned to Liverpool together with Sarah and Jacob. They were living with John and Mary Stringer and their family, in the same house from which she had married James 23 years earlier. It is possible, therefore, that Jane was related to the Stringer family in some way. There is no entry for a Hannah Cooper in the 1861 census and it is likely that she had died. A likely entry for James shows him in the Tendring Union Workhouse; perhaps he had been injured whilst at work although it is surprising that he wasn’t back with his step-mother Maria.

Thomas COOPER (1817 – 1817)

023K

Thomas, step-brother to James and the first son of James and Maria, was baptised on 10 AUG 1817⁴ and buried only two months later on 15 OCT 1817⁵.

William COOPER (1820 – ?)

023L

William, the second son, was baptised on 12 NOV 1820⁶. He was living with his parents in 1841 but has not been found in the 1851 census. A possible death was in 1842⁷.

Sarah COOPER (1823 – 1872)

023M

Sarah was baptised on 18 AUG 1823. In 1843, aged just 20, she married John GROOM, a labourer⁸ from Great Bentley. He was about ten years older than Sarah. They settled in Great Bentley and seem to have had just one child, William John (1852). The family appears in the 1851⁹, 1861¹⁰ and 1871¹¹ census returns, although each entry of her age indicates that she had been born in 1826, rather than 1823. Sarah died in 1872 at the age of 39¹² (indicating her year of birth to be 1823) and sometime after that John went into the Union Workhouse, where he remained for the rest of his life; he has been found in both the 1881¹³ and 1891¹⁴ census returns. He died at the age of 77 in 1892¹⁵.

¹ 1851 census return for St Paul Shadwell, HO107/1550 f392 p52

² the ‘Mariner and Chemist’ combination is apparently connected with the business of transferring London’s ‘night soil’ down the Thames to Essex and the addition of lime, charcoal, etc. to turn it into a fertiliser

³ 1861 census return for 4 Conliffe Street, Liverpool, RG9/2567 f74

⁴ St Osyth register of baptisms, p29

⁵ St Osyth register of burials, p18

⁶ St Osyth register of baptisms, p49

⁷ ONS death reference for William COOPER, Q2/1842, Tendring, 12 177

⁸ ONS marriage reference for John GROOM and Sarah COOPER, Q4/1843, Tendring, 12 509

⁹ 1851 census return for Great Bentley, HO107/1779, f113 p20

¹⁰ 1861 census return for Plough Road, Great Bentley, RG9/1092, f14 p4

¹¹ 1871 census return for Plough Road, Great Bentley, RG10/1676 f21 p15

¹² ONS death registration for Sarah GROOM aged 39, Q4/1872, Tendring, 4a 158

¹³ 1881 census return for Union Workhouse, Tendring, RG11/1780 f43 p12

¹⁴ 1891 census return for Union Workhouse, Tendring, RG12/1401 f130 p3

¹⁵ ONS death registration for John GROOM aged 77, Q1/1892, Tendring, 4a 399

Phoebe COOPER (1826 – 1900)**023**

Phoebe (or Pheby) was the second daughter, and fourth child. Her baptism is recorded in the Parish Register for St Osyth on *14 MAY 1826*¹, but the entry in the family bible puts her birthdate as 10 MAY 1827. I have assumed that the day was right, but the year was written down incorrectly, thus making her birthdate 10 MAY 1826.

She married Robert GRIMSEY and became one of my gt-gt-grandmothers; her story continues on page 21.

Thomas COOPER (1830 – 1846)**023N**

Thomas was baptised on *14 FEB 1830*². He is shown in the 1841 census return at the age of 11, but is missing from the following census in 1851. However, when he reappears in 1861 he is a sailor, so perhaps ten years earlier he was afloat during the census count.

Esther COOPER (1833 – 1899)³**023O**

Esther was baptised on *10 AUG 1833* at St Osyth. In 1854 she married William BYE and following his death in 1867 married Joshua GOSLING.

Elizabeth COOPER (1836 – 1839)**023P**

The youngest child of this marriage so far found is Elizabeth, who was baptised on *03 FEB 1836*⁴ and buried on *26 MAR 1839*.

¹ St Osyth register of baptisms, p83

² St Osyth register of baptisms, p103

³ see Appendix 023O

⁴ St Osyth register of baptisms, p134

Early generations of the PAULY / PAWLEY family

Research into this branch of the family is complicated by the different variants. Pauly, Pawley, Polly have been identified and some entries have been found to be duplicated but with different surname variants. There appears to be no difference between these three variants although another version, Pooley, does seem to be a separate grouping.

The earliest ancestor found on this branch is John PAULY, who is named as the father of John at the latter's baptism in 1675 at Layham, Suffolk. His wife was probably Elizabeth, but neither his baptism nor his marriage has been found.

John PAULY and Martha BARTON were married at Layham, Suffolk, on 26 DEC 1700. John PAULY had been baptised in SEP 1675, the son of John.

They had five children, all baptised at St Andrew, Layham; the family is shown. Apart from their dates of baptism¹, shown below, nothing is known of the three elder children.

A John PAWLEY was buried, at Layham, on 27 DEC 1759 and it is likely that this was Martha's husband although he would have been 83 years old.

Mary PAULY (1702 - ?1751) 186J

Mary was baptised on 19 FEB 1702. The burial of a Mary POLLY on 29 OCT 1751 at Layham is recorded and may refer to this particular Mary.

John PAULY (1705 - ?1779) 186K

John, the eldest son, was baptised on 03 FEB 1705. I have no further information other than the burial of John POLLY at Layham on 01 FEB 1779, which may apply.

Thomas PAULY (1707 - 1708) 186L

Thomas was baptised on 01 FEB 1707 and buried a little over a year later on 17 FEB 1708.

Samuel PAULY (1709 - ?1778) 186M

Samuel was baptised at Layham on 29 JUL 1709. The IGI shows three possible marriages, any of which would fit:

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 02 SEP 1731 | Sarah WEST | Stratford St Mary | 5m south of Layham |
| 27 DEC 1736 | Martha SMITH | Stoke by Nayland | 6m south-west of Layham |
| 28 OCT 1738 | Margaret MURRELL | Hadleigh | 1½m north of Layham |

A Samuel POLLY was buried at Stratford, about six miles south of Layham, on 08 MAR 1778. This may indicate that Samuel married Sarah and they then lived at Stratford (or it may not).

William PAULY (1712 - 1774) 186

William PAULY (or POLLY, sometimes PAWLEY) was one of my 5xgreat-grandfathers. He was baptised on 13 JUL 1712 at Layham and married Sarah BOUGHTON (BARTON) in 1733² at Stratford St Mary, which is about five miles south of Layham. William and Sarah were cousins – see overleaf for further details.

They had seven children, all baptised at St Andrew, Layham³. Apart from their dates of baptism few other records have been found.

¹ baptism dates from IGI; all for Layham, Suffolk, with parents John and Martha

² IGI reference for William POLLY and Sarah BOUGHTON on 14 OCT 1733 at Stratford St Mary

³ all the dates in this section are taken from FindMyPast (Suffolk births and baptisms)

Sarah died and was buried in December 1763 at Raydon, a little under two miles south-east of Layham. The Layham burial register contains an entry for William POLLY, buried on *09 AUG 1774*. This is a distinct possibility but there is no certainty that this is the same William.

Elizabeth (1735 - ?) 093I

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, was baptised on *28 MAY 1735*. There are three possible marriages: the most likely was to John RIVERS at Layham on 10 OCT 1757, when she would have been 22. Other possibilities are to Charles GARRARD at Stoke by Nayland on 03 FEB 1767 or to Robert MARCHANT at Stratford St Mary on 24 MAY 1768. Both these villages are close to Layham but Elizabeth would have been over 30 by this time.

William (1736 - ?1779) 093J

William was baptised on *08 JUL 1736*. A possible marriage was to Catherine COOK on 21 OCT 1756 at Stratford St Mary. There are two possibilities for a burial: 21 APR 1779 at Layham or 24 APR 1781 at Higham.

Margaret (1738 - ?) 093K

Margaret was baptised on *15 MAR 1738/9*. She married John ASTEN at Layham on 25 JUL 1758.

Sarah (1741 - ?) 093L

Sarah was the third daughter. She was baptised on *30 AUG 1741* and married John OXFORD at Stratford St Mary on 31 MAR 1769.

Thomas (1743 - ?) 093M

Thomas was baptised on *05 FEB 1743*. A likely marriage was to Elizabeth BIGGS on 15 NOV 1767.

Hannah (1745 - ?) 093

Hannah was the sixth child and fourth daughter. She was baptised on *20 APR 1745* and married James COOPER on 04 NOV 1767, at Layham. She was one of my 4xgreat-grandmothers. Her story continues on page 29.

Mary (1748 - ?) 093N

Mary was baptised on *27 MAR 1748* and buried, aged 3, on 29 OCT 1751.

Early generations of the BARTON / BOUGHTON family

The earliest information for this branch of the family concerns the marriage of a George BARTON to Ann SMALLEGE. They were married in Hadleigh, Suffolk, and baptised two children who are shown (although there may have been others, these are the only ones shown in the IGI). George and Ann were two of my 7xgreat-grandparents.

George (1673 - ?) 374

George was baptised on *25 MAR 1673*; he married Elizabeth BENDALL and his story is continued below.

Martha (1674 - ?) 373

Martha was baptised on *22 NOV 1674* and married John PAULY on *26 DEC 1700*. This family line continues on page 33.

George [374] and Elizabeth [375]

Georg(e) BARTON and Elizabeth BENDALL were two of my 6xgreat-grandparents. They were married on *25 JUN 1699* at Hadleigh, in Suffolk. They produced several children as shown, one of whom was my 5xgreat-grandmother Sarah. All the children were baptised at Hadleigh.

Martha BARTON (1700 - ?) 187L

Martha was baptised on *08 MAY 1700*.W She married Richard MIXER, at Hadleigh, on *17 MAY 1725*.

Elizabeth BARTON (1703 - ?) 187M

Elizabeth was baptised on *05 DEC 1703*. She married John Sc(h)ofield at Hadleigh on *15 MAY 1722*.

Sarah BARTON (1706 - 1765) 187

Sarah was one of my 5xgt-grandmothers. She married William PAULY at St Mary, Stratford, on *14 OCT 1733* and their story continues on page 33.

George BARTON (1709 - ?) 187N

George was baptised on *07 MAR 1709*; a likely marriage was to Elizabeth HOWARD on *02 AUG 1752* at Hadleigh. There are several burials of a George Barton at Hadleigh and two possibilities are 1768 or 1779.

William BARTON (1712 - ?) 187O

William was baptised on *22 MAR 1712* but no further record of him has been found.

Other information

I have a list of ‘Admitted and sworn Free Burgesses of Colchester’, extracted by Mr A L Wakeling of Brightlingsea. GRIMSEY references are shown below together with a reference to the relative where known.

| Date | Name | Occupation | notes | ref |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-------|
| 02 OCT 1781 | Robert Grimsey of Great Bentley | Cooper | apprenticed to Richard May | 088 |
| 16 OCT 1806 | Isaac Grimsey of Frating | Labourer | son of Robert | 044I |
| 09 OCT 1812 | David Grimsey of Frating | Labourer | son of Robert | 044L |
| 09 OCT 1812 | George Grimsey of Kirby-le-Soken | Labourer | son of Robert | 044M |
| 08 JUN 1818 | Joseph Grimsey of Frating | Labourer | son of Robert | 044 |
| 10 MAR 1820 | Nicholas Grimsey of Frating | Cooper | son of Robert | 044O |
| 26 FEB 1849 | Isaac Grimsey of Colchester | Mariner | son of Nicholas | 044OA |

And finally . . .

I mentioned at the start of this booklet that two distant relatives, Richard SMITH and Alan FINCH, have been kind enough to share some of their research with me. I have also contacted another distant cousin, Sue CROOK. It is only right, therefore, that I should show how we are all related (see diagram).

Richard SMITH

Richard’s parents were Reuben SMITH and Eva May GRIMSEY. Eva was the seventh child of Joseph Thomas GRIMSEY and Emily MARSH; Joseph was the fifth child of Robert GRIMSEY and Phoebe COOPER, and a younger brother of Emma Maria, my great-grandmother. Eva May was therefore first cousin to my grandmother; Richard is second cousin to my father and therefore my second cousin once removed.

Alan FINCH

Alan’s line of descent comes from John GRIMSEY and Mary PINNER; John, Alan’s gt-gt-grandfather, is the elder brother of Joseph GRIMSEY, my 3xgt-grandfather. Alan is thus my fourth cousin once removed.

Sue CROOK

Sue’s line of descent is also shown. She is part of Alan Finch’s side of the family, and my fifth cousin.

Appendix 011K – Eliza GRIMSEY (1847 – ?1898)

Eliza (21 OCT/21 NOV 1847) was the eldest daughter of Robert and Phoebe.

By the age of 13 she was working as a servant in a house in Great Bromley¹, in the household of Joseph HAWTHORN, a grocer and draper.

The family bible² states that Eliza was married ‘at London’ – the marriage was to Thomas Henry ELLIS at St Mark, Myddelton Square, Islington³ on 14 NOV 1869. At the time of the marriage the address of each was 79 Rahere Street. A little over a year later they were living in Stoke Newington⁴ with a baby daughter. Thomas was a toolmaker, some three years older than Eliza.

They had three children in all⁵, and stayed in the same area for the rest of their lives; the 1881 census⁶ shows the family in Hornsey, about three miles to the north-east, but they had returned to live in Stoke Newington by 1891⁷. Neither Eliza nor Thomas has been found in the 1901 census (but see the following section).

There are several possibilities for the death of Eliza, but the most likely was in 1898⁸, with a burial at Waltham Forest cemetery on 01 DEC 1898. Thomas appears as a widower in the 1911 census, living as a boarder in Tottenham with Harry and Mary PILBROW. He died, aged 78, in 1923.

Mary Eliza ELLIS (1871 – 1941)

011KA

Mary was born in the summer of 1870⁹ and appears in the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census returns with her parents Thomas and Eliza. In early 1893, when she would have been around 22, she married Harry PILBROW¹⁰, who was about four years older than she. By 1901 they were living in Tottenham with two children, Dorothy and Henry¹¹, as well as Thomas, 56, whose relationship was shown as a ‘boarder’. He was a ‘mechanical engineer’, and not married; his surname was not given.

The next census entry, that of 1911, shows that son Henry had died¹². It also lists ‘Thomas Henry Ellis’ as a ‘boarder’ and a widower aged 66. Clearly this is the Thomas that was living with Harry and Mary ten years earlier (in 1901 his surname was not specifically stated) – this was Mary’s father.

Harry died in 1937, aged 70; Mary survived him by about four years and her death was registered in 1941.

Dorothy Mary was born on 04 JAN 1894¹³ and baptised on 18 MAR 1894 at St Matthias, Stoke Newington. In October 1914 she married George Joseph FRANCIS.

Henry Edgar was born on 13 OCT 1897 and died in October 1904.

¹ 1861 census return for Bull’s Green, Great Bromley, RG9/1096 f70 p11

² *op cit*

³ marriage register for St Mark, Myddelton Square, page 190

⁴ 1871 census return for 54 Londesborough Road, Stoke Newington, RG10/311 f76 p38

⁵ Mary Eliza (Q3/1870, Hackney, 1b381); Florence (poss Q4/1874, Pancras, 1b 77); Richard Robert (poss Q3/1878, Hackney, 1b 463)

⁶ 1881 census return for 186 Albion Road, Hornsey, RG11/1378 f9 p11

⁷ 1891 census return for 27a Broughton Road, Stoke Newington, RG12/181 f38 p11

⁸ ONS death reference for Eliza Annie ELLIS aged 51, Q4/1898, Hackney, 1b 256; she died at 18 Albion Grove, Stoke Newington

⁹ her age is given as 7 months in the 1871 census

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Harry PILBROW and Mary Eliza ELLIS, Q1/1893, Hackney, 1b 614

¹¹ ONS birth reference for Harry Edgar PILBROW, Q4/1897, Hackney, 1b 433

¹² ONS burial reference for Harry Edgar PILBROW age 7, Q4/1904, Edmonton, 3a 235

¹³ dates of these two children from an *Ancestry* tree

Florence ELLIS (1874 – ?)

011KB

Florence was born on 23 APR 1874; her birth was registered at Islington. Until the age of 20 she was living with her parents (see above), first at 186 Albion Road, Hornsey (1881, when she was described as a ‘plush bracket maker’) and then at 27a Broughton Road, Stoke Newington (1891). On 07 APR 1895 she married George Alexander COOKE at St Faith, in Stoke Newington. George was a ‘billiard marker’. They had two children, Lilian Florence and Cecil Thomas George.

Richard Robert ELLIS (1879 – 1942)

011KC

Richard, the third child of Thomas and Eliza, was born in 1879. No further information about him has been confirmed, but an *Ancestry* entry states that he emigrated to Canada in 1908. He apparently had three sons (Percy, 1905; Alfred, 1908, Edward Arthur, 1909) and married Emily GENT – although the date of the marriage is not recorded and appears not to have taken place in this country. The entry also states that Richard died in 1942 and was buried at Toronto.

Appendix 011L – Octavia Jane GRIMSEY (1850 – 1928)¹

Octavia Jane – the second child, certainly not the eighth! – was born on 12 AUG 1850² and baptised four weeks later on 08 SEP 1850.

The 1871 census return³ shows her living in Wivenhoe, where she was a cook in the employ of William ROOTS, a brewer, and his family. Two years later, on 03 OCT 1873, she married Stephen CAREY, an agricultural labourer, at Lawford⁴; he had been baptised Stephen KERRY⁵ on 04 JAN 1852 at Lawford. They had seven children, four boys and three girls, all baptised at Lawford.

The first two children, Alfred (16 AUG 1874) and Frank (01 APR 1877), were baptised with the name KERRY, but four younger ones, George (18 FEB 1883), Arthur (03 MAY 1885), Louisa (23 NOV 1890) and Ethel (09 JUL 1893), were baptised as CAREY⁶. Nellie's birth was registered in the 1st quarter of 1888⁷ but her baptism hasn't been found.

In the 1881 census return⁸ the family was living at Glanfields, Lawford: this was a farm less than a mile to the south of the village. They were still at Lawford ten years later⁹, living just outside the village on the road to Colchester, with all the children (up to Louisa) living at home. Nellie died in 1899¹⁰.

By the time of the 1901 census¹¹ they had moved back to the area of Glanfields Farm, where Stephen was a 'horseman on farm'; with them were sons George, a 'horseman on railway', and Arthur, a 'cattleman on farm', and daughters Louisa and Ethel. Octavia's father, Robert, was also living with them: he was a widower, his wife Phoebe having died the previous year. He was 'formerly horseman on farm'.

Ten years later, in 1911, they were living at the same address¹². All the children had now left home, with the exception of George (aged 28) who was a platelayer on the railway. The census return confirms that the marriage had produced seven children, of whom one had died (this was Nellie, their fifth child – see below).

Octavia died on 24 MAR 1928 and Stephen on 28 DEC 1933¹³; both are buried in Lawford churchyard¹⁴. A nearby stone gives details of the deaths of Thomas and Mary CAREY (who died respectively on 16 DEC 1882 and 11 JAN 1901) and their two sons William and Charles. Thomas was Stephen's uncle; he was the brother of James (Stephen's father) who had been born in Great Clacton about 1809. William and Charles were therefore cousins of Stephen.

Another part of the churchyard has a headstone to Amy and George CAREY, who died on 27 OCT 1962 (aged 79) and 19 NOV 1967 (84). This was undoubtedly Stephen and Octavia's third son and his wife.

¹ much of the information in this section comes from Chris CAREY, a third cousin

² from the Family Bible handed down from Emma Maria GRIMSEY

³ 1871 census return for High Street, Wivenhoe, RG10/1689 f4 p1-2

⁴ Lawford register of marriages

⁵ Lawford register of baptisms and ONS birth reference for Stephen KERRY, Q1/1852, Tendring, 4a 211

⁶ all these dates are from the Lawford register of baptisms. Chris CAREY, a third cousin, tells me that this 'confusion' dates back to the beginning of the 18th century; Stephen's grandfather James is known to have used both CAREY and KERRY

⁷ ONS birth reference for Nellie CAREY, Q1/1888, Tendring, 4a 526

⁸ 1881 census return for Glanfields, Lawford, RG11/1786 f123 p2

⁹ 1891 census return for Wignall Street, Lawford, RG12/1404 f101 p5

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Nellie CAREY Q4/1899, Tendring, 4a 329

¹¹ 1901 census return for Hungerdowns Lane, Lawford, RG13/1704 f58 p4

¹² 1911 census return for Hungerdowns Lane, Lawford, RG14/10282, ED18 SN20

¹³ both these dates from the gravestones

¹⁴ photographs of memorial stones sent by Richard Smith

One of those who ‘served in the war’ on the Lawford War Memorial is ‘F. Carey’. Frank, Stephen and Octavia’s second son, would have been 37 at the outbreak of WW1 but it is highly likely that this reference is to him.

Alfred (1874 – 1932)

011LA

Although Alfred was baptised as KERRY, as mentioned above, his birth was registered as CAREY¹. At the age of 16, the 1891 census return² records him as a factory employ[ee]; he was living with his parents in Lawford. He joined the Army on 17 JUL 1894, and served in the Boer War³ (1901-02). He was a driver with 8A Company Army Service Corps at Christiana on the Vaal River in the North-West province.

It is likely that, some six years after his return from South Africa, he sailed for Canada, and later took out Canadian citizenship. There is indeed an entry in the 1911 Canadian census return, although it is rather indistinct and not certain that this refers to the same person. It records an Alfred CAREY living in Edmonton, Alberta; he is shown as ‘Head’ and married, although there is no entry for a wife. It records his birth in April 1874, in England and shows that he emigrated to Canada in 1908. He has Canadian nationality (although his racial origin is confirmed as English) and his religion was Methodist. His occupation was as a mason. The entry also shows that he had been employed for 52 weeks during 1910, working 54 hours per week, and his earnings during the year were C\$500. The family understands that he served in WW1, in the Canadian Army, although he would have been 40 in 1914: his military number in the Canadian Army was 104185, and he joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. His Battalion sailed for England, and he disembarked at Folkestone on 05 OCT 1915. A medical report dated 23 MAR 1916 shows that he was considered fit for Permanent Base Duty, but on 26 OCT 1916 he was discharged from the Army as ‘Unfit for War Service’. There is a record of a War Gratuity of £20 11 4 paid to him at an address of 22 Mersea Road, Colchester. He is shown as returning to Halifax on the SS Haverford, having been away for five years, and in 1920 resident in Regina, Saskatchewan

Alfred died⁴ on 05 JAN 1924 at Saskatchewan, Canada, and was buried a week later.

Frank (1877 – 1946)

011LB

Frank’s birth was also registered as CAREY⁵. He doesn’t appear in the 1901 census return, but it is possible that he had already joined the Services and was serving abroad, perhaps in South Africa with his elder brother.

On 10 JAN 1903 he married Maud BROWN⁶; the marriage was registered in Brentford, Middlesex (she had been born in Acton). His address at the time was 28 Chaucer Road, Acton. Their first child, Elsie (1903), was born in Acton but within a couple of years they had moved back to Lawford⁷, where three further children were born: Walter (1906), Albert (1908) and Margaret (1911). In 1911 Frank was shown as a ‘Xylonite works labourer’ in the census return. Xylonite, apparently a substance similar to celluloid, was manufactured by the British Xylonite Company at its factory in Manningtree. A further two children were born – Alfred George (1913) and Helen Frances (1915). Frank is listed on the Electoral Roll as living at ‘Cottage, Wignall Street’ from at least 1912-1915, and probably beyond, although it seems that he served in the Army as his name appears on the Lawford War Memorial (see above).

¹ ONS birth reference for Alfred CAREY, Q2/1874, Tendring, 4a 315

² 1891 census return for Wignall Street, Lawford, RG12/1405 f101 p5

³ his military serial number was 11830 (information from Chris CAREY)

⁴ this date comes from military records; according to his brother Arthur, Alfred’s body was discovered in an ‘isolated cabin’

⁵ ONS birth reference for Frank CAREY, Q1/1877, Tendring, 4a 3??

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Frank CAREY and Alice Maud BROWN, Q1/1903, Brentford, 3a 77

⁷ 1911 census return for Lawford, Essex (no further address given), RG14/10282 ED18 SN40

Alice Maud died on 20 FEB 1920¹. Her death was registered at Ipswich, but there is no obvious reason why here and not at Colchester. The 1939 Register shows Frank living at 1 Riverside Cottage, Brantham, Suffolk, with son Alfred George and daughter Helen, who was married. Frank died, aged 71, in 1947².

Although **Elsie Maud**'s birth, on 01 JUN 1903³, was registered at Brentford (MDX)⁴, she was baptised at St Mary, Lawford on 02 AUG 1903⁵. She married Bertie REYNOLDS⁶, who was a little over one year younger, in 1934. They had at least three children⁷.

Walter Frank (Francis) was born on 06 JUN 1905 and baptised at St Mary, Lawford, on 06 AUG 1905¹⁰. He married Doris THOROGOOD in 1930⁸ and the 1939 Register shows them living at 1 Potax Cottage, Barling Road, Barling Magna, Barling, just north of Southend, with one child. Strangely, the Register shows Walter's date of birth as 20 SEP 1907.

Albert Arthur was born on 30 OCT 1907 and baptised, again at St Mary, on 12 JAN 1908⁹. He married Marjorie REEVE in 1935¹⁰ (she had been born on 30 DEC 1914, so was just 21). Albert does not appear in the 1939 Register but Marjorie, plus one child is shown living at Cattawade Street, Brantham (just a few miles north of Lawford). The adjacent house is occupied by Robert and Lily REEVE, presumably her parents.

Margaret Edith, too, was baptised at St Mary's church at Lawford, on 08 JAN 1911 following her birth on 16 NOV 1910.

Alfred George was born on 28 APR 1913 and baptised, again at St Mary, on 20 JUL 1913.

The youngest child, **Helen Frances**, was also baptised at St Mary (born 13 AUG 1915, baptised 20 OCT 1915). In December 1938 she married Eric John GAMBLE, who presumably joined up as the 1939 Register shows Helen living with her widowed father at 1 Riverside Cottage, Brantham. Eric died on 06 JUN 1973 and two years later, at the age of 60, Helen married again, this time to Douglas Haig TARBARD. She died in JUN 1996, aged 80.

George (1883 - 1967)

011LC

By the age of 18 George was a 'horseman on railway', and living with his parents¹¹. Ten years later¹² he was described as a 'platelayer, railway': aged 28, he was the only one of the children still at home. Around his 30th birthday he married Amy WHENT¹³ at Bermondsey; she had been born towards the end of 1883¹⁴ and was his cousin – the daughter of his mother's sister Ellen (see page 45). Both George and Amy were buried at Lawton (see above).

¹ ONS death reference for Alice M CAREY aged 37, Q1/1920, Ipswich, 4a 1232

² ONS death reference for Frank CAREY aged 71, Q2/1847, Samford, 4b 809

³ 1939 Register

⁴ ONS birth reference for Elsie Maud CAREY, Q3/1903, Brentford, 3a 181

⁵ Essex Archives Online

⁶ ONS marriage for Bertie A REYNOLDS and Elsie M CAREY, Q3/1934, Tendring, 4a 2669

⁷ 1939 Register for 'Council House', Harwich Road, Mistley

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Walter F CAREY and Doris O THOROGOOD, Q4/1930, Rochford, 4a 1501

⁹ Essex Archives Online

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Albert A CAREY and Marjorie O M REEVE, Q4/1935, Samford, 4a 2612

¹¹ 1901 census return for Hungerdowns Lane, Lawford, RG13/1704 f58 p4

¹² 1911 census return for Hungerdowns Lane, Lawford, RG14/10282 ED18 SN20

¹³ ONS marriage reference for George CAREY and Amy WHENT, Q3/1912, St Olave, 1d 490

¹⁴ ONS birth reference for Amy WHENT, Q4/1883, St Olave, 1d 251/254

Arthur (1886 – 1970)

011LD

Arthur married Ada SMITH in 1909¹. The census return of 1911 shows them living in Manningtree (where Ada was born) with two young children: Ethel Gladys (1910) and Arthur Leslie (1911). Arthur was also a 'Xylonite' worker (see Frank, above). Chris CAREY, one of my third cousins, is the son of Arthur Leslie.

Nellie (1888 – 1899)

011LE

Nellie's birth² and her death³, at the age of 11, were both registered at Tendring.

Louisa (1890 – 1937)

011LF

Louisa married Charles REASON in 1907⁴. By 1911 they had two young daughters (Lilian, 1908 and Violet, 1910) and were living in Lawford. In all they had seven children. Louisa died in 1937⁵.

Ethel (1893 – 1920)

011LG

Ethel married Walter COCKERTON in 1920⁶.

¹ ONS marriage reference for Arthur CAREY and Ada SMITH, Q2/1909, Tendring, 4a 1215

² ONS birth reference for Nellie CAREY, Q1/1888, Tendring, 4a 526

³ ONS death reference for Nellie CAREY aged 11, Q2/1899, Tendring, 4a 329

⁴ ONS marriage reference for Charles Bertie REASON and Louisa CAREY, Q4/1907, Tendring, 4a 1245

⁵ ONS death reference for Louisa REASON aged 46, Q3/1937, Tendring, 4a 719

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Walter E COCKERTON and Ethel CUREY, Q1/1917, Tendring, 4a 2085

Appendix 011M – Ellen GRIMSEY (1855 – 1918)

Ellen was born on 13 JAN 1855¹ at St Osyth; she was the third daughter of Robert and Phoebe. The 1871 census shows her as a servant, in the household of David EVANS, a grocer, in Stoke Newington². Her age is shown as 19, two years older than would be expected; however, no other Ellen GRIMSEYs were born in Essex between 1850 and 1855 so it is likely that this is the right entry. It doesn't, of course, answer the question of how she found a situation in London, although her elder sister Eliza was married at Holborn in 1869 and they may have originally travelled to London together. The addresses at which they were living in 1871 were only about half-a-mile apart.

Less than three years later, on 22 JAN 1874, she married Josiah WHENT, a mariner, at Christchurch, Bermondsey³. They were both shown as living at 59 Princes Road. Josiah had been baptised on 20 NOV 1847 at Ardleigh⁴. His father's name was Joseph; both Joseph and Robert, Ellen's father, were farm labourers. Josiah appears in the 1851 census⁵ with his parents, living at Hart's Lane⁶ in Ardleigh, and although the family was still at the same address ten years later he is not shown, although he would have been only 13.

Josiah and Ellen made their home in Bermondsey, where they brought up a family of 12 children, all baptised at Christchurch. Their first child, Alice Ellen, was born at 59 Princes Road; the next three at 15 Jamaica Road; and the remainder following a move to 31 Ambrose Street sometime between May 1879 and April 1881. The first two addresses were an easy walk from Christchurch, but Ambrose Street was on the far side of the main railway lines into London Bridge and rather further.

Ellen is shown living at this address in the 1881 census return⁷ with daughters Alice, Emma and Minnie – Daisy had died when she was only about a year old. There is no Josiah WHENT listed in the 1881 census National Index, but as Ellen was a 'mariner's wife' her husband was presumably afloat somewhere on that night.

Josiah is listed in the 1887 Electoral Register at 31 Ambrose Street. A few years later (1892), the Electoral Register also shows George HUMPHRIES – he was the husband of Ellen's younger sister Emma (my great-grandmother) and this couple were apparently sub-tenants of Josiah and Ellen, paying 4/- per week for two unfurnished rooms on the first floor.

Ten years later (1891) the family was still at 31 Ambrose Street⁸, and this time Josiah was present. Alice was no longer there (she would have been 16 and probably had left home) but, as well as Emma and Minnie, there were five younger daughters – Annie, Amy, Lottie, Kate and Hilda (it seems that Lillie Louise had become Lottie). Living at the same address was Ellen's younger sister Emma (my great-grandmother) with husband George HUMPHRIES and children Sidney and Grace.

By 1901 the census return⁹ shows that six of the children were still living at home, and Josiah and Ellen had also taken in a lodger.

Josiah died in 1908, at the age of 60¹⁰. Three years later the census shows that Ellen, still at the same address, was providing a home for the three youngest children¹¹. Three other daughters – Amy, Kate

¹ family bible

² 1871 census return for 171 High Street, Stoke Newington, RG10/310 f46 p36

³ Register of marriages for Christchurch, Bermondsey

⁴ Ardleigh register of baptisms

⁵ 1851 census return for Hart's Lane, Ardleigh, HO /1780 f405 p2; Josiah is recorded as 'Siar'

⁶ Hart's Lane ran roughly west-east, to the north of the village, from Bluebarn Farm to Ardleigh Heath, along which there were several different farms

⁷ 1881 census return for 31 Ambrose Street, Bermondsey, RG11/573 f76 p27

⁸ 1891 census return for stated address, RG12/379 f133 p23

⁹ 1901 census return for 31 Ambrose Street, Bermondsey, RG13/395 f178 p37

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Josiah WHENT aged 60, Q1/1908, St Olave, 1d 107

¹¹ 1911 census return for 31 Ambrose Street, Bermondsey, RG14/1893 ED25 SN436

and Hilda – were amongst 63 women employed as housemaids at Whitehall Court¹. Practically all were single, although there were a few widows and one married lady; ages ranged from 18 to 51.

Ellen survived her husband by ten years and died aged 63 in 1918²: her death was registered in Camberwell.

Alice WHENT (1875 – 1962)

011MA

Alice was born on 23 FEB 1875 and baptised the following month at Bermondsey Christchurch on 21 MAR 1875³. By the time she was 16, in 1891, she was living in Lewisham⁴, on what is now the South Circular Road, and working as a general servant for William and Edith Zurhorst. The surname WHENT is not particularly common and there is only one likely marriage, in 1904⁵, to Charles BUTLER. The marriage was registered in St Olave (Bermondsey). Charles was a farm labourer, and had been born in Sutton Valance, just to the south-east of Maidstone. By 1911 they were living in Chart Sutton⁶, the next village to Sutton Valence, with three sons. Alice's death, at the age of 87, was registered in Maidstone in 1962⁷.

Daisy WHENT (1877 – 1878)

011MB

Daisy, the second child, was born⁸ and baptised⁹ on 26 AUG 1877. She survived for only about a year and died the following summer¹⁰.

Emma WHENT (1877 – 1957)

011MC

Emma was baptised on the same day¹¹ as her sister Daisy (26 AUG 1877) whilst the family was living at 15 Jamaica Road, Bermondsey. Her birth appears with the same ONS reference¹² and the obvious conclusion is that they were twins. Although she hasn't been found in the 1901 census return, ten years later she was working as a domestic cook¹³ in the household of Tom and Mary BROWN. It is likely that she never married, and a likely possibility is the death of Emma WHENT aged 82¹⁴ in 1961; this was registered at Maidstone, which is where her elder sister Alice was living at the time.

Minnie WHENT (1879 – 1940)

011MD

Minnie was baptised on 01 JUN 1879¹⁵. In 1901¹⁶ she was living in Deptford as a servant in the household of James COLLIN; ten years later¹⁷ she was still a servant, now in the employ of Robert

¹ Whitehall Court, on the north bank of the Thames, comprises a block of luxury residential apartments. It was built in 1184. A 2-bedroom flat is currently (2021) on the market for £1.5m

² ONS death reference for Ellen WHENT aged 63, Q3/1918, Camberwell, 1d 741

³ both dates from the baptism register; ONS birth reference for Alice Ellen WHENT, Q1/1875, St Olave, 1d 294

⁴ 1891 census return for 209 Stanstead Road, Lewisham, RG12/525 f76 p1

⁵ ONS marriage reference for Alice Ellen WHENT and Charles William BUTLER, Q2/1904, St Olave, 1d 337

⁶ 1911 census return for Chart Hill, Chart Sutton, Maidstone, RG14/4185 ED8 SN50

⁷ ONS death reference for Alice E BUTLER aged 87, Maidstone, 5b 675

⁸ ONS birth reference for Daisy WHENT, Q3/1877, St Olave, 1d 274

⁹ baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Daisy WHENT, Q3/1878, St Olave, 1d 194

¹¹ baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

¹² ONS birth reference for Emma WHENT, Q3/1877, St Olave, 1d 274

¹³ 1911 census return for Block B, 18 York House, Kensington, RG14/100 ED13 SN38

¹⁴ ONS death reference for Emma WHENT aged 82, Q1/1961, Maidstone, 5b 795

¹⁵ baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

¹⁶ 1901 census return for 45 Erlanger Road, Deptford, RG13/532 f88 p33

¹⁷ 1911 census return for 15 Avondale Square, Old Kent Road, Camberwell, RG14/2539 ED20 SN132

and Louisa KING in the Old Kent Road, Camberwell. A probable death was registered in 1940¹; she too had never married.

Annie Ada (1881 – ?1953)

011ME

Annie Ada was baptised on 07 AUG 1881². Aged 19 and a ‘general servant’, she was still living at home with her parents in 1901³. Ten years later, the 1911 census shows her as a live-in servant (kitchen-maid) in the household of Mrs Lulu Knust at Hampstead⁴. It seems that she never married; the 1939 Register shows her living at 34 Princess May Road, Stoke Newington, and sharing the house with three other families. By this time she would have been 58. A likely death was registered at Islington in 1953⁵, although this appears to show the wrong second initial.

Amy (1883 – 1962)

011MF

The sixth child (and daughter), Amy, was born on 15 SEP 1883⁶ and baptised at Christchurch on 03 OCT 1883. The census taken in 1901⁷ shows her as a servant in the household of Henry and Catherine BLACKMAN, in Deptford⁸; she was 17. Ten years later, together with two of her younger sisters (Kate and Hilda) she was one of 63 housemaids employed at Whitehall Court (see above).

The following year, 1912, she married her cousin George CAREY⁹ at Bermondsey; he was the third son of Amy’s mother’s sister Octavia (see page 41). The 1939 Register records them living at Littledene, Wignall Street, Lawford. George worked on the railway as a ‘permanent way ganger’. Living with them was 15-year-old Minnie WHENT¹⁰, the daughter of Cyril Arthur WHENT, and probably a cousin of Amy’s.

A headstone in Lawton churchyards records the deaths of Amy and George CAREY, who died on 27 OCT 1962 (aged 79) and 19 NOV 1967 (aged 84) respectively.

Lilian Louise (1885 – 1964)

011MG

Lillie Louise, or (according to the various census returns) Lottie, was baptised on 04 AUG 1885¹¹. By the time she was 15¹² she was ‘in service’ as a housemaid with Edwin and Lizzie GRACE; ten years later¹³ she was a kitchen-maid in the household of Ernest and Isabel JESSEL. The following year she married Vic CAZALY on 25 MAR 1912¹⁴, and their only daughter Ida was known to my parents – she was the only other descendant of the GRIMSEYs known to our family until I heard from Dick Smith. They also had a son, Eric, born 28 MAY 1913¹⁵.

¹ ONS death reference for Minnie WHENT aged 61, Q4/1940, Surrey Mid E., 2a 400

² Baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

³ 1901 census return for 31 Ambrose Street, Bermondsey, RG13/395 f178 p37

⁴ 1911 census return for 16 Belsize Road, Hampstead, RG14/619 ED29 SN138

⁵ ONS death reference for Annie I WHENT aged 72, Q4/1953, Islington, 5c 885

⁶ Dates from baptism register; ONS birth reference for Amy WHENT, Q1/1883, St Olave, 1d 251 or 254

⁷ 1901 census return for 26 Erlanger Road, Deptford, RG13/532 f92 p41

⁸ Erlanger Road was about 2½ miles south of Ambrose Street, across the Old Kent Road

⁹ ONS marriage reference for George CAREY and Amy WHENT, Q3/1912, St Olave, 1d 490

¹⁰ Minnie had been born on 15 MAY 1924

¹¹ Baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

¹² 1901 census return for 42 Upper Grange Road, Bermondsey, RG13/390 f37 p18

¹³ 1911 census return for 8 Queens Gardens, Paddington, RG14/74 f6

¹⁴ ONS marriage reference for Lillie L WHENT and Victor W CAZALY, Q1/1912, St Olave, 1d 250; marriage register for St Augustine, Bermondsey

¹⁵ 1939 Register

The 1939 Register records Vic and Lillie CAZALY at 55 Mossbury Road, Battersea. She died in 1964, aged 78¹, and Victor died on 19 MAY 1965² at the Hostel of God in Clapham, at which time the family home was at 40 Salcott Road, Battersea. He left a little over £6,000.

Ethel Kate (1887 - ?)

011MH

She was born on 06 AUG 1887 and baptised on 28 AUG 1887³ as Ethel Kate, but seems to have been known as Kate. Together with her sisters Amy and Hilda, she was employed as a live-in housemaid at Whitehall Court and listed as such in the 1911 census. In 1916⁴ she married Henry S WILKINSON. Henry's record show that he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment, with Service Number 751⁵. On 30 OCT 1916 he died and Kate was left a widow.

She married again on 17 OCT 1920, to Harry ANDREWS. The marriage took place at Camden Church in Camberwell. Harry was a 'railway servant'; he was some five years younger than Kate. Both were living at the same address in Balham.

They later moved to Sutton, and the 1939 Register records them at 407 Peterborough Road with their son Douglas H and daughter Ethel K. Harry was still working on the railway and was a 'ticket collector', as well as being an 'ARP Fire Fighter'. Towards the end of the war daughter Ethel married Frederick BURDEN⁶.

Harry died in 1971 aged 83; Kate's death has not been found for certain.

Hester Hilda (1889 - 1975)

011MI

Hester was born on 03 OCT 1889⁷ and baptised on 17 OCT 1889⁸. In most records she appears as Hilda: by the age of 22, together with her sisters Ethel (usually known as Kate) and Amy, she was working at Whitehall Court in London as a housemaid.

She married Alfred Harold BAKER on 02 JUN 1916⁹. He had also been employed at Whitehall Court (as a waiter), and they had presumably met there. He was a clerk, and they set up home at 48 Nigel Buildings, in Peckham Rye. A year after their marriage he enlisted with the Royal Fusiliers, at Hounslow, on 15 OCT 1917; he gave his age as 32. By 1929 she was a widow: Alfred's death has not been found conclusively, but a likely date was 1929¹⁰. Hilda was still living at the same address (48 Nigel Buildings) but she had now been joined by her younger sister Clara. They had both moved to 130 Choumert Road, between Peckham and East Dulwich, by 1939.

By 1945 she had moved to 69 St Asaph Road, Brockley, just a couple of miles from Choumert Road, where she was sharing a house with Clara and Clara's husband Harry SIEBER. Hilda died on 06 JUN 1975¹¹.

¹ ONS death reference for Lillie L CAZALY aged 78, Q2/1964, Battersea, 5C 22

² ONS death reference for Victor W CAZALY aged 74, Q2/1965, Battersea, 5D 16

³ Baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

⁴ ONS marriage reference for Ethel K WHENT and Henry S WILKINSON, Q1/1916, St Olave, 1d 328

⁵ World War I Pension Ledgers and Index cards 1914-1923

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Frederick R C BURDEN and Ethel K ANDREWS, Q4/1944, Surrey Mid E, 2a 509

⁷ 1939 Register

⁸ Baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Hester H WHENT and Alfred H BAKER, Q2/1916, Camberwell, 1d 1638

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Alfred H BAKER age 41, Q1/1929, Hendon, 3a 744

¹¹ these details from the National Probate Calendar

James Josiah Arthur (1892 – 1975)**011MJ**

James, the tenth child and the first son, was born on 02 MAR 1892 and baptised two weeks later on 20 MAR 1892¹. By the age of 19 he was a printer, still living at home² with his widowed mother Ellen and two siblings. At the age of 22, he married Dorothy WEST on 31 MAY 1914, about six months before he joined the Army. The marriage register records him as a ‘porter’. At the time he was living at 3 Huntsmead Street; she at 51 Beckway Street. He enlisted at Finsbury Barracks on 09 NOV 1914³, giving 51 Beckway Street as his address. It seems that this became the permanent home of the couple, as James appears in the ‘Absent Voters’ List’ of 1918 at this address and also in the usual Electoral Register, along with John and Sarah Ann WEST. John was not Dorothy’s father, as he (John James) is shown as ‘deceased’ on their marriage certificate, but Sarah Ann may have been her mother.

James and Dorothy WHENT, along with various members of the WEST family, continue to be recorded at 51 Beckway Street until at least 1938. For a few years (1931-1936) a third family, Thomas James & Elizabeth Ann BURNETT, are also shown as voters at that address. The 1939 Register shows only two names here: James WHENT, a ‘foreman goods port’, and John WEST. John’s date of birth is shown as 12 JAN 1863; he was widowed, and a ‘retired printer’, so possibly an uncle of Dorothy’s. Two other names, presumably children of James and Dorothy, are redacted. James and Dorothy later moved again: the Electoral Roll of 1955 shows them living at 2 De Laune Street, SE17 (Newington and Walworth).

James died and was buried on 24 SEP 1975; Dorothy survived him by 20 years and died on 03 APR 1995, living to be 100. Both are buried at Camberwell New Cemetery.

Robert Joseph F (1896 – 1963)**011MK**

Robert’s birth was registered at St Olave early in 1896⁴; he was baptised, at Christchurch Bermondsey as were the remainder of his siblings, on 12 JAN 1896. He is shown as a porter in the 1911 census, when he was still living with his parents. On 20 OCT 1915 he married Minnie REED at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey: his occupation was ‘soldier’, and his address at the time was 19 Kent Road. Somewhat oddly, his deceased father’s occupation was given as ‘labourer’ (rather than ‘mariner’, as on every other occasion) and Robert’s name is recorded as ‘Robert Frederick Joseph Whent’. He enlisted as a driver in the Royal Field Artillery.

There is little further evidence of Minnie and Robert, and they have not been found in the 1939 Register; although they (together with Leslie and Daisy, presumably two grown-up children) are shown on the 1948 Electoral Roll as living at 53 Tresco Road, Peckham Rye. Robert died on 27 APR 1963⁵, and Minnie died four years later⁶.

Clara Ruth (1898 – 1971)**011ML**

Clara was born on 10 JUN 1898⁷; birth was registered at St Olave in 1898⁸. She was baptised at Christchurch on 26 JUN 1898. No further records have been found until the Electoral Register of 1929, which shows her living at 48 Nigel Buildings with her widowed sister Hilda (Hester).

The 1939 Register shows Clara and Hilda living at 130 Choumert Road, which is between Peckham and East Dulwich. Clara was a ‘dressmaking finisher’, Hilda a ‘filing clerk’. Also living at the same address was Harry O SIEBER, a ‘ships steward’. Clara married Harry in 1942⁹; the marriage was

¹ baptism register for Christchurch, Bermondsey

² 1911 census return for 31 Ambrose Street, Bermondsey, RG14/1893 ED25 SN436

³ Short Service Attestation papers

⁴ ONS birth registration for Robert Joseph F WHENT, Q1/1896, St Olave Southwark, 1D 248

⁵ ONS death reference for Robert J F WHENT aged 67, Q2/1963, Camberwell, 5C 196

⁶ ONS death reference for Minnie WHENT aged 69, Q1/1967, Lambeth, 5d 78

⁷ birthdate taken from death registration

⁸ ONS birth registration for Clara Ruth L WHENT, Q3/1898, St Olave Southwark, 1D 216

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Harry O SIEBER and Clara R WHENT, Q3/1942, Deptford, 1d 1459

registered at Deptford. Harry had been in the Services during WW1, in the Middlesex Regiment. By 1945 Harry and Clara were living at 69 St Asaph Road, Brockley, and they were there until at least 1963¹; also at the same address were Clara's sister Hilda (Hester) and another couple, John & Mabel GAPP.

Harry's death was registered at Lewisham² in 1969; Clara survived a further two years, and her death was registered at Greenwich in 1971³.

¹ Electoral Register

² ONS death reference for Harry Otto SIEBER, Q4/1969, Lewisham, 5d 905

³ ONS death reference for Clara Ruth SIEBER, Q3/1971, Greenwich, 5b 900

Appendix 011N – Joseph Thomas GRIMSEY¹ (1860 – 1936)

Robert and Phoebe's fifth child was a boy, Joseph Thomas. Born at Thorrington on 04 JAN 1860 and baptised on 01 APR the same year, he married Emily Marsh, from Shotley in Suffolk, on 03 NOV 1881. She had been born on 30 OCT 1859 at Shotley, and appears in the 1881 census return as a housemaid at Thorrington Hall, Colchester Road, Thorrington². Joseph and Emily had, I understand from Richard Smith, at least nine children.

Ten years later, in 1891³, Joseph and Emily were living at Elmstead with the eldest four children. Their sixth child, Edith, was baptised at Alresford in September 1894, and some time between then and 1900 the family moved some 20 miles north and east to Suffolk, and by 1901⁴ were living in Emily's home village of Shotley, just across the River Stour from Harwich.

In 1911 the family⁵ were still living in Shotley⁶, but later they moved to Rockingham, Northamptonshire, where their daughter Mabel and her husband George MILES were living (see below). Joseph died on 23 JUN 1936 at Rockingham from cerebral degeneration and artetio sclerosis; Emily died on 06 JAN 1953⁷; the informant for Joseph's death was George William MILES.

William Thomas (1882 – 1959)

011NA

William, the first-born child of Joseph and Emily, was born on 08 OCT 1882⁸ and baptised on 19 NOV 1882. Although he was shown as an 'ag lab' in the 1901 census⁹, and living with his parents, by the age of 28 he was working as the hotel 'boots' at the Blue Boar Hotel, Cambridge¹⁰. Evidence of a Medal Roll card shows that he was in the army during WW1, and the Roll of Honour in Shotley parish church indicates that he served as a private in the 1/15th London Regiment (this was the Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles), but his army service records did not survive. A WW1 Campaign Medals card records that he was awarded the Victory and British War medals – this means that he served overseas after 1915. He was not awarded either the 1914 or the 1915 Star, which could mean that he waited for the 1916 call-up (by which time he would have been 34). No marriage has been found.

During the 1930s Electoral Registers show him living at various addresses in Paddington. The 1939 register shows him living at 1 Queens Gate, Kensington. He was single, and a 'domestic worker'. The other occupants of that address were Charles and Ellen Buston, roughly the same age as William; Lucy Williams, born 1864; Suzanne Beadle, an artist, born 1905; and William Corbett, a butler, born 1909. Lucy and Charles are both shown as being 'incapacitated'.

William died on 03 MAR 1959¹¹ of bronchopneumonia, chronic bronchitis and emphysema; the death was registered at Paddington (which includes part of Kensington) and the certificate shows that he was a 'retired catering assistant'.

¹ much of the research on this family comes from Richard Smith

² 1881 census return for Thorrington Hall, Thorrington, RG11/1786 f136 pp2-3

³ 1891 census, RG12/1405 f83 p9

⁴ 1901 census return for Ipswich Road, Shotley, Suffolk, RG13/1772 f81 p20

⁵ Joseph, Emily, Arthur, May, Olive and Charles together with Mary Marsh, Emily's mother

⁶ 1911 census return for 7 New Cottages, Shotley, Suffolk, RG14/10791 ED13 SN103

⁷ these dates from Richard Smith; photocopy of death certificate for Joseph GRIMSEY

⁸ these dates from the baptism register of St Mary Magdalene, Thorrington

⁹ 1901 census return for 'new cottages', Ipswich Road, Shotley, RG13/1772 f81 p20

¹⁰ 1911 census return for The Blue Boar, Trinity Street, Cambridge, RG14/9133 ED7 SN57

¹¹ Information from Richard & Jeannette Smith; ONS death reference for William T GRIMSEY aged 76, Q1/1959, Paddington, 5d 271

Arthur (1885 – 1969)

011NB

The second son, Arthur, was born on 06 SEP 1885 and baptised on 18 OCT 1885. In 1911 the census records him aged 25 and living at home with his parents. Ten years later, in 1921 (no accurate date has been found) he married Laura THROWER at Samford.

The 1939 Register shows Arthur and Laura living at an address described as ‘Below church’ in Samford, with two children – Ethel, born 1925, and William, born 1928.

Arthur died in 1969, aged 84¹, and was buried at St Mary’s, Shotley. Laura survived a further eight years and died in 1977².

Mabel Emily (1887 – 1951)

011NC

The first daughter, Mabel, was born on 30 APR 1887 and baptised 05 JUN 1887³. She entered domestic service, and at the age of 13 she was working for Sydney and Mabel Wrinch at Nether Hall in Shotley⁴; ten years later she was a housemaid in Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead⁵, with a naturalised German couple, David and Emma MARX. At the age of 45 she married Bill MILES⁶, who used to work at Rockingham Castle in Northamptonshire. They had no children and Mabel, as the eldest daughter, looked after her parents in their later years; they lived in a thatched cottage in Rockingham. Her death was registered at Peterborough⁷.

Lily Alice (1889 – 1961)

011ND

Lily, who was born on 21 DEC 1889 and baptised on 04 MAY 1890⁸, was a housemaid in 1911 in Hampstead for George and Louisa COTTAM⁹. This was only a couple of miles from where her elder sister Mabel was in service.

She married Major NELSON (this was a forename rather than a military rank; his occupation was as a baker) on 02 AUG 1914¹⁰. At the time of the marriage his address was 49 Richmond Road, Twickenham, and hers was 25 Alexandra Road, Mortlake. Somewhat oddly, her father’s name is given as ‘Arthur’ on the marriage certificate.

An Army Enlistment Form confirms that he did enlist, but there is no date on the form. It does show his first son Arthur John (born on 11 JUN 1915), but not his second son Derek (born 23 APR 1917), so it must have been between these dates. It also shows an address of 44 Grange Avenue, and this is confirmed by an entry in the Electoral Roll of 1918.

Major and Lily had five children – four sons and a daughter. The 1939 Register shows the family living at 101 Mayfield Gardens, Ealing, although Arthur John was not present.

Family rumour has it that one of the children emigrated to New Zealand, although no evidence of this has been found. Major died in 1956, aged 66¹¹; Lily died five years later, in 1961¹².

¹ ONS death record for Arthur GRIMSEY, Q2/1969, Samford, 4b 2582

² ONS death reference for Laura GRIMSEY, Q1/1977, Ipswich, 10 2651

³ Essex births and baptisms

⁴ 1901 census return for Nether Hall, Shotley, RG13/1772 f81 p19

⁵ 1911 census return for Avenue House, Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead, RG14/609 ED19

⁶ ONS marriage reference for George W MILES and Mabel E GRIMSEY, Q2/1932, Uppingham, 7a 747

⁷ ONS death reference for Mabel E MILES aged 60, Q1/1951, Peterborough, 3b 981

⁸ Essex births and baptisms

⁹ 1911 census return for 36 Hollycroft Avenue, Hampstead, RG14/600 ED10 SN217

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Lily A GRIMSEY and Major J NELSON, Q3/1914, Brentford, 3a 337; St Mary, Twickenham, parish register

¹¹ ONS death reference for Major J NELSON aged 66, Q4/1956, Surrey Mid E, 5g 201

¹² ONS death reference for Lily A NELSON aged 71, Q1/1961, Wandsworth, 5d 1007.

Joseph (1892 – 1918)

011NE

The third son, Joseph, was born in 1892. At the age of 18 he was a servant, together with his younger sister Edith, in South Godstone (see next entry). He joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment and was killed in action on 27 SEP 1918 in France¹, aged 26. He is mentioned on the memorial in Shotley Parish Church.

Edith Mary (1894 – 1983)

011NF

Edith was born on 24 SEP 1894 and baptised on 25 NOV 1894 at Alresford. By the time she was 16 she had moved to South Godstone with her elder brother Joseph to work at a house called Fiddlers Grove², where they were servants (domestic servant and groom/gardener respectively) in the household of Wyndham and Beatrice Dickins. Just why and how they moved from Elmstead in Essex to South Godstone in Surrey has not been explained.

Ten years later, on 27 DEC 1921³, Edith married Percy George GASSON, a builder from East Grinstead. He died on 08 MAY 1958, when their address was 7 Moat Road, East Grinstead, leaving some £21,000. Edith died some 25 years later, in 1983⁴. Their son Roy Percy, a book publisher, died in the late 1990s while their daughter Jean still lived (in 2000) at East Grinstead.

Eva May (1897 – 1983)⁵

011NG

The next daughter was Eva May, born on 29 AUG 1897⁶. On 12 DEC 1925⁷ she married Reuben Wright Smith, ten years older than she. He had been born at Halesworth, Suffolk, and joined the Royal Navy on his 18th birthday (10 OCT 1905), signing on for 12 years. He served in over a dozen different ships until 08 JUN 1922, when he was stationed at HMS Ganges Training Establishment at Shotley. When he left the Navy he joined the GPO and the family moved to Market Harborough (not far from Rockingham). The 1939 Register shows Reuben, a postman, and Eva living at 15 Coventry Road in Market Harborough with son James (b 29 AUG 1929, now dead). There were three other children from this marriage: Peggy, living at Clipston in Northamptonshire, Mike, who lives at Farnborough in Hampshire and Richard, my 'new-found' cousin living in New Zealand. Reuben died in 1960 and Eva died on 31 MAR 1983 in Framland Hospital, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

Olive Maud (1900 – 1974)

011NH

Olive was born in 1900, while the family was living at Shotley. An Electoral Roll for 1935 shows her living at 22 Chepstow Place, Kensington, with Ralph & Marion COTESWORTH and a Florence STONE. She married William GORMAN in 1938⁸ – strangely, the marriage was registered at Leicester. The 1939 Register records William and Olive living at 66 Frank Street, Leicester, and the record reveals that William was some seven years older than Olive. Sometime during the next few years – there are two possibilities⁹ – William died, and Olive married again in 1951, to David T BECK¹⁰. She later moved to Surrey, as her death in 1974¹¹ was registered in that county.

¹ Private Joseph GRIMSEY, 12524, from the Cambridgeshire Regiment, died 27 SEP 1918; his name appears on the Vis-en-Artois memorial (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

² 1911 census return for Fiddlers Grove, South Godstone, SRY, RG14/3269 f26 p147

³ ONS marriage reference for Percy G GASSON and Edith M GRIMSEY, Q4/1921, E Grinstead, 2b 456

⁴ ONS death reference for Edith Mary GASSON, Q2/1983, Crawley, 18 1659

⁵ much of the information in this section comes from Richard Smith, who was Eva's fourth child

⁶ ONS birth reference for Eva May GRIMSEY, Q4/1897, Tendring, 4a 653

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Reuben W SMITH and Eva M GRIMSEY, Q4/1925, Samford, 4a 2340

⁸ ONS marriage reference for William GORMAN and Olive M GRIMSEY, Q1/1938, Leicester, 7a 434

⁹ ONS death reference for William GORMAN, either [age 47, Q2/1941, Warrington, 8c 301] or [age 51, Q4/1944, Shrewsbury, 6a 756]

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for David T BECK and Olive M GORMAN, Q1/1951, Middlesex S, 5f 211

¹¹ ONS death reference for Olive Maud BECK, Q2/1074, Surrey N, 17 400

Alfred Charles (1902 – 1932)

011NI

There is no information about Alfred other than he was born at Shotley and died in 1932 at Woodbridge.

Appendix 011P – Robert GRIMSEY (1866 – 1919)

Robert, born 17 APR 1866 and baptised 20 MAY 1866¹, was the seventh child and second son of Robert and Phoebe. He became a brickmaker. On 16 FEB 1889² he married Mary Gosling, who was some six years younger than he and the daughter of Joseph; she had been born in Colchester³.

Robert and Mary were first cousins: Robert's mother Phoebe (née COOPER) was the elder sister of Esther (also née COOPER). For further details of Mary's family see page 82.

In 1891 the census entry⁴ shows Robert and Mary, together with son Bertie, living at 'Aingers Green', which is just south of Great Bentley, about 1½ miles east of Thorrington. They had further children, some of whom were baptised at Thorrington and some at Great Bentley. The 1901 census⁵ shows the family living in Great Bentley, now with six children, the youngest of whom had been baptised at Weeley (about the same distance as Thorrington, but in the opposite direction).

The 1911 census return⁶ shows Robert and Mary living in Kirby-le-Soken with nine of their children and a boarder, George BACON. The return states that 12 children were born to the couple and confirms the marriage date of 1889. The Electoral Roll for Great Bentley shows Robert and Mary at Hill Cottages from 1918; Robert died⁷ and was buried at Great Bentley on 29 JUN 1919, but the Electoral Roll continues to record him there until at least 1926. It is possible that these later records refer to son Robert (see page 56) but this is not clear.

Information from Audrey COOK⁸ confirms that Robert and Mary had 12 children in all, and that Mary left Robert (date unspecified) to move to London with their lodger Alfred BACON. She states that a daughter Georgina had been born in 1915 to Alfred and Mary, and that they married in 1921 (after Robert had died)⁹. Mary's son Charles (b 1895) was one of the witnesses on the marriage certificate. A possible death for Mary was in 1939, at the age of 68¹⁰.

It is likely that there are descendants alive from this branch of the family.

Bertie (1889 – 1917)

011PA

Robert and Mary's first son Bertie was born on 02 AUG 1889 and baptised at Thorrington on 06 OCT 1889¹¹. In 1908 he enlisted in the Rifle Brigade¹². He married Mary GILBEY in 1913¹³.

The Electoral Roll for Kirby-le-Soken shows Bertie and Mary Ann living at Upper Street in 1918, although Bertie was an 'absent voter' (as indeed he would be if he were still in the Army at that time). In fact it seems he died in France on active service, on 28 APR 1917¹⁴. He was a Private in the Essex Regiment and administration was granted to his widow, Mary Ann. Their address was given as 'The Gable, Kirby Cross, Essex'.

¹ both dates from the Thorrington baptism register

² ONS marriage reference for Robert GRIMSEY and Mary GOSLING, Q1/1889, Tendring, 4a 439

³ ONS birth reference for Mary Ann GOSLING, Q2/1872, Colchester, 4a 311

⁴ 1891 census return for Aingers Green, Great Bentley, RG12/1404 f62 p19

⁵ 1901 census return for 23 Hill Cottages, Great Bentley, RG13/1702 f57 p3

⁶ 1911 census return for Vista Avenue, Kirby-le-Soken, RG14/10237 ED4 SN34

⁷ ONS death reference for Robert GRIMSEY, Q3/1919, Tendring, 4a 587

⁸ via the internet

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Alfred G BACON and Mary GRIMSEY, Q1/1921, Stepney, 1c 500

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Mary BACON aged 68, Q2/1939, Stepney, 1c 233

¹¹ both dates from Thorrington baptism register

¹² His regimental number was 2983

¹³ ONS marriage reference for Bertie GRIMSEY and Mary A GILBEY, Q3/1913, Tendring, 4a 1587

¹⁴ Probate Calendar

Leonard (1891 – 1950)

011PB

Leonard was also baptised at Thorrington, on 12 JUL 1891, having been born on 23 APR 1891¹. He married Mabel BROWN in 1919². Although the marriage took place in Essex, they soon moved to Devon as their first (and, it seems, only) child Thomas was born on 04 AUG 1922 at Paignton³.

The 1939 Register shows them at 3a Colley End Road, Paignton.

Leonard died on 21 JAN 1950; his death was registered at Totnes⁴. Mabel's death has not been found and was possibly later than 1992.

Winifred Grace (1893 – 1918)

011PC

Winifred, born in 1893⁵, was not baptised at Thorrington. She married George HUBBARD in 1915⁶, and his papers of enlistment show that their address at the time was High Street, Thorpe-le-Soken. They had just one child, Arthur Reginald⁷, before Winifred died towards the end of 1918⁸, aged just 25.

Charles (1895 – 1971)

011PD

Charles, invariably known as Charlie, was the last child to have been baptised at Thorrington (on 28 JAN 1896), having been born on 05 JAN 1895⁹ (the 1939 Register states his date of birth as 05 JUN 1895). He married Daisy SUMNER in 1918¹⁰; her birth, in 1897¹¹, had been registered in Kingston (Surrey) and their marriage was also registered there. According to Audrey COOK he was a witness at his mother's second marriage, to Alfred BACON, in 1921 (see page 53).

Charlie and Daisy remained in Kingston: the 1939 Register shows them living at 91 Cambridge Road. Living at the same address were seven children (Peter, born 05 SEP 1923; John, 08 JAN 1926; Robert, 20 MAY 1928; Betty, 1930; Mark, 1932; Terry, 29 MAY 1934; and Kenneth, 09 JUL 1939)¹².

Charlies was a 'railway porter'. As well the family just named there were two other occupants of the house: George TAYLOR, a 65-year-old general labourer, and Joan ALYWIN, a 20-year-old married woman.

Daisy died a few years after the war, in 1948¹³; Charley died in early 1971¹⁴.

Audrey has also provided the information that John David married Vera HAINS in 1948¹⁵. She had been born, in Kingston, in 1926¹⁶ to parents Stanley and Sophia¹⁷. John and Vera had four children: Linda (1949), Marilyn (1950), Shirley (1957), Jane (1959).

¹ both dates from baptism register for Thorrington

² ONS marriage reference for Leonard GRIMSEY and Mabel E BROWN, Q2/1919, Tendring, 4a 1772

³ ONS birth reference for Thomas E G GRIMSEY, Q3/1922, Newton A, 5b 165

⁴ ONS death reference for Leonard GRIMSEY age 59, Q1/1950, Totnes, 7a 903

⁵ ONS birth reference for Winifred Grace GRIMSEY, Q2/1893, Tendring, 4a 582

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Winifred G GRIMSEY and George W HUBBARD, Q1/1915, Tendring, 4a 1125

⁷ ONS birth registration for Arthur R HUBBARD, Q1/1917, Tendring, 4a 1270

⁸ ONS death registration for Winifred G HUBBARD age 25, Q4/1918, Tendring, 4a 1604

⁹ both dates from baptism register for Thorrington: Ancestry transcription shows year of birth as 1895

¹⁰ ONS marriage for Charlie GRIMSEY and Daisy SUMNER, Q3/1918, Kingston, 2a 1147

¹¹ ONS birth referenced for Daisy Lilian SUMNER, Q3/1897, Kingston, 2a 353

¹² Dates of birth from the 1939 Register: entries for Betty and Mark are redacted

¹³ ONS death reference for Daisy L GRIMSEY age 51, Q3/1948, Surrey N, 5g 277

¹⁴ ONS death reference for Charley GRIMSEY, Q1/1971, Kingston/Ths, 5c 2112

¹⁵ ONS marriage reference for John D GRIMSEY and Vera HAINS, Q3/1948, Surrey N, 5g 879

¹⁶ ONS birth reference for Vera HAINS, Q2/1926, Kingston, 2a 778

¹⁷ ONS marriage reference for Stanley V HAINS and Sophia E BROCKWELL, Q4/1919, Kingston, 2a 1048

Sydney (1896 – 1978)**011PE**

Sydney's birth was registered at Tendring in 1896¹. At the age of 24 he married Edith STILL²; the marriage was registered at Islington and took place on 14 NOV 1920 at St John, Upper Holloway. Edith (née MOODY) had previously married Alfred STILL³ in 1914, but he had died four years later⁴.

Sydney and Edith moved to Hampshire, as the 1939 Register shows them at Liss (near Petersfield) living at Dun Cottage, Forest Corner. Sydney was a soldier in the Royal Engineers⁵. Also in the household were Eric GRIMSEY aged 27⁶ and Ada L MOODY, a 68-year-old widow, as well as four redacted entries, presumably children of Sydney and Edith. Ada was Edith's mother, but Eric is a bit of a mystery. The most likely explanation is that Eric was a nephew of Sydney's⁷.

A possible death for Edith was in 1940, although this was registered at Sheffield⁸; failing this, there are no deaths that appear to be relevant between 1939 and 1992. Sydney died at the age of 81; his death was registered at Colchester⁹.

Christina (1899 – 1982)

Christina was born in 1899¹⁰. She is listed in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns, and from these she was born in Weeley, but she was the only child in the family to have been born there. No marriage or death of a Christina has been found between 1899 and 1992, and the only marriage of a Christine that is at all likely was in 1966. A search of the 1939 Register shows 35 entries for 'Grimsey' born 1899, but no Christine or Christina.

The Electoral Roll for Harwich of 1929 shows a Christine GRIMSEY at 7 Hordle Street; she is described as 'Stewardess, S S *Malines*'. The Roll of a year later also lists Christine Grimsey at this address, but also shows Louisa Augusta GRIMSEY. This remains a mystery.

I have a year of death for Christina of 1982 – but no idea where this came from.

Phoebe (1901 – 1966)**011PG**

Phoebe was born on 13 APR 1901¹¹ at Great Bentley¹². She married Frederick YOUNG in 1922¹³. The family is shown in the 1939 Register, living at 2 Hill Cottages, Manningtree; Frederick was a 'general labourer'. The only child shown is Dennis, and there are two redacted entries, but other sources¹⁴ suggest that there were at least four children: Mary (May 1923), Violet (September 1924), Dennis (May 1928), and Hubert (June 1935). There may well be others between Dennis and Hubert.

A likely death for Frederick was in 1960¹⁵; Phoebe died on 17 JUN 1966¹⁶.

¹ ONS birth reference for Sidney GRIMSEY, Q3/1896, Tendring, 4a 623

² ONS marriage reference for Sydney GRIMSEY and Edith E STILL, Q4/1920, Islington, 1b 589

³ ONS marriage reference for Alfred STILL and Edith E STILL, Q4/1914, Islington, 1b 643

⁴ ONS death reference for Alfred R STILL age 45, Q4/1918, Camberwell, 1d 1668

⁵ his number is given as 1856829

⁶ Eric's date of birth was 26 MAY 1912; he was a general labourer

⁷ possibly a son of Bertie, who died in 1917, although Bertie was not married until 1913

⁸ ONS death reference for Edith E GRIMSEY age 48, Q4/1940, Sheffield, 9c 438

⁹ ONS death reference for Sidney GRIMSEY, Q2/1978, Colchester, 9 2197

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Christina GRIMSEY, Q1/1899, Tendring, 4a 685

¹¹ birthdate from the 1939 Register (May 1923)

¹² 1911 census return for Vista Avenue, Kirby-le-Soken, RG14/10237 ED4 SN34

¹³ ONS marriage reference for Frederick YOUNG and Phoebe GRIMSEY, Q2/1922, Tendring, 4a 1647

¹⁴ from Ancestry

¹⁵ ONS death reference for Frederick YOUNG age 63, Q1/1960, Colchester, 4a 575

¹⁶ ONS death reference for Phoebe YOUNG age 65, Q2/1966, Colchester, 4a 575 and via Ancestry

Robert Francis (1903 – 1976)

011PH

Robert, the eighth child and the fifth son, was born on 22 MAY 1903¹. He married Mary COATES in 1925².

The Electoral Roll for St Osyth shows Robert Francis living at ‘Colchester Road’ in 1926, but other than that the only other record that has been found is the 1939 Register, which lists Robert as a ‘hospital porter’ living at 18 Anchor Road, Clacton, in the household of William and Lilian BUTCHER. Also in the house was 19-year-old Jack Butcher, a ‘stockroom porter’; there is one further entry that has been redacted. Robert is shown as ‘married’ but no definite entry for Mary has been found.

Robert died in 1976³; the death was registered at Havering (in the Brentford / Romford area of London).

Violet Maisie (1905 – ?)

011PI

Violet’s birth was registered in 1905⁴. There are three possible marriages between 1925 and 1945, though nothing conclusive; no further record (including a death) of Violet has been found.

Samuel GILL, Q4/1929 (registered in Oldham)

Andrew MILBURN, Q4/1932, Cosford, SFK

Frederick SPARKES, Q2/1935, Rochford, ESS

Rosa Doris (1907 – 1925)

011PJ

Rosa’s birth was registered in 1907⁵; she died aged 17, with her death registered in 1925⁶.

Hubert Joshua (1909 – 1934)

011PK

Hubert also died young: he was born in 1909⁷ and died in 1934⁸.

Kenneth Alfred (1910 – 1944)

011PL

Kenneth was the youngest child. Born on 13 JUN 1910⁹, he married Ella WILSON in Stepney in 1930¹⁰. The 1939 Register shows both Kenneth and Ella living at 47 Prioress House in Poplar. No occupation is shown against Kenneth’s name but a note records that he was in the East Surrey Regiment. There are several other members of the Wilson family shown at the address: three girls, presumably younger sisters of Ella – all have had their surname crossed through and replaced with their married names; a 20-year-old Harry CHIVERS; and two redacted entries.

Kenneth died on 06 AUG 1944 during the Second World War¹¹, and was buried at the Bayeux War Cemetery. He was a sergeant in the 2nd battalion The Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Ella survived him and died age 70 in 1964¹².

¹ ONS birth reference for Robert Francis GRIMSEY, Q3/1903, Tendring, 4a 803; birthdate from 1939 Register

² ONS marriage reference for Robert F GRIMSEY and Mary E S COATES, Q2/1925, Tendring, 4a 1691

³ ONS death entry for Robert Francis GRIMSEY, Q3/1976, Havering, 13 114

⁴ ONS birth reference for Violet Maisey GRIMSEY, Q3/1905, Tendring, 4a 759

⁵ ONS birth reference for Rosa Doris GRIMSEY, Q2/1907, Tendring, 4a 797

⁶ ONS death reference for Rosa D GRIMSEY age 17, Q1/1925, Colchester, 4a 870

⁷ ONS birth reference for Hubert Joshua GRIMSEY, Q2/1909, Tendring, 4a 778a

⁸ ONS death reference for Hubert J GRIMSEY aged 25, Q4/1934, Colchester, 4a 882; birthdate from 1939 Register

⁹ ONS birth reference for Kenneth A C GRIMSEY, Q3/1910, Tendring, 4a 766

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Kenneth A GRIMSEY and Ella M WILSON, Q3/1930, Stepney, 1c 416

¹¹ Bayeux War Cemetery list

¹² ONS death reference for Ella M GRIMSEY age 70, Q1/1964, Ipswich, 4B 1026

Appendix 022K – Joseph GRIMSEY (1816 – 1880)

Joseph, the first son of Joseph and Mary, was baptised¹ on *02 APR 1816*. He seems to have provided a good reason for his parents' marriage (which took place on 22 DEC 1815)!

On 25 MAR 1837 he married Maria BACON², who was roughly the same age. She had been born in Alresford on 01 JAN 1816 and baptised on *21 APR 1816*³. It is likely that she was the daughter of John and Elizabeth.

The 1841 census return shows Joseph and Maria living in Thorrington⁴ and providing a home for Robert, Joseph's younger brother. They appear in the 1851 census return⁵, living in 'Cottage on Heath, St Osyth'; ten years later⁶ their address was East Green (or East End Green), Brightlingsea, and they were here for the rest of their lives together; the 1871 return⁷ gives no additional information. No children are shown on any occasion.

Joseph died at the age of 63 in 1880⁸; the following year Maria was still living at the same address⁹. She was a charwoman, aged 62; an 8-year-old girl, Elizabeth SMITH, is shown as a visitor. In 1891 Maria was with her widowed sister-in-law Emma (Joseph's youngest sister) at 'The Park', Brightlingsea.

The NBI shows a record of a burial for Maria GRIMSEY in Brightlingsea on *06 DEC 1895* at the age of 78, giving a YoB of 1817; this is corroborated by an ONS record of death of a Maria GRIMSEY aged 78 in the last quarter of 1895¹⁰.

¹ Thorrington register of baptisms, page 5

² Thorrington register of marriages

³ baptism register for St Peter, Alresford

⁴ 1841 census return for Thorrington, HO107/338/11 f11 p16

⁵ 1851 census return for (household 5), Cottage on Heath, St Osyth, HO107/1779 f58

⁶ 1861 census return for East Green, Brightlingsea, RG9/1101 f115

⁷ 1871 census return for East End Green Lane, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f27 p19

⁸ ONS death reference for Joseph GRIMSEY aged 63, Q3/1880, Tendring, 4a 226

⁹ 1881 census, RG11/1786

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Maria GRIMSEY aged 78, Q4/1895, Tendring, 4a 326

Appendix 022M – James GRIMSEY (1820 – 1895)

James, baptised on *06 FEB 1820*¹, became a mariner as did several other members of the family. On *02 NOV 1846* he married Caroline G(U)ILDERS, daughter of James, at Brightlingsea². I have found details of seven children.

In 1851 Caroline, together with James, aged 4, and Sarah Ann, aged 1, were living in the High Street, Brightlingsea³. Both children had been baptised on *03 NOV 1850* at Brightlingsea. James senior is not on the census return and was presumably at sea on that night. Just a few doors away was another GRIMSEY family, although on census night 1851 only the wife Susan and daughter Eliza were at home. Susan, aged 30, had been born in Winterton, Norfolk, but there is no indication of who her husband might have been and she does not appear in the census ten years later.

Ten years later, in 1861, the two James, father and son, were together on the vessel *Rebecca*⁴; James senior was the master while his son was an apprentice. Caroline was at home in Brightlingsea⁵ with five children – Walter was just one month old.

Caroline, together with Walter and Rosa E, is shown in the 1871 census return⁶. James was presumably again at sea. There is no birth registration for a Rosa GRIMSEY and it seems highly likely that this was daughter Norah – indeed, from later evidence it appears that the names Rosa and Norah were used interchangeably for the same girl.

Caroline also appears in the 1881 census return⁷ living in the same road as George, the cousin of her husband James, with daughter Norah E and stepdaughter Caroline BRASTED. Norah is a ‘mariner’s daughter (cripple)’ and, indeed, she appears in the ONS register of deaths for the September quarter of 1883⁸ – Norah Elizabeth, aged 19. She was thus born in about 1864 and it seems to have been the practice of this family to baptise their children at the age of two or three! Perhaps they had to wait for James to return from a voyage. The younger Caroline, noted as a stepdaughter, is James’s and Caroline’s third daughter, married to Frederick BRASTED, also a mariner; she was thus a true ‘daughter’, rather than a ‘daughter-in-law’ or ‘step-daughter’. James can also be found in this census return – he is master of the vessel *Tartar* at Southwick. The only town of this name on the coast is between Hove and Shoreham. Son Walter, like so many of his relatives, also went to sea and in 1881 was the mate on the vessel *Maryann* at Ramsgate.

In the 1891 census return⁹ James and Caroline are together – for once – and providing a home for their 32-year-old nephew, John GILDERS, and Ada MEEKS, who had been born in London; she was the seven-year-old daughter of their second child Sarah Ann and her husband Arthur.

James was buried at Brightlingsea on *20 DEC 1895*. His death was registered at Tendring¹⁰.

The following census, that of 1901¹¹, shows Caroline, now a widow, with grand-daughter Ada and also a 17-year-old niece, Matilda A GILDERS.

Caroline was buried on *24 APR 1909*¹².

¹ Baptism register for Thorrington, page 9

² Marriage register for Brightlingsea

³ 1851 census entry for High Street, Brightlingsea, HO107/1782

⁴ 1861 census return for vessel ‘Rebecca’, RG9/4482 f45

⁵ 1861 census return for Cage (?) Yard, Brightlingsea, RG9/1101 f105 p25

⁶ 1851 census return for High Street, Brightlingsea, RG10/

⁷ 1881 census return for Park Chase, Brightlingsea, RG11/1785

⁸ *op cit*, ref 4a 217

⁹ 1891 census return for Spring Close, Brightlingsea, RG12/1405 f27 p12

¹⁰ ONS death registration for James GRIMSEY aged 75, Q4/1895, Tendring, 4a 326

¹¹ 1901 census return for 25 Spring Close, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f87 p28

¹² ONS death reference for Caroline GRIMSEY aged 84, Q2/1909, Tendring, 4a 366

James Thomas Guilders (1847 – 1918)**022MA**

There is no registration of the birth of a James GRIMSEY between 1842 and 1852, but from his age at death James was born in about 1847; this is confirmed, more or less, by his age derived from various census returns. He was baptised on *03 NOV 1850*¹ at Brightlingsea. By the time James was 14, he was an apprentice on the vessel *Rebecca*, where his father was the master². Ten years later³, in 1871, he was the master of his own boat, the *Arrow*. Two years later, at the age of 26, he married Fanny WOOLNETT⁴. She was local to the south-west Colchester area and had been born in 1852⁵ although the ONS records her surname as ‘EVERITT’⁶; like James, she had not been baptised until she was over two years old (her baptism date was *10 SEP 1854*, again at Brightlingsea). Her parents were George and Sarah. Presumably Fanny accompanied James on his voyages, for their first son James was born in Aberdeen⁷!

Alice, their next child, was born in Pancras, and the births of all the remaining children were registered in Poplar. The 1881 census⁸ shows them living in Poplar, where James was a ‘wharf labourer’ – Garford Street, where they lived, is very close to the West India Docks. By this time they had two sons and a daughter⁹, and also in the house was Emma, Fanny’s 23-year-old sister (her name is shown as WOOLVETT in the ONS index). During the next ten years three more children were born¹⁰, but the youngest, Minnie Eliza, died before her second birthday¹¹.

They had six children in all. The 1891 census¹², by which time they had moved to another house a little further from the docks, shows them all living at home; James was shown as a ‘crane driver’, so he had presumably retired from the sea. James’s niece Florence, aged 10, was also in the house – her surname is hard to read but looks nothing like Woolvett.

They had moved again, still within Poplar, by 1901¹³. James was a ‘wharf foreman’ by this time: all five children were still living at home with their parents.

Ten years later they were still at the same address. Son James, still unmarried, and the two youngest daughters were still at home.

James died in 1918¹⁴; Fanny lived a further 15 years and died in 1933¹⁵.

¹ Essex baptism records

² 1861 census return for vessel ‘Rebecca’, RG9/4482 f45

³ 1871 census return for vessel ‘Arrow’, RG10/1033

⁴ ONS marriage reference for James Thomas G GRIMSEY and Fanny WOOLRETT, Q3/1873, Lexden, 4a 475

⁵ ONS birth reference for Fanny EVERITT, Q1/1852, Lexden, 4a252

⁶ various official sources show the surname as WOOLNETT or WOOLVETT: this confusion is simply due to the handwriting

⁷ GROS birth reference for James George GRIMSEY, 1874, St Nicholas, Aberdeen, Scotland, 168/01/1068

⁸ 1871 census return for 47 Garford Street, Poplar, RG11/508, f81 p57

⁹ ONS birth references for: Alice, Q3/1877, Pancras, 1b 86; Walter Gilders, Q4/1880, Poplar, 1c 392;

¹⁰ ONS birth references (all Poplar) for Norah Fanny, Q4/1884, 1c 729; Minnie Eliza, Q3/1888, 1c 626; May Ethel, Q3/1890, 1c 629

¹¹ ONS death reference for Minnie Eliza GRIMSEY aged 1, Q2/1889, Poplar, 1c 377

¹² 1891 census return for 40 Morant Street, Poplar, RG12/331 f120 p36

¹³ 1901 census return for 61 Hind Street, Poplar, RG13/353 f111 p52

¹⁴ ONS death reference for James T G GRIMSEY aged 70, Q4/1918, Poplar, 1c 1007

¹⁵ ONS death reference for Fanny GRIMSEY aged 81, Q3/1933, W Ham , 4a 121

Sarah Ann (1849 – 1887)**022MB**

Sarah, the second child and the eldest daughter, was born in 1849¹ and baptised at Brightlingsea the following year, on the same date as her elder brother, on *03 NOV 1850*. By 1871² she was a ‘domestic servant’ in Islington, in the house of Arthur Ashford, a ‘hosier and ladies’ outfitter’.

On 15 MAR 1872³ she married Arthur MEEKS in London at Holy Trinity church in Islington. He had been born in Oxfordshire and was a cheesemonger. At the time of their marriage Sarah was living in Upper Street, Arthur at 4 Orchard Street, Paddington. They lived in London, moving from Paddington to Hammersmith to Kensington, although their first daughter was born in Brightlingsea (she had probably gone home to her parents for the first couple of births).

Sarah died in 1887⁴; her death was registered in Wandsworth. Arthur married again three years later, in 1890⁵, to Rosina HUTCHINGS.

Sarah and Arthur had six children: James (1873), Caroline (1875), George (1877), William (1880), Sophia (1882) and Ada (1884). A possible death for Arthur was in 1897⁶.

Thirza Jane (1852 – 1913)**022MC**

Thirza was born in 1852⁷ and baptised on *13 NOV 1853*. She is shown in the 1861 census return, at age eight, but no further records of her have been found. However, Thirza is sometimes used as a diminutive of Theresa, and an entry in the 1871 census shows a Theresa GRIMSEY of the right age, born at Brightlingsea, in service with a family in Finsbury⁸. There is no birth registration of a Theresa and so this is almost certainly the same person. She may well have been named after her mother’s younger sister Theresa, who was also known as Thirza.

Four years after the census had been taken, on Christmas Day 1875, Theresa married William MABSON⁹ at St Chad, Haggerston.. William (also known as George) was three or four years younger than Thirza; by 1891 he was a baker. Although his place of birth is consistently shown as Islington (MDX) the 1911 census records that he was a ‘British subject by parentage’. Despite that, there is a birth registration for a George William at the end of 1854 and this is likely to refer¹⁰. His parents were John and Elizabeth Mary, who had been born in Wiltshire and Sussex respectively, so this reference to ‘British subject by parentage’ remains a mystery¹¹.

The 1911 census return records that Thirza/Theresa and George (William) had a total of six children, of whom two had died: the four surviving to 1911 were Elizabeth Lucy (1878), George Walter (1880), William James (1885) and Albert John (1887).

Thirza died two years later¹²; George (William) died the following year¹³.

¹ ONS birth reference for Sarah Ann GRIMSEY, Q3/1849, Lexden, 12 141

² 1871 census return for 75 and 76 Upper Street, Finsbury, Islington, RG10/251 f39 p6

³ ONS marriage reference for Sarah Ann GRIMSEY and Arthur MEEKS, Q1/1872, Islington, 1b 350; date from marriage register

⁴ ONS death reference for Sarah Ann MEEKS aged 38, Q1/1887, Wandsworth, 1d 421

⁵ ONS marriage reference for Arthur MEEKS and Rosina Alice HUTCHINGS, Q3/1890, Fulham, 1a 566

⁶ ONS death reference for Arthur MEEKS aged 49, Q4/1897, St Olave, 1d 112

⁷ ONS birth reference for Thirza Jane GRIMSEY, Q2/1852, Lexden, 4a 228

⁸ 1871 census entry for 105 St Paul’s Road, Islington, RG10/103 f1 p1

⁹ ONS marriage reference for William MABSON and Theresa GRIMSEY, Q4/1875, Shoreditch, 1c 265; also St Chad marriage register

¹⁰ ONS birth registration for George William MABSON, Q4/1854, Islington, 1b 204

¹¹ 1861 census return for 28 Rutland Street, Shoreditch, RG9/245 f135 p4; this shows William’s birthplace as Islington

¹² ONS death reference for Thirza J MABSON age 60, Q1/1913, Lewisham, 14 1427

¹³ ONS death reference for George W MABSON age 60, Q4/1914, Lewisham, 1d 1281

Thomas (1855 – 1924)**022MD**

The fourth child, Thomas, was born and baptised in 1855¹. Like many of his relatives, he became a mariner: in 1871² he was a ‘boy’ aged 16 on board the vessel ‘Pioneer’, in Dover harbour on census night.

In 1879³ he married Agnes GILBERT. On census night in 1881⁴ they were living in Wellington Street, Brightlingsea, with daughter Lilly [sic] Agnes who was just seven months old – and who died⁵ and was buried on 26 DEC 1883, only three months after her third birthday.

In 1891⁶ Thomas and Agnes, together with son Norman⁷, were living with Ernest SADLER, a sailmaker, and his wife Lydia. Thomas and Agnes are shown as ‘brother-in-law’ and ‘sister-in-law’; in 1885 Ernest SADLER had married Lydia GILBERT⁸, so Agnes and Lydia were sisters. The two families were living in Burnham (on Crouch), about 15 miles by sea from Brightlingsea but more than double that distance by road, because of the intervening River Blackwater.

By 1901⁹ Thomas and Agnes were again living in Brightlingsea, with four children: they were Lily (1880-1883), Norman (1889), Leonard (1892), Wilfrid (1894). The 1911 census return records that seven children were born to Thomas and Agnes, of whom three had died. Research has found only five children in all, but there are several possibilities for the unknown two.

The 1911 census return shows Thomas as a steward¹⁰ on board the yacht ‘Madrigal’ at Southampton; the master of the boat was Walter DOVE. Agnes was at a different address, but still in Brightlingsea¹¹, with daughter Maud and sons Leonard and Wilfrid. All were single.

Thomas died and was buried on 20 AUG 1924 at Brightlingsea; Agnes died in 1935, when she was 75¹².

Caroline (1858 – 1919)**022ME**

Caroline was also born in Brightlingsea¹³. The census return of 1871¹⁴, by which time she was 13, shows her as a ‘visitor’ in the house of Mrs Mary CURTIS, in Islington. Mary Curtis was no relation, but she employed a servant Theresa GILDERS (b1831) as a cook. Theresa (also known as Thirza) was a younger sister of Caroline’s mother (also Caroline) and hence her aunt¹⁵.

On 01 NOV 1880¹⁶ Caroline married Frederick BRASTED; he was roughly the same age as she and came from Newhaven, Sussex. The year following their marriage he does not appear in the census, but was perhaps away at sea somewhere; Caroline was staying or living with her mother in Brightlingsea –

¹ ONS birth reference for Thomas GRIMSEY, Q1/1855, Lexden, 4a 242

² 1871 census return for vessel ‘Pioneer’, Dover, RG10/1010, f159 p46

³ ONS marriage reference for Thomas GRIMSEY and Agnes GILBERT, Q1/1879, Lexden, 4a 397

⁴ 1881 census return for Wellington Street, Brightlingsea, RG11/1785 f134 p25

⁵ ONS death reference for Lily Agnes GRIMSEY aged 3, Q4/1883, Tendring, 4a 223

⁶ 1891 census return for Ship Lane, Burnham, RG12/1395 f41 p33

⁷ ONS birth reference for Norman Thomas GRIMSEY, Q3/1888, Tendring, 4a 489

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Ernest Dove SADLER and Lydia e GILBERT, Q3/1885, Tendring, 4a 586

⁹ 1901 census return for 133 New Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f13 p15

¹⁰ 1911 census return for yacht ‘Madrigal’, Summers & Paynes Yard, Southampton, RG14/5988 ED55 SN100

¹¹ 1911 census return for 9 Silcott Street, Brightlingsea, RG14/10265 ED1 SN 181

¹² ONS death reference for Agnes GRIMSEY aged 75, Q3/1935, Tendring, 4a 724

¹³ ONS birth reference for Caroline GRIMSEY, Q1/1858, Lexden, 4a 250: until 1880 Brightlingsea was within Lexden registration district; thereafter it was in that of Tendring

¹⁴ 1871 census return for 59 Penn Road Villas, Islington, RG10/272 f56 p12

¹⁵ the 1841 census (HO107/338/7 f12 p18) for East Green, Brightlingsea shows both Caroline and Thirza (Theresa) with their mother Sarah and two other siblings

¹⁶ ONS marriage reference for Frederick BRASTED and Caroline QUINSEY [sic], Q4/1880, Tendring, 4a 552; date from Essex Church of England marriages

her father was also away (see above). Although the census return records her as a stepdaughter she is the third daughter and fifth child of James and Caroline.

By 1891 Frederick and Caroline were living in a house in Brightlingsea¹ and had four children²: Maggie, Frederick, Kate and George. Ten years later³, in 1901, all four children were still living at home but the family had moved to a different address, where they remained until at least 1911⁴.

Caroline died in 1919⁵ aged 62, but Frederick survived her by 15 years, dying in 1934⁶.

Walter (1861 – 1921)

022MF

Walter, too, became a mariner. His birth was registered in 1861⁷ and by the time he was 20 he was the mate on the vessel 'Maryann', which on census night 1881⁸ was in Ramsgate harbour.

In 1889 he married Linda WHITLOCK⁹; the marriage was registered in Thanet, the registration area of Ramsgate. She had been born in Wiltshire and was about the same age as he. By 1891 they had settled in a house in Ramsgate¹⁰, and they remained there for at least 20 years¹¹.

Linda died in 1912, aged only 51¹², but Walter lived a further nine years and died in 1921¹³. They appear not to have had any children.

Nora Elizabeth (1864 – 1883)

022MG

When the youngest child was born she was registered as Nora Elizabeth¹⁴, although she appears as 'Rosa E' in one census and as 'Norah E' in another. The 1881 census return shows her as a cripple; two years later she had died¹⁵. The death was registered in Tendring district.

¹ 1891 census return for Nelson Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f99 p25

² ONS birth references (all Tendring): Meggy, Q3/1881, 4a 405; Kata Lillian, Q4/1887, 4a 609; George Charles, Q3/1890, 4a 531. There is no reference anywhere for a Frederick BRASTED

³ 1901 census return for 124 Tower Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1373 f41 p22

⁴ 1911 census return for 124 Tower Street, Brightlingsea, RG14/10266 ED2 SN173

⁵ ONS death reference for Caroline BRASTED aged 62, Q2/1919, Tendring, 4a 590

⁶ ONS death reference for Frederick BRASTED aged 78, Q3/1934, Tendring, 4a 708

⁷ ONS birth reference for Walter GRIMSEY, Q1/1861, Lexden, 4a 259

⁸ 1881 census return for vessel 'Maryann', Ramsgate, Kent, RG11/992 f97 p0

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Walter GRIMSEY and Linda Maria WHITLOCK, Q2/1889, Thanet, 2a 1460

¹⁰ 1891 census return for 17 James Street, Ramsgate, RG12/731 f111 p16

¹¹ 1901 census return for 17 James Street, Ramsgate, RG13/826 f88 p26; 1911 census return for same address, RG14/4516 ED6 SN63

¹² ONS death reference for Linda M GRIMSEY aged 51, Q1/1912, Thanet, 2a 1393

¹³ ONS death reference for Walter GRIMSEY aged 60, Q3/1921, Thanet, 2a 1073

¹⁴ ONS birth reference for Nora Elizabeth GRIMSEY, Q1/1864, Lexden, 4a 295

¹⁵ ONS death reference for Nora Elizabeth GRIMSEY aged 19, Q3/1883, Tendring, 4a 217

Appendix 022N – Mary Ann GRIMSEY (1824 – 1903)

The fifth child and eldest daughter of Joseph and Mary was Mary Ann; she was baptised on *16 MAY 1824*¹ at Thorrington. The 1841 census return contains only one Mary GRIMSEY of the right age, living in Essex; she was a female servant in the household of James EDWARD, a butcher, in Great Bentley. This is only two miles from Thorrington and it is certainly possible that by the age of 15 she would have been working as a servant.

On 15 OCT 1843² she married Joseph ROSE, son of William ROSE, a labourer. Joseph had been born on 03 SEP 1818 and baptised three weeks later on *27 SEP 1818* at Thorrington³. At the time of the census taken in 1841⁴ he was living with his parents, William and Sarah, sister Mary and younger brother Samuel in Thorrington.

Ten years later the census⁵ shows Joseph and Mary living in Thorrington with three children.

Janice ROSE⁶ has provided the following list of children, giving dates of both birth and baptism: this, with the exception of Edward and Edmund, corresponds to those found in the census (the place is that of baptism):

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Joseph | 05 DEC 1844 | <i>16 FEB 1845</i> | Thorrington |
| Ellen Charlotte | 18 MAR 1847 | <i>18 APR 1847</i> | Thorrington |
| William | 08 JAN 1850 | <i>28 MAR 1851</i> | Thorrington |
| Ephraim | 12 MAR 1852 | <i>16 MAR 1852</i> | Thorrington |
| Eliza | 27 FEB 1855 | <i>07 SEP 1856</i> | Thorrington |
| Edward | 01 OCT 1857 | | Elmstead |
| Edmund | 02 OCT 1857 | | Elmstead |
| Sarah Ada | (unregistered) | <i>01 SEP 1859</i> | Elmstead |
| John | 07 MAY 1865 | | Colchester |

The ONS records the birth of an Edmund and of an unnamed male child in 1857⁷ and also the death of each in the same quarter⁸; it seems likely that these were twins, either still-born or died as infants. No other record has been found for either of these two.

The 1861 census⁹ has recorded the family, with Joseph and Mary Ann living in Elmstead, about five miles north of Thorrington. With them are six children – the five eldest shown above, plus Sarah.

The 1871 census return shows Joseph and Mary living at ‘Barrack Ground’, Colchester¹⁰. With them were the two youngest children, Ada and John.

It seems that some months after Eliza’s baptism – so late 1856 or early 1857 – the family moved to Elmstead, and then some time between 1861 and 1865 moved to Colchester.

Ten years later, the 1881 census return shows them living at Magdalen Street, Colchester¹¹, with Joseph and John, the eldest and youngest sons, aged 37 and 16 respectively. Unusually, Mary is shown as the ‘head’ of the household whilst Joseph, aged 65, is shown as ‘husband’.

¹ baptism register for Thorrington, page 17

² ONS marriage reference for Joseph ROSE and Mary GRIMSEY, Q4/1843, Tendring, 12 549

³ these dates from Janice ROSE; corroborated from Essex Births & Baptisms

⁴ 1841 census return for Newstands Cottage, Thorrington, HO107/338/27 f5 p4

⁵ 1851 census for New Road, Thorrington, HP107/1779 f71 p13

⁶ descended from this branch of the family

⁷ ONS birth registrations, both Q4/1857, Tendring211, 4a : Edmund ROSE; (male) ROSE

⁸ ONS death registrations, both Q4/1857, Tendring, 4a 105 or 4a 165: Edmund ROSE; (male) ROSE

⁹ 1861 census return for Goshin’s Farm Row, Elmstead, RG9/1096 f112 p3

¹⁰ 1871 census return for Barrack Ground, Colchester, RG10/1688 f25 p15

¹¹ 1881 census return RG11/1788

Although it is highly likely that the correct census entries have been found (because of the children), the ages given do not always correspond:

| census | Joseph | Mary Ann |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1841 | 20 (1821) | 15 (1826) |
| 1851 | 33 (1818) | 27 (1824) |
| 1861 | 40 (1821) | 34 (1827) |
| 1871 | 57 (1814) | 55 (1816) |
| 1881 | 65 (1816) | 60 (1821) |

The most likely record of Joseph's death is that on 28 JUN 1889¹. Although the ONS index gives his age as 77 it should have been 71² (possibly a transcription error?). Mary Ann's death, at the age of 79, was registered at Tendring in 1903³.

Joseph (1844 – 1913)

022NA

Joseph was born on 05 DEC 1844⁴ and baptised at Thorington on 16 FEB 1845. He was living with his parents until at least 1881, when he was 37; in 1888, aged 44, he married Jane FLURY⁵. She was aged about 50 and, not surprisingly, it seems that Joseph and Jane had no children of their own.

Jane (née STUBBS) had been born around 1837. She had married Peter FLURY in 1857⁶ but he had died in 1872⁷ whilst the couple were living at Stoke-on-Trent.

The 1891 census show Joseph and Jane living in Brightlingsea together with William FLURRIE. Although he is described as a son, he is undoubtedly Jane's son from her previous marriage; he had been born in about 1869⁸, so Jane and Peter must have moved to Stoke only a few years before Peter's death. It seems that Jane died very soon after the census was taken; the death of a Jane ROSE of approximately the right age was registered in the second quarter of 1891⁹.

Joseph appears in the 1901 census return, brother-in-law to George WARNES and his wife Myra, living in Earsham, Norfolk (a suburb of Bungay). Joseph is clearly shown as 'married', rather than widowed; but the only marriage of a Joseph Grimsey between 1891 and 1901 in the Brightlingsea area was to Martha Louisa STEVENSON¹⁰. Also in the household is a Mary A ROSE, married, a 'sister-in-law' the same age as Joseph. It is tempting to assume that Mary was a second wife of Joseph – but there are no marriages to a 'Mary' that seem appropriate.

George WARNES married Myra EMMERSON in 1896¹¹. As they would have been 53 and 56 respectively, this is likely to have been a second marriage, and indeed the 1881 census shows George married to a Caroline. However, there is no apparent connection to the ROSE family and the question remains, therefore, of why Joseph was living in – or visiting – Norfolk in 1901.

¹ ONS death reference for Joseph ROSE aged 77, Q3/1889, Tendring, 4a 227

² this confirmation from Janice ROSE

³ ONS death reference for Mary Ann ROSE aged 79, Q3/1903, Tendring, 4a 333

⁴ ONS birth registration for Joseph ROSE, Q4/1844, Tendring, 12 264

⁵ ONS marriage reference for Joseph ROSE and Jane Lay FLURY, Q2/1888, Colchester, 4a 613

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Peter FLURY and Jane STUBBS, Q2/1857, Lambeth, 1D 483

⁷ ONS death reference for Peter FLUREY age 42, Q2/1872, Stoke T., 6b 126

⁸ the 1891 census return shows his birthplace as Mistley, ESS

⁹ ONS death reference for Jane Ann ROSE aged 56, Q2/1891, Tendring, 4a 322

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Joseph ROSE and Martha Louisa STEVENSON, Q2/1893, Tendring, 4a 695

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for George WARNES and Myra Ann EMMERSON, Q2/1896, Depwade, 4b 451

By 1911 Joseph was an inmate of the Colchester Union Workhouse¹. A likely death was in 1913 at the age of 70².

Ellen Charlotte (1847 - ?1919)

022NB

Ellen, the eldest daughter, was born on 18 MAR 1847 and baptised at Thorrington on 18 APR 1847, just one month later. No further record has been found, although a possible death was in 1919³. The burial of an Ellen ROSE took place on 05 FEB 1920, at Chingford Mount Cemetery, although this seems too far removed from the death. Her address at the time was 107 Manor Road, Leyton.

William (1850 - ?)

022NC

William was born on 08 JAN 1850 and baptised on 28 MAR 1851⁴. He is recorded in the 1861 census, age 11. He has not been found in a later census, nor has a probable death been found.

Ephraim (1852 - ?)

022ND

Ephraim was born and baptised on 12 MAR 1852 and 16 MAR 1852. As with William, no trace of Ephraim, other than his appearance in the 1861 census return, has been found.

Eliza (1855 - 1888)

022NE

Eliza was born on 27 FEB 1855 and baptised on 07 SEP 1856 at Thorrington⁵. She married Samuel ROSE on 02 AUG 1874 in Colchester. He was the eldest son of Samuel (Joseph's brother) and Nancy (Mary Ann's sister) and therefore Eliza's cousin. Both fathers, and Samuel, were labourers. Further details of the family may be found on page 73.

Sarah Ada (1858 - 1950)

022NH

Sarah, the eighth child and third daughter, was baptised at Elmstead on 01 SEP 1859, and married at St Giles, Colchester, on 12 OCT 1878 aged 21 to her cousin George ROSE⁶. He was a younger brother of Samuel, who had married Sarah's sister Eliza four years earlier, and cousin to both Sarah and Eliza. Both Sarah and George are recorded as living at 'Golden Hill'; George was a labourer. For further details see page 75.

Sarah is shown in the 1939 Register, widowed, and living at 26 Crowstone Road, Southend. A possible death was in 1950⁷, at the age of 91.

John (1865 - ?)

022NI

No record has been found apart from his inclusion in the 1881 census return⁸, which states that he had been born in Colchester. This agrees with Janice Rose's information.

¹ 1911 census return for Colchester Union Workhouse, RG14/10322 f19 p9999

² ONS death reference for Joseph ROSE, Q4/1913, Colchester, 4a 765

³ ONS death reference for Ellen ROSE age 73, Q2/1919, West Ham. 4a 129

⁴ Thorrington baptism register

⁵ Thorrington baptism register, page 77

⁶ Colchester, St Giles, marriage register

⁷ ONS death reference for Sarah A ROSE age 91, Q1/1950, Southend, 4a 829

⁸ 1881 census return for Magdalen Street, Colchester, RG11/1788 f32 p42

Appendix 0220 – Charlotte GRIMSEY (1826 – 1892)

The Thorrington register records two baptisms of a Charlotte, both with parents Joseph and Mary, on 12 MAR 1826 and 13 MAY 1827, but no burial of a Charlotte is recorded between these two dates. The census returns for later years show only one Charlotte GRIMSEY born in Thorrington between 1810 and 1840, so it is possible that the two baptisms were for the same child, one private and the other public.

She married William ANNIS at Brightlingsea on 26 OCT 1848¹; William (1824 – 1903)² was a fisherman, born in that village. In April 1851 Charlotte was living in Brightlingsea³ with her young daughter Charlotte E; William was, presumably, at sea somewhere as he does not appear in the census return.

Ten years later William and Charlotte, by now with five children, were still in Brightlingsea⁴ and they were to stay there for the next ten years or more; the children – seven in all – were Charlotte, Bethia, William, Alma, Amy, James and Lily. An eighth had died in infancy (see later). William was again away when the next census was taken, in 1871, but Charlotte and the four youngest children were still at the same address⁵. On census night in 1881 William was on board the vessel ‘Victor’ at Newhaven⁶, where he was mate. On the same night Charlotte, together with children James and Lilley, was a ‘visitor’ at ‘The Health and Happiness’ public house at Old Heath, Colchester⁷, where she is shown as ‘wife of mariner’. The publican was Edgar BURTON, husband of Alma and thus Charlotte’s son-in-law.

Charlotte died in 1892⁸, at the age of 66, giving a birth-year of 1826. The 1901 census return shows William living alone; he was a ‘ferryman’. He died two years later on 02 APR 1903⁹ aged 79¹⁰.

The births of the three eldest children – Charlotte, Bethia and William – were registered in Lexden¹¹.

Charlotte (1850 – 1912)

0220A

Charlotte was born in 1850, at Brightlingsea, but no baptism has been found. At the age of 20 the 1871 census return¹² shows her living in Herne [Bay], where she was a general servant in the household of Mary BADCOCK. This was a considerable distance from Brightlingsea by road – over 100 miles – but less than 1/3rd of this by water (Herne Bay is almost due south of Brightlingsea), which is presumably how she was taken there. She must have returned, as two years later she married William TOWNSEND, on 31 MAR 1873¹³, at All Saints church in her home village. Like many of her own family, William was a mariner (the 1881 census describes him as a ‘master mariner;’ that of 1891 lists him as a ‘yachtsman’) and he came from Kirby¹⁴. No children have been found from this marriage.

¹ marriage register for Brightlingsea and ONS marriage reference for William ANNIS and Charlotte GRIMSEY, Q4/1848, Lexden, 12 255

² some information about this family from Kevin Leech via the internet

³ 1851 census return for Silkards, Brightlingsea, HO109/1782 f90 p24

⁴ 1861 census return for New Street, Brightlingsea, RG9/1101, f80 p16

⁵ 1871 census return for New Street, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f106 p18

⁶ 1881 census RG11/1074

⁷ 1881 census RG11/1788

⁸ ONS death reference for Charlotte ANNIS aged 66, Q1/1892, Tendring, 4a 421

⁹ National Probate Calendar

¹⁰ ONS death reference for William ANNIS aged 79, Q1/1903, Tendring, 4a 333

¹¹ ONS birth references (all Lexden) for Charlotte Elizabeth ANNISS, Q3/1850, 12 155; Bethia ANNISS, Q1/1852, 4a 239; William John ANNISS, Q2/1853, 4a 223

¹² 1871 census return for 21 St George’s Terrace, Herne, RG10/973 f134 p30

¹³ marriage register for All Saints, Brightlingsea

¹⁴ this could be either Kirby Cross or Kirby-le-Soken (they are less than one mile apart) although one census gives his birthplace as Gt Clacton

The 1881 census return shows William and Charlotte lodging with William & Elizabeth WATTS at their house in Dover. This was right by the waterfront, so possibly William had taken his wife with him on one of his journeys. Ten years later Charlotte was back in Brightlingsea¹, staying (or living) with James and Ada ANNIS. Although she is shown as ‘sister’, James is likely to have been William’s younger brother, meaning that Charlotte was his sister-in-law. William has not been found in this (1891) census and was probably somewhere at sea.

They were together again in the 1901 census², living at Burnham (presumably Burnham-on-Crouch); William was a ‘yachtsman’ so perhaps he had retired from commercial work.

William died in 1905 aged 59³; the census taken six years later shows Charlotte, a 61-year-old widow, living in Bow (East London)⁴. She describes herself as a ‘needle hand’ and for some unknown reason the name given is ‘Elizabeth’, rather than ‘Charlotte’; and her birthplace is shown as ‘Runsell Green’, which is an area midway between Chelmsford and Maldon. A likely death was in 1912⁵, at the age of 60, although another possibility was in 1936⁶ (although this was registered at Hendon).

Bethia (1852 – 1931)

0220B

Although the name of this daughter looks as though it should be ‘Bertha’, the birth registration⁷ and marriage were both recorded under ‘Bethia’. She was also recorded as ‘Bethia’ in most of the census returns in which she appears. She was born at Brightlingsea.

The 1861 census⁸ shows her as a 9-year-old girl, at home with her parents in Brightlingsea. She has not been found in the 1871 census, but five years later, on 04 JUN 1876, she married John Frederick Vincent KING at All Saints, Poplar⁹; he was an ‘ammonia maker’, and came from Thorrington, only a few miles from Brightlingsea, so it is likely that they knew one another before they moved to London. They had ten children in all. I have found only eight¹⁰; it is likely that there may have been one either before or after Albert, and possibly another after Helen.

The family lived in Empson Street, Bromley-by-Bow, for at least 30 years, but by 1911 they were at 11 Bruce Road. Bethia died aged 79 in 1931¹¹; John died aged 80 in 1933¹².

William John (1853 – 1939)

0220C

William was born on 20 APR 1853¹³. No marriage has been found. William has not been traced in any census from 1871 to 1891; but both the 1901 return¹⁴ and the following one¹⁵ show him living) with his younger sister Amy and her family. As he is shown as a mariner, it is likely that he was away for the previous census nights.

A likely death was in 1939, at the age of 86¹⁶.

¹ 1891 census return for Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f119 p23

² 1901 census return for Lilean [probably Lilian] Road Cottages, Burnham, RG13/1687 f12 p16

³ ONS death reference for William TOWNSEND age 59, Q4/1905, Maldon, 4a 346

⁴ 1911 census return for 70 Cardigan Road, Bow, RG14/1667 ED363 SN182

⁵ ONS death reference for Charlotte E TOWNSEND age 60, Q3/1912, Maldon, 4a 567

⁶ ONS death reference for Charlotte TOWNSEND age 86, Q2/1936, Hendon, 3a 523

⁷ ONS birth reference for Bethia ANNISS, Q1/1852, Lexden&c, 4a 239

⁸ 1861 census return for New Street, Brightlingsea, RG9/1101 f80 p16

⁹ details from All Saints Poplar marriage register, page 134

¹⁰ Bethia (1877); John (1878); Herbert (1880); Albert (1884); Ernest (1887); Ruth (1889); Daisy (1892); Helen (1895)

¹¹ ONS death reference for Bethia KING aged 79, Q2/1931, Poplar, 1c 308

¹² ONS death reference for John F V KIBG aged 80, Q2/1933, Poplar, 1c 259

¹³ 1939 Register

¹⁴ 1901 census return for 12 Francis Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f51 p41

¹⁵ 1911 census return for 12 Francis Street, Brightlingsea, RG14/10266 ED2 SN292

¹⁶ ONS death reference for William J ANNIS aged 86, Q4/1939, Colchester, 4a 1536

Alma (1858 – 1926)**0220E**

There is no registration for the birth of an Alma ANNIS, but there are two for Ellen Alma ANNIS – one in 1856 and one in 1858¹. The death of Ellen Alma appears in 1857², so it seems that the first child died in infancy and the next, born a year later, was named the same.

The second Ellen Alma appears as ‘Alma’ in the census returns. She married Edgar BURTON, a ‘beer-house keeper’, in 1878³ and by 1881 they were living at the ‘Health & Happiness’ in Colchester⁴. As well as their infant daughter Lilley, Alma’s mother Charlotte and her siblings James and Lilley were also at the address.

The next census, that of 1891⁵, shows that Edgar had changed professions and become a ‘pork butcher’. The family had also moved to Brightlingsea, and they were still in the same village, albeit at a different address, in 1901⁶.

They had moved yet again by 1911⁷, but they stayed in Brightlingsea. Edgar had become a boatman; their eldest daughter Lillie was living with them, as were the four youngest children. The census return also confirms their marriage date and shows that of a total of 10 children four had died.

Edgar died in 1924, aged 70⁸, Alma survived him by two years and died in 1926 at the age of 67⁹.

Amy (1860 – 1936)**0220F**

Although Amy’s birth was registered¹⁰ she has not been found in the 1881 census. She married William GILBERT in 1883¹¹ and they had eight children in all. William was a mariner, about ten years older than Amy.

From 1891¹² onwards each census return shows them living at the same address in Brightlingsea. The 1901 census return¹³ shows six children living at home, together with a visitor, William ANNIS. This was undoubtedly Amy’s elder brother. He was still there ten years later¹⁴, but now as a ‘boarder’; Amy was a widow, husband William having died in 1905¹⁵. Amy did not die until 1936, by which time she was 75¹⁶.

¹ ONS birth references for Ellen Alma ANNIS (both Lexden): Q3/1856, 4a 229 and Q3/1858, 4a 317

² ONS death reference for Ellen Alma ANNIS, Q3/1857, Lexden, 4a 179

³ ONS marriage reference for Edgar BURTON and Alma ANNIS, Q2/1878, Lexden, 4a 459

⁴ 1881 census return for ‘Health & Happiness’, Old Heath, Colchester, RG11/1788 f47 p14

⁵ 1891 census return for Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f 121 p27

⁶ 1901 census return for 81 Colne Road, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f 26 p41

⁷ 1911 census return for 5 Nelson Street, Brightlingsea, RG14/10265 f1 p260

⁸ ONS death reference for Edgar BURTON aged 70, Q1/1924, Tendring, 4a 1000

⁹ ONS death reference for Alma E BURTON aged 67, Q1/1926, Tendring, 4a 827

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Amy ANNIS, Q2/1860, Lexden, 4a 250

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Amy ANNIS and William GILBERT, Q2/1883, Tendring, 4a 483

¹² 1891 census return for Francis Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f120 p25

¹³ 1901 census return for 12 Francis Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f51 p41

¹⁴ 1911 census return for 12 Francis Street, Brightlingsea, RG14/10266 f p292

¹⁵ ONS death reference for William GILBERT aged 54, Q2/1905, Tendring, 4a 335

¹⁶ ONS death reference for Amy GILBERT aged 75, Q1/1936, Tendring, 4a 1064

James Herbert (1868 – 1956)**0220G**

At the age of 14, James was ‘visiting’ (or staying at) his sister Alma at her husband’s public house, the ‘Health & Happiness’ in Colchester¹. At the age of 23 he married Ada AUSTIN², and by 1891 they were living in Brightlingsea³ with his eldest sister Charlotte, in the same street as Alma and her family.

By 1901 they had moved house, still within Brightlingsea⁴, and by the time a further ten years had elapsed they had moved yet again⁵. They had four children by 1911, and the census return confirms this – even though there is a ten-year gap between the youngest two. Ada died in 1944, aged 74⁶, and James died 12 years later on 25 FEB 1956.

Lily Rebecca (1869 – 1937)**0220H**

As explained above (see ‘Alma’), the 1881 census return⁷ records Lily (or Lilley) at the *Health and Happiness* pub in Colchester, which appears to be owned (or least managed) by her brother-in-law Edgar BURTON. She was with her mother Charlotte and elder brother James.

On 04 JUL 1887 she married Alfred SAVAGE⁸, although she would have been only 18. It was, unfortunately, a short-lived marriage as Alfred died only two years later⁹; although it seems that two children resulted from this marriage¹⁰. Lily remarried the following year, to Henry WOOD¹¹, with whom she had a further nine children¹². The 1891 census shows Henry and Lily living at Brightlingsea¹³ with their younger child, Elsie. A visitor, Rebecca Kenip, was also there at the time. Ten years later, in 1901, Henry and Lily are shown with six children¹⁴; in the 1911 census¹⁵ Henry was away, perhaps at sea.

Lily died aged 68 in 1937¹⁶.

According to an Ancestry source Alfred, Lily’s first child, was born on 29 AUG 1886, almost ten months before she married Alfred SAVAGE, and probably before she had reached the age of 18. No birth registration has been found for Alfred, but information is that he married Alice Mabel HAMMOND on 07 NOV 1910 and that some time later they emigrated to Canada. It seems that Alfred joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force and was killed in Flanders on 02 SEP 1918.

¹ 1881 census return for Health & Happiness, Old Heath, Colchester, RG11/1788 f47 p14

² ONS marriage reference for James Herbert ANNIS and Ada AUSTIN, Q4/1890, Tendring, 4a 810

³ 1891 census return for Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f119 p23

⁴ 1901 census return for 11 Nelson Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f6 p1

⁵ 1911 census return for 52 Colne Road, Brightlingsea, RG14/10265 ED1 SN178

⁶ ONS death reference for Ada ANNIS aged 74, Q4/1944, Colchester, 4a 844

⁷ 1881 census return for Health & Happiness, Old Heath, Colchester, RG11/1788 f47 p14

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Lily Rebecca ANNIS and Alfred Thomas SAVAGE, Q3/1887, Tendring, 4a 555

⁹ ONS death reference for Alfred Thomas SAVAGE age 23, Q2/1889, Tendring, 4a 220

¹⁰ Alfred, born 1886; and Elsie Mary, Q4/1888, Tendring, 4a 505

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Henry WOOD and Lily Rebecca SAVAGE, Q4/1890, Ipswich, 4a 1627

¹² the 1911 census, apparently completed by Lily, shows 11 children (of whom three had died) although this total includes the two by her first husband Alfred SAVAGE

¹³ 1891 census for The Park, Brightlingsea, RG12/1405 f30 p18

¹⁴ 1901 census for 45 Spring Road, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f77 p8

¹⁵ 1911 census for 5 Francis Street, Brightlingsea, RG14/10266, f2 p299

¹⁶ ONS death reference for Lily R WOOD age 68, Q4/1937, Tendring, 4a 923

Appendix 022P – Ann (Nancy) GRIMSEY (1828 – 1872)¹

Like many of her siblings Ann, the seventh child and third daughter of Joseph and Mary (CLARK), was baptised at St Mary, Thorrington, in her case on 25 MAY 1828². The available evidence seems to indicate that she later came to be known as Nancy (Nancy is listed in some books as a diminutive of Ann); at any rate, there is no instance of any Ann born in Thorrington around 1828 recorded in the 1881 census, no burial record of an Ann GRIMSEY or, indeed, any marriage record.

Both Nancy and her intended, Samuel ROSE, are shown in the 1841 census return living with their respective parents in Thorrington. The census entries are adjacent, indicating that the families were almost certainly neighbours. Three years earlier, Nancy's elder sister Mary Ann had married Joseph ROSE, elder brother of Samuel (see page 63).

Samuel and Ann married at Thorrington on 29 MAR 1846 – just in time, it seems, for their first daughter Ann Eliza was born only a week later, on 07 APR 1846. Ann's baptism, on 10 MAY 1846, records a surname of GRIMSEY rather than ROSE³. The marriage produced a further nine children, seven of whom were baptised at Thorrington; George and Clara, the sixth and seventh, were baptised at Great Bentley. The family has been found in the 1851 census⁴, with daughter Emily and infant son Samuel; their elder daughter Anne Elizabeth was staying (or living with her grandparents, Joseph and Mary (see below). The census return shows that Samuel's 17-year-old sister Emma was in the household.

In 1861 the family, at this time of six children, was living 'on the Green', at Great Bentley⁵. Not only was the mother shown as 'Ann', the two eldest children were 'Eliza' and 'Charlotte' (rather than Ann Elizabeth and Emily Charlotte).

Amy, the ninth child, died aged just one in 1868.⁶ Three years later, in 1871, Eliza, Charlotte, Dove and Bethia had left home. The rest of the family, now with the addition of Clara, Alice (Alice Emily) and Lancelot, was living at 'Barracks', Thorrington⁷. Their mother Ann (Nancy) died about a year later⁸, in 1872. She was aged just 44.

In both 1881 and 1891 Samuel was living with his daughter Bethia and her husband Frederick (see page 73), first 'on the Tye', Great Bentley⁹, and then in Thorpe le Soken¹⁰. Ten years later the census for 1901 shows him lodging with William and Ellen NEWCOMB, in St Osyth¹¹; by this time he was 80. For some reason his place of birth is shown as Clacton. He died eight years later in 1909¹².

Ann Elizabeth (Eliza) (1846 – 1908)

022PA

As stated above, (Eliza) Ann was not with her parents, Samuel and Ann, on census night in 1851; she was living (or staying) with her GRIMSEY grandparents, Joseph and Mary¹³. Her uncle George

¹ much of the information in this section is from Janice ROSE, a descendant

² Essex Births & Baptisms

³ Thorrington baptism register, page 57

⁴ 1851 census return for New Road, Thorrington, HO109/1779 f72 p14

⁵ 1861 census return for 'on the Green', Great Bentley, RG9/1092 f 23 p22

⁶ ONS birth and death references (both Tendring) for Amy ROSE: Q3/1868, 4a 251; age 1, Q3/1869, 4a 166

⁷ 1871 census return for Barracks, Thorrington, RG10/1677 ED12 f61

⁸ ONS death reference for Nancy ROSE aged 44, Q2/1872, Tendring, 4a 151

⁹ 1881 census return for 'on the Tye', Great Bentley, RG11/1785 f71 p19

¹⁰ 1891 census return for Weely Road, Thorpe le Soken, RG12/1401 f76 p16-17

¹¹ 1901 census return for Colchester Road, St Osyth, RG13/1694 f105 p2

¹² ONS death reference for Samuel ROSE aged 91, Q4/1909, Tendring, 4a 361

¹³ 1851 census return for 75 St Osyth Road, Thorrington, HO109/1779 f74 p18

[022PF], Ann's younger brother, was also there. Ten years later she was with her parents (and five younger siblings) in Great Bentley¹. In some records she appears as Eliza; in others as Ann.

She married George GUNFIELD of Great Bentley on 28 SEP 1867². They appear in the 1871 census return³ as 'GUMFIELD': there were no children but with them were Frederick, George's brother, and Bertha, Eliza's younger sister, who were to be married in a week's time. The 1881 census return⁴ shows Ann and George living at 'Barracks', St Osyth⁵, with a 10-year-old boy named Lancy described as 'brother-in-law'; he was Lancelot, Ann's youngest brother [022PK]. By 1891 George and Eliza – still no children – had moved to Thorpe le Soken⁶; ten years further on they were still in the same village, living at the 'Leather Bottle' alehouse⁷.

Eliza died in 1908⁸; George died aged 87 in 1930⁹.

Emily Charlotte (1849 – 1932)

022PB

Emily was born on 26 JAN 1849 and baptised, at Thorrington, on 25 FEB 1849¹⁰. Like both her mother and elder sister, her name varies and in some records she appears as Emily, in some as Charlotte. She has not been found conclusively in the 1871 census, although the census does contain a possible entry showing a 25-year-old Emily ROSE, a servant in Melford, SFK¹¹. However, her place of birth is given as Great Chesterford, which although within Essex is almost 50 miles from Thorrington; and her age is four years older than would be expected.

In 1879 she married Henry JONES¹²; he was a gardener, two years younger than she, and from Stoke by Nayland in Suffolk. This is only a little over ten miles from Melford, so it is quite possible that they had met while she was working here. Two years later they were living in his village¹³, but within a few years they had moved to Greenstead¹⁴ (Colchester), where they are listed in the 1891 census return with a nine-year-old son George. The schedule states that he had been born in Thorrington, whereas Charlotte's place of birth was given as Stoke, although it is possible that this was an error as the census return ten years later shows that George had been born in Stoke. By 1901 the address was the same¹⁵ but Henry was a 'painter's labourer'; George (apparently the only child) was a 'paire at oil mills'.

The 1911 census return¹⁶ confirms their marriage date, but states that two children – one of whom had died – had been born to the couple. Henry was still a painter's labourer, and they were still living in Colchester, but had moved house.

The most likely death for Henry was in 1926, at the age of 74¹⁷; Emily survived him by six years¹⁸.

¹ 1861 census return for 'on the Green', Great Bentley, RG9/1092 f23 p22

² ONS marriage reference for George GUNFIELD and Eliza Ann ROSE, Q3/1867, Tendring, 4a 355

³ 1871 census return for Dial House, Great Bentley, RG10/1676 f15 p4

⁴ 1881 census return for Barracks, St Osyth, RG11/1780 f18 p11

⁵ 1881 census return for Barracks, St Osyth, RG11/1780 f18 p11

⁶ 1891 census return for Abbey Street, Thorpe le Soken, RG12/1401 f61 p11

⁷ 1901 census return for Abbey Street beerhouse 'Leather Bottle', RG13/1697 f43 p19

⁸ ONS death reference for Eliza Ann GUNFIELD aged 62, Q2/1908, Tendring, 4a 335

⁹ ONS death reference for George GUNFIELD aged 87, Q3/1930, Tendring, 4a 653

¹⁰ dates from Essex Baptisms

¹¹ more commonly known now as Long Melford, a couple of miles north of Sudbury

¹² ONS marriage reference for Henry JONES and Emily Charlotte ROSE, Q2/1879, Sudbury, 4a 721

¹³ 1891 census return for Scotland Street, Stoke by Nayland

¹⁴ 1891 census return for Harwich Road, Greenstead, RG12/1412 f90 p7

¹⁵ 1901 census return for Harwich Road, Greenstead, RG13/1711 f92 p10

¹⁶ 1911 census return for 102 Winchester Road, Colchester, RG14/10294 ED10 SN5

¹⁷ ONS death reference for Henry W JONES aged 74, Q1/1926, Colchester, 4a 839

¹⁸ ONS death reference for Emily C JONES aged 83, Q1/1932, Colchester, 4a 1070

Samuel (1851 – 1916)**022PC**

The third child, Samuel, born on 22 MAR 1851 and baptised on 06 JUL 1851¹ at St Mary, Thorrington, married Eliza ROSE, his cousin (see page 65) on 02 AUG 1874². The relationship between the GRIMSEY and ROSE families is shown. By 1881 Samuel and Eliza had three children, and they were living in Colchester³; Samuel was a ‘fish hawkker’. Eliza died in 1888⁴, aged only 32. The three children have all been found in the 1891 census: very sadly, each of the younger children was in a different workhouse, Florence at Colchester⁵ and Samuel at Tendring⁶. Arthur was shown as a ‘servant’ and was boarding with two brothers, William and Solomon MARSHALL, in Walton le Soken⁷.

Samuel has not been found in a later census return although a likely death was in 1916⁸, at the age of 63.

Bethia (1853 – 1933)**022PD**

Bethia was baptised on *Christmas Day 1853*⁹; she had been born about five weeks earlier on 14 NOV 1853. The census return of 1871¹⁰ shows her as a 17-year-old ‘visitor’ in the household of George and Eliza GUNFIELD at Great Bentley; Eliza (Ann) was her elder sister, who had married George in 1867. Also in the house was Frederick, George’s younger brother. Just one week after the census was taken Bethia and Frederick married, on 09 APR 1871¹¹; he was 20, she 17.

Ten years later the census return of 1881 shows the family was living at ‘Grt Bentley on the Tye’, Great Bentley¹². There were two children, Blanche Alma (29 SEP 1872) and Clara B (1878); Bertha’s father Samuel, by now a widower, was also living with them. He was still living with Bertha and Frederick in 1891, by which time they had all moved to Thorpe le Soken¹³. The first census of the 20th century, taken in 1901, shows Frederick and Bertha living in Great Clacton¹⁴; the only other member of the household was Ellis GUNFIELD, their 6-year-old grandson. Further research has revealed that Ellis Otto GUNFIELD was the son (presumably illegitimate) of Clara; he was born on 22 JUL 1895 and baptised at Ss Peter & Paul, St Osyth, on 22 SEP 1895.

Ellis was still living with Frederick and Bertha in 1911¹⁵; they had moved to Clacton, and the census of that year shows that they had produced three children of whom one had died. The only GUNFIELD that died in infancy during the appropriate period was John¹⁶; he was born and died towards the end of 1881 so would not have appeared in either the 1881 or 1891 census return.

¹ dates from Essex Baptisms

² ONS marriage reference for Samuel ROSE and Eliza ROSE, Q3/1874, Colchester, 4a 436 (date from Janice ROSE)

³ 1881 census return for Magdalen Street, Colchester St Giles, RG11/1787 f81 p3; Florence’s birth was registered as ‘Flora’

⁴ ONS death reference for Eliza ROSE aged 32, Q4/1888, Colchester, 4a 253

⁵ 1891 census return for Colchester District Union Workhouse, RG12/1408 p8

⁶ 1891 census return for Tendring District Union Workhouse, RG12/1401 p5

⁷ 1891 census return for 11 North Street, Walton le Soken, RG12/1401 f103 p6

⁸ ONS death reference for Samuel ROSE aged 63, Q1/1916, Colchester, 4a 904

⁹ Thorrington baptism register, page 71

¹⁰ 1871 census return for Dial House, Great Bentley, RG10/1676 f15 p4

¹¹ Great Bentley marriage register, page 107; ONS marriage reference for Frederick GUNFIELD and Bethiar ROSE, Q2/1871, Tendring, 4a 325

¹² 1881 census return for ‘On the Tye’ Great Bentley, RG11/1785 f71 p19

¹³ 1891 census return for Weely Road, Thorpe le Soken, RG12/1401 f75 p16

¹⁴ 1901 census return for 1 Fairfield Villas, Great Clacton, RG13/1695 f97 p32

¹⁵ 1911 census return for 4 Herbert Road, Clacton-on-Sea, RG14/10228 ED20 SN1

¹⁶ ONS birth and death references (both John GUNFIELD, Q4/1881, Tendring): 4a 396, 4a 204

Bethia died aged 79 in 1933¹; Frederick lived a couple of years longer and died in 1935 aged 84².

By 1891, when she was 18, **Blanche** was working as a live-in housemaid at the Rectory in Great Oakley³. She married William WARNER⁴ in 1894; by 1901 they had three daughters⁵ and were living in St Osyth⁶. Ten years later⁷ two further children had been born⁸ but the census reveals that six children had been born, of whom one had died. This was, presumably, born between 1904 and 1909.

Dove (1856 – 1930)

022PE

Unlikely as it may appear, it does seem that this is the name by which Samuel and Ann baptised their fifth child. He was born on 26 MAR 1856 and baptised on 17 AUG 1856 at Thorrington⁹. By the time he was 16, in 1871, he was a cattle drover and lodging with Henry and Jemima JAMES in Great Bentley¹⁰.

On 30 SEP 1880 he married Anna Maria SMITH¹¹ at Great Bentley; less than six months later¹² they were living at 'The Green', very close to his former lodgings in Great Bentley, with a one-month-old baby daughter Ethel Blanche. According to the census return Anna was from Kelsey, in Suffolk, although this is likely to have been meant as Kelsale, which is near Saxmundham.

It is likely that the family moved to Suffolk, a journey of some 60 miles, between 1886 and 1889, as the first three births were registered at Tendring, and the following four at Mutford (which includes Lowestoft). At the time of the next census, 1891¹³, the family were living in a part of Lowestoft called Kirkley, some 20 miles north of Kelsale. Ethel was not with the family; she was a 'visitor' in the household of Sam and Sarah SMITH, living at Sibton (near Eye, about 30 miles south-west of Kirkley). These were probably her maternal grandparents. (Coincidentally, the river Dove runs through Eye.) Two further children, Emily and Sidney, were present with their parents Dove and Anna. Dove had apparently branched out into a business of his own, as he is shown as a greengrocer. However, this venture didn't last all that long for ten years later¹⁴ he was a general labourer; Ethel had returned home and another three children had arrived: Albert Edward (1892), Alice May (1894), and Violet Hilda (1898).

The census return for 1911¹⁵ shows that Dove and Ann had moved, albeit less than a quarter of a mile. Dove was now a 'road sweeper' and Albert, their 19-year-old son, is shown as 'cripple, unable to work'. The census confirms the marriage date, and also states quite unambiguously that six children were born (and were all still alive). However, the 1911 census return clearly includes a 29-year-old son Arthur, although this is the first return in which he has been shown. So a total of seven children have been found in the various census returns. There is no explanation of why only six children were recorded on the 1911 census return.

¹ ONS death reference for Bethiar GUNFIELD age 79, Q1/1933, Tendring, 4a 1105

² ONS death reference for Frederick GUNFIELD age 84, Q4/1935, Tendring, 4a 847

³ 1891 census return for The Rectory, Harwich Road, Great Oakley, RG12/1403 f59 p10

⁴ ONS marriage reference for William John WARNER and Blanche Almen GUNFIELD, Q1/1894, Tendring, 4a 591

⁵ Clara M (1886), Rhoda Ada (1887), Edith (1900)

⁶ 1901 census return for Green Lane, St Osyth, RG13/1694 f112 p15

⁷ 1911 census return for Spring Road, St Osyth, RG14/10223 ED2 SN4

⁸ Wilfrid (1904) and Violet (1909)

⁹ dates from Thorrington baptism register, page 77

¹⁰ 1871 census return for 'near Great Pond', Great Bentley, RG10/1676 f36 p12

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Dove ROSE and Anna Maria SMITH, Q3/1880, Tendring, 4a 469; date from Janice Rose

¹² 1881 census return for The Green, Great Bentley, RG11/1785 f80 p6

¹³ 1891 census return for 1 Mill Cottage, Mill Road, Kirkley, RG12/1491 f41 p35

¹⁴ 1901 census return for 4 Clement Square, Kirkley, RG13/1802 f101 p15

¹⁵ 1911 census return for 16 Lovewell Road, Lowestoft, RG14/11053 ED18 SN234

Dove died in 1930, aged 71¹. The 1939 Register shows Ann M living at 45 Beaconsfield Road, Lowestoft, with two of her sons, both unmarried: Arthur (who is shown as an invalid, age 57), and (Albert) Edward, a general labourer (although he had earlier appeared on the 1911 census return as a ‘cripple’). Living next door was Beatrice M ROSE, aged 44 and single.

Aged 10, Ethel Blanche is recorded at Sibton (near Eye, in Suffolk) as a visitor at the home of Sam and Sarah SMITH in the 1891 census (probably her maternal grandparents). Ten years later she was back with her parents and siblings at Kirkley in Lowestoft. Four years later she married Lewis HEAD²; they had at least four children (by the time of the 1911 census).

George (1859 – 1932)

022PF

George, the sixth child of Samuel ROSE and Ann GRIMSEY, was born on 06 OCT 1858³, but not baptised until 04 MAR 1859. Four years after his elder brother Samuel’s marriage to Eliza Ada ROSE, George married Eliza’s sister Sarah on 12 OCT 1878⁴ (the diagram shows where they all fit in).

By 1881 they were living in Colchester⁵ with their infant son George. The occupation of father George was given as ‘hawker’; and indeed this is how he was described in the following census return⁶, by which time they had moved to a different address, still within Colchester, and produced a further two children. Another ten years on, the family had increased to five children⁷, which was possibly the reason for the move to a house just next door⁸. George (and young George) were both now shown as ‘fishmonger’. The youngest child that I have found, Eva, was born in 1901.

The 1911 census return reveals that the couple had nine children altogether although four had died by that date. It is likely that there were other children between William and Lily, and between Florence and Eva. George snr was a ‘fish hawker’, Lily and Ada were both tailoresses. They were still at the same address as ten years previously.

In each census return found, George’s wife is shown as ‘Ada’ rather than Sarah. Her birth was registered as ‘Sarah’ and had it not been from information sent to me by Janice Rose I should not have known that her full name was ‘Sarah Ada’. The information relating to place of birth varied from census to census: in the returns of 1871 onwards that of George was given as Great Bentley, Thorrington, Colchester, Bentley and Great Bentley, whilst those of his wife (from 1881) were Hampstead, Colchester, Elmstead and Elmstead (all in Essex).

George died on 13 SEP 1932⁹.

Clara (1861 – 1886)

022PG

Clara was born in 1861¹⁰. The 1881 census return shows her as a housemaid at the farm of Nathaniel CUTTING, at Wix, some nine miles north-east of Thorrington. Later that year she married Henry WRIGHT¹¹; they had three daughters, but Clara died, aged just 25, five years later¹². This was possibly in childbirth as the 1891 census shows a daughter Ethel aged 5, who would thus have been born in

¹ ONS death reference for Dove ROSE aged 71, Q1/1930, Mutford, 4a 1295

² ONmarriage reference for Lewis George HEAD and Ethel Blanche ROSE, Q3/1905, Mutford, 4a 2125

³ ONS birth reference for George ROSE, Q4/1858, Tendring, 4a 193; dates from Janice Rose

⁴ ONS marriage reference for George ROSE and Sarah ROSE, Q4/1878, Colchester, 4a 559; date from Janice Rose

⁵ 1891 census return for Nevill’s Yard, Colchester St Giles, RG11/1788 f26 p29

⁶ 1891 census return for 29 Charles Street, Colchester St Giles, RG12/1407 f83 p19

⁷ George (Q4/1879), William (Q2/1883), Lilly (Q1/1890), Ada (Q4/1892), Florence (Q1/1895)

⁸ 1901 census return for 31 Charles Street, Colchester St Giles, RG13/1706 f97 p17

⁹ information from Janice Rose

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Clara ROSE, Q3/1861, Tendring, 4a 221

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Henry WRIGHT and Clara ROSE, Q4/1881, Tendring, 4a 621

¹² ONS death reference for CLARA WRIGHT aged 24, Q2/1886, Tendring, 4a 227

1886. Henry married again, the following year, this time to Edith CASON¹; the census (1891) shows Henry and Edith with five children in all, living in Thorrington. The places of birth were different for almost each child – Clara at St Osyth, Lena at Brightlingsea, Ethel at Great Bentley, Harry at Brightlingsea again, William at Thorrington. While the two boys were, presumably, the sons of Harry and Edith the girls could have been daughters of Edith from a previous marriage, or of Clara – or a mixture!

Ten years later² the family, now showing a further two children, was at Fingringhoe.

Alice Emily (1864 – 1931)

022PH

Alice was born on 17 OCT 1864³ and baptised a month later, on 20 NOV 1868, at Thorrington⁴. Although her birth was registered as ‘Alice Emily’ she appears as ‘Emily’ and ‘Emily Alice’ respectively in the 1871⁵ and 1881 census returns.

By the time she was 16, in 1881, she was living-in as a general servant⁶ in the household of Alfred and Clara TAYLOR in Great Bentley; ten years later she had progressed to the position of ‘cook’ to an architect and his wife, John and Sarah BULL, living in Clapham⁷.

The following year, in 1892, she married William PRIOR⁸. He was a groom, and was about four years younger than Alice. Although they married in London, and may have met one another there, he had been born in Great Bromley which implies that they may have known one another from the time when Alice was working for the Taylor family (Great Bromley is about four miles from Great Bentley). By the time of the next census return, in 1901⁹, they had two children, both born in Bermondsey, and had taken in three boarders. They had moved again by 1911¹⁰, to a three-room tenement in the Old Kent Road.

No conclusive death has been found for either William; Alice died on 24 MAY 1931.

Amy (1868 – 1869)

022PI

Amy was born on 31 JUL 1868¹¹ and baptised a month later on 30 AUG 1868. She survived to see her first birthday but died¹² and was buried on 22 AUG 1869¹³.

Lancelot (1870 – 1924)

022PJ

Lancelot (occasionally Launcy) was the last child of Ann GRIMSEY and Samuel ROSE. He was born towards the end of 1870¹⁴, by which time Ann was 42.

¹ ONS marriage reference for Henry WRIGHT and Edith Esther CASON, Q4/1887, Tendring, 4a 749

² 1901 census return for Pigsfoot Greet, Fingringhoe, RG13/1713 f48 p3

³ ONS birth reference for Alice Emily ROSE, Q4/1864, Tendring, 4a 215

⁴ both dates from Janice Rose

⁵ 1871 census return for Barracks, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f61 p17

⁶ 1881 census return for Laurel Cottage, Bake Office, Station Road, Great Bentley, RG11/1785 f66 p9-10

⁷ 1891 census return for New Lodge, Clapham, RG12/443 p22

⁸ ONS marriage reference for William PRIOR and Alice Emily ROSE, Q2/1892, St Saviour, 1d 128

⁹ 1901 census return for 5 Humphrey Street, Bermondsey, RG13/394 p102 p9

¹⁰ 1911 census return for 24 Townsend Street, Old Kent Road, Southwark, RG14/1769 ED7 SN116

¹¹ ONS birth reference for Amy ROSE, Q3/1868, Tendring, 4a 251

¹² ONS death reference for Amy ROSE, Q3/1869, Tendring, 4a 166

¹³ all dates from Janice Rose

¹⁴ ONS birth reference for Lancelot ROSE, Q4/1870, Tendring, 4a 254

At the time of the 1881 census return, when he was 10, he was living (or staying) with his eldest sister Eliza Ann and her husband George GUNFIELD at St Osyth¹. He hasn't been found in the 1891 census return.

On 22 SEP 1895² he married Susannah FRANCIS³ at Thorpe-le-Soken. In less than six years they had produced three children and were living at Dovercourt⁴, a suburb of Harwich very close to where Susannah had been born. The place of birth for all the children was given as Dovercourt. The 1911 census return shows that the next four had been born at Harwich⁵ – so they hadn't moved far, if at all: but the same census shows the family living in Tendring, which seems to indicate that they moved from Harwich to Tendring in late 1910 or early 1911. The family, that is, except for Lancelot – the same census shows that on census night he was on board the vessel 'Rapid' anchored off Harwich⁶. He was shown as a 'mate', a Trinity house pilot.

Janice ROSE states that there were 11 children in total from the marriage, all of whom grew to adulthood. If this is so then the four youngest must have been born after 1911, as the census return confirms that 7 children had been born (and were still alive) by that time.

Lancelot died in 1924 aged 51⁷; Susannah survived him by more than 30 years, dying in 1958 at the age of 83⁸.

¹ 1881 census return for Barracks, St Osyth, RG11/1780 f18 p11

² date from Janice Rose

³ ONS marriage reference for Lancelot ROSE and Susannah Louisa FRANCIS, Q3/1895, Tendring, 4a 867

⁴ 1901 census return for Old Dock House, Dovercourt, RG13/1698 f8 p7

⁵ 1911 census return for Custom House Lane, Tendring, RG14/10251 ED5 SN65

⁶ 1911 census return for Vessel 'Rapid', anchored off Harwich, RG14/10253 ED7 SN176

⁷ ONS death reference for Lancelot ROSE aged 51, Q1/1924, Tendring, 4a 1018

⁸ ONS death reference for Susannah L ROSE aged 83, Q4/1958, Colchester, 4a 512

Appendix 022Q – Eliza(beth) GRIMSEY (1830 – 1920)

Elizabeth was baptised on *06 FEB 1830*¹. She was the eighth child of Joseph and Mary. There are few records of her life, but she seems not to have married. Once she had left home, the two census returns in which she has been found (1851 and 1871) show her as a servant. In the former² she was a ‘general servant’ in the household of John and Nancy Malby; John was a butcher, in the village of Alresford just a couple of miles north-west of Thorrington. Twenty years later she was a cook for John and Sarah Pratt, and living in Wivenhoe, three miles west of Alresford.

No further record of Eliza has been found until her death in 1920.

Appendix 022R – Emma GRIMSEY (1833 – 1897)

The youngest daughter of Joseph and Mary, Emma was born and baptised on *25 JUL / 22 SEP 1833*.

She has not been found in the 1851 census return, but nine months later, on *25 JAN 1852*, she married John KING, a labourer, son of John Vincent KING, in Thorrington. The census does record that John had been lodging with Robert, Emma’s elder brother, and his wife Phoebe³. During the following 25 years John and Emma produced a total of 10 children.

In 1861 they were living in New Road, Thorrington⁴, with five children and a lodger, Emma’s younger brother George. By the time of the following census⁵ they had moved to Brightlingsea, and the family was at the same address ten years later, in 1881⁶.

John died and was buried on *10 APR 1890*, in Thorrington. The 1891 census return shows Emma still in Brightlingsea, possibly at the same address⁷. Just one daughter (Emma) was there with her mother Emma, now a widow; also in the house was Maria GRIMSEY, shown as a widowed sister (in fact, a sister-in-law – the widowed wife of Emma’s eldest brother Joseph).

Emma survived John for seven years and was buried at Brightlingsea on *04 AUG 1897*; she was still only 64.

KING is a common surname and without further information it has not been possible to trace any of the children conclusively.

¹ Thorrington baptisms, p29

² 1851 census return for Butchers, Alresford, HO109/1779 f 82 p3

³ 1851 census return for 4, Cottage on Heath, St Osyth, HO109/1779 f58

⁴ 1861 census return for 88 New Road, Thorrington, RG9/1092 f158 p14

⁵ 1871 census return for Park Road, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f72 p29

⁶ 1881 census return for Park Road, Brightlingsea, RG11/1785 f110 p22

⁷ 1891 census return for The Park, Brightlingsea, RG12/1405 f30 p17

Appendix 022S – George Samuel GRIMSEY (1840 – 1915)

George Samuel, the youngest son (born 18 JUL 1840 at Thorrington and baptised ten months later on 16 MAY 1841¹) of Joseph GRIMSEY and Mary CLARK, was living at home with his parents in 1851². Ten years later he was a lodger at the house of his sister and brother-in-law Emma and John KING³.

A few years later, on 12 NOV 1864 at Great Bentley, he married Martha GARNETT, who was from Weeley. She had been born in 1845 and baptised on 03 AUG 1847). They had two children, George and Ellen. In 1871 the family was living in Frating Road, Thorrington⁴.

Four years after Ellen's arrival Martha died, and she was buried on 15 MAY 1873⁵. Her age is shown in the register as 30, implying a birthdate of 1843⁶.

Three years later, on 12 JAN 1876, George married Frances BROWN, a widow. They moved to Frating, with Emily Ada, Frances' seven-year-old daughter from her first marriage⁷. Here they had a further two children, Emily Ann (14 JUL 1878) and Walter Robert (25 JAN 1881); quite why they again chose the name Emily remains a mystery. Although Frances was from Thorrington, her daughter had been born in East Donyland.

The family is also recorded in the 1891 census⁸, still living at Frating. Three children were still living with their parents – George, from George Samuel's first marriage, Emily Ann and Walter from his second. The 1901 census return shows George and Frances with George and Walter, together with James BROWN, shown as a visitor – he was to marry their daughter Ellen.

Frances died aged 69 and was buried at Frating on 25 MAR 1909. Two years later George was living with Ellen (his daughter from the first marriage), her husband James BROWN and their son Benjamin; George, Ellen's brother, was also in the household.

George died and was buried on 21 JUN 1915.

George (1866 – 1937)

022SA

George was born on 31 OCT 1866 and baptised two months later on 30 DEC 1866. Until (at least) 1901 he was living with his parents; the census return of 1911 shows him with his sister Ellen and her family (see previous section). He died at the age of 71 and was buried on 24 APR 1937 at Frating; no record of a marriage has been found.

Ellen (1869 – ?)

022SB

Ellen was baptised on 24 JUN 1869. On 11 AUG 1901 she married James William BROWN; they had one child, Benjamin Barrett (22 NOV 1903).

Emily Ann (1878 – ?)

022SC

Emily, George's second daughter but the first from his second marriage, married Walter GOOCH in 1899⁹. By 1911 they had three children, Walter (1901), George (1903) and Percy (1907), but may have

¹ Thorrington baptism register

² 1851 census return for 75 St Osyth Road, Thorrington, HO109/1779 f74 p18

³ 1861 census return for 88 New Road, Thorrington, RG9/1092 f158 p14

⁴ 1871 census return for 79 Frating Road, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f12 p60

⁵ Thorrington burial register

⁶ in fact, the only ONS birth registration for Martha GARNETT is Q3/1845, Tendring, 12 258 and this agrees with her age given in the 1871 census return

⁷ 1881 census return for The Lane, Frating, RG11/1786 f105 p8

⁸ 1891 census return for Colchester Road, Frating, RG12/1405 f91 p2

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Walter GOOCH and Emily Ann GRIMSEY, Q4/1899, Tendring, 4a 1120

had more in later years. A probable death for Emily was in 1928, at the age of 49¹; Walter died, aged 77, in 1955².

Walter Robert (1881 – 1923)

022SD

Walter was baptised on 25 JAN 1881 and buried on 19 NOV 1923, having apparently never married or moved far from Frating.

¹ ONS death reference for Emily A GOOCH aged 49, Q2/1928, Tendring, 4a 831

² ONS death reference for Walter GOOCH aged 77, Q4/1955, Colchester, 4a 476

Appendix 0230: Esther COOPER (1833 – 1911)

Esther was baptised on *10 AUG 1833*¹ at St Osyth. She is listed in both the 1841² and 1851³ census returns, living with her parents in St Osyth.

In 1854⁴ she married William BYE. Their first child, Amelia, was born at St Osyth, but between 1852 and 1854 they moved to Great Bentley, where the rest of their children were born. The 1861 census⁵ records them at Great Bentley, William's home village, with five children. A sixth child, Elizabeth Ruth, was born towards the beginning of 1863⁶.

Just a year later, in 1864⁷, William died and in 1867⁸ Esther married again, this time to Joshua GOSLING. They moved back to the village in which Esther had been born, St Osyth, and by 1871 they had produced two daughters of their own⁹, Jessie and Mary. The two eldest daughters from Esther's first marriage, Amelia¹⁰ and Jane¹¹, had left home and were working as domestic servants, both in Brightlingsea. All the other children – Eliza, William, (Mary) Ann, (Elizabeth) Ruth, Jesse and Mary – were shown in the household; the census records them all with the surname GOSLING – perhaps the enumerator assumed that they all had the same surname. Grace May, their youngest daughter, was born in about 1875 and in 1881¹² five children were still living at home with their parents; William, the only son, was described on the census return as 'imbecile'. He and Elizabeth were shown (correctly) as 'stepson' and stepdaughter' and had the surname BYE. Perhaps in order to help financially, Joshua and Esther were providing a home for a boarder, Arthur CAMPIN, who was a labourer from Lavenham, in Suffolk.

In this return the head of the family is shown as 'Joses William', rather than 'Joshua', although it is undoubtedly the correct family. The death of a Joses William was registered the following year¹³ – the name is unlikely to be a coincidence and the age (59) gives a YoB of 1823, which is about right, but the death was registered at Billericay¹⁴, over 40 miles from St Osyth. The ONS has no death of a Joshua GOSLING, so this death is likely to be the right one.

Later the same year Esther married for the third time; to Robert HILL¹⁵, who was some seven years her junior. The 1891 census return¹⁶ shows that Robert and Esther had moved back to Great Bentley by that time. There were no children from their own marriage; the only child shown with them is William, who was 32 by this time. He was the son from Esther's first marriage, to William BYE and indeed the only son borne by her. A 10-year-old grandson, George, is also listed on the census return and the deduction is that he was an illegitimate son of William Francis.

Esther died shortly after the census was taken in 1911, at the age of 77¹⁷.

¹ St Osyth baptism register, p124

² 1841 census return for High Street, St Osyth, HO107/338/23 f34

³ 1851 census return for Mill Street, St Osyth, HO107/1779 f13

⁴ ONS marriage reference for William BYE and Esther COOPER, Q1/1854, Tendring, 4a 217

⁵ 1861 census return for Sough (?) Heath, Great Bentley, RG9/1092 f18 p11

⁶ ONS birth reference for Elizabeth Ruth BYE, Q1/1863, Tendring, 4a 233

⁷ ONS death reference for William BYE, Q1/1864, Tendring, 4a 163

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Joshua GOSLING and Esther BYE, Q4/1867, Tendring, 4a 441

⁹ 1871 census return for Barracks, St Osyth, RG10/1677 p4

¹⁰ 1871 census return for Public (?) Hall, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f8 p11

¹¹ 1871 census return for Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689

¹² 1881 census return for The Barracks, St Osyth, RG11/1780 p12

¹³ ONS death reference for Joses William GOSLING age 59, Q1/1882, Billericay, 4a 176

¹⁴ ONS death reference for Joses William GOSLING age 59, Q1/1882, Billericay, 4a 176

¹⁵ ONS marriage reference for Robert HILL and Esther GOSLING, Q4/1882, Tendring, 4a 637

¹⁶ 1891 census return for Tye Road, Great Bentley, RG12/1404 f64 p24

¹⁷ ONS death reference for Esther HILLS age 77, Q3/1911, Tendring, 4a 870

Amelia BYE (1852 – ?1935)**0230A**

Amelia appears in the 1861 census, aged 9, with her family; by 1871¹ she was ‘in service’ with a local family, Frederick and Ellen Tabor. They lived in Brightlingsea, where Frederick was an ‘oyster merchant’. No other records for Amelia have been found although a possible death was in 1935², although this death was registered at West Ham, in the far south-west of the county.

Jane Annie BYE (1853 – 1947)**0230B**

Jane was born on 08 DEC 1853³, while her family was living at Great Bentley. Like her elder sister, she was ‘in service’ by the time of the 1871 census, also to an ‘oyster merchant’; she was a general servant with William DAY and his wife Emma, at Brightlingsea⁴.

Two years later, when she was barely 20 years old, she married James BUTLER⁵. For some reason the marriage record shows her as Jane COOPER (her mother’s maiden name) rather than Jane BYE. James was a year older than she, and came from Weeley, three miles or so east of Great Bentley.

By the time of the 1881 census they had three children, the eldest of whom (Laura) was a cripple from birth.. They remained in Weeley all their life together, and had a total of six children.

James died in 1928 aged 75⁶. Jane survived him by almost 20 years; the 1939 Register shows her on her own but living next door to her youngest son Ernest and his family. She died aged 93 in 1947⁷.

Eliza BYE (1855 – 1926)**0230C**

Eliza was born on 04 NOV 1855 and baptised, at Great Bentley, on 02 DEC 1855⁸ although the Essex baptism website gives her mother’s name as Charlotte; she was the third child of William and Esther. By the time of the 1871 census, when she was 15, she was listed as a ‘general servant’ although she was still living at home with her mother and step-father. She has not been found in the following census, that of 1881, but in 1886⁹ she married Thomas CRUTCH at Bethnal Green. He was a carman, as was his father (also Thomas). They lived next door to Thomas’s parents for some years¹⁰ and then moved to a different part of Lewisham¹¹. No children have been found from this marriage.

Thomas died in 1923 aged 65¹²; Mary died three years later aged 70¹³.

William Francis BYE (1858 – 1900)**0230D**

William was the first (and only) son born to Esther. He was baptised, like his elder siblings, at Great Bentley, on 15 JAN 1858. In the 1881 census return¹⁴ he was described as an ‘imbecile’. Ten years later, he was still living with his mother and (second) step-father; the census also shows a ten-year-old George, described as ‘grandson’ to William’s parents. As William was the only male child in the family, the implication is that George was an illegitimate son of his. The only other record of William is that of his death and subsequent burial on 10 SEP 1900 at the age of 42.

¹ 1871 census for Public Hall, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f8 p11

² ONS death reference for Amelia BYE aged 80, Q1/1935, W. Ham,4a 110

³ 1939 Register

⁴ 1871 census return for Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f99 p4

⁵ ONS marriage reference for James BUTLER and Jane COOPER, Q4/1873, Tendring, 4a 527

⁶ ONS death reference for James BYE aged 75, Q1/1928, Tendring, 4a 887

⁷ ONS death reference for Jane A BUTLER aged 93, Q4/1947, Colchester, 4a 443

⁸ both dates from Essex Baptisms

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Thomas CRUTCH and Eliza BYE, Q4/1886, Bethnal Green, 1c 393

¹⁰ 1891 census return for 41 King Street, Lewisham, RG12/517 f97 p21; Thomas (senior) was at 43 King Street

¹¹ 1911 census return for 49 Sparta Street, Lewisham, RG14/

¹² ONS death reference for Thomas G CRUTCH aged 65, Q3/1923, Lewisham, 1d 855

¹³ ONS death reference for Eliza CRUTCH aged 70, Q1/1926, Lewisham, 1d 1183

¹⁴ 1881 census return for The Barracks, St Osyth, RG11/1780 p12

Mary Ann BYE (1860 – ?1896)**0230E**

The fifth child, and fourth daughter, of William and Esther was baptised Mary Ann on 06 MAY 1860 at St Mary the Virgin, Great Bentley. Although she appears as ‘Mary Ann’ in the 1861 census, ten years later she is shown as ‘Ann’, perhaps because a new-born child was named ‘Mary’.

Mary Ann married Charles Jennings in 1886¹, and they set up home at Little Clacton. Charles had previously been married, to Elizabeth, but she had died in 1884². Although Mary Ann hasn’t been found in the 1881 census, Charles and Elizabeth were living at Little Clacton with a baby son Robert³. The following census, that of 1891⁴, shows Charles and Mary Ann with four children: Robert, from his first marriage, together with Henry, Arthur and Albert.

Ten years later, in 1901⁵, Charles was still living in Little Clacton, at a different address: Robert had left home but there were now five children of Charles and Mary Ann. Charles was a widower, so it is apparent that Mary Ann had died. The birth of their last child, Sidney Maurice, was registered in Q3/1894 but FreeBMD records no deaths of a Mary JENNINGS of the right age between Q3/1894 and Q4/1901.

The 1911 census shows, against Charles’s name, that eight children in all were born of whom six survived (a line has been put through these figures). It therefore seems that two other children were born and died as infants: one, perhaps, around 1884⁶ (when his first wife died) and the other around the time of Mary Ann’s death, whenever that was⁷.

Elizabeth Ruth BYE (1863 – 1950)**0230F**

Elizabeth was born on 19 MAR 1863⁸, and she has been found in each census return up to 1911. In 1881, when she was only about 18, she married Arthur CAMPION, who came from Preston St Mary, near Lavenham, in Suffolk. Their address remained the same (The Barracks, St Osyth) for the whole of their married life, although she is recorded as Ruth, rather than Elizabeth, in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns.

They had just two children (as confirmed by the 1911 census return): Rose Maud (1882) and Florence Nellie (1884). Arthur died in 1939⁹ and Elizabeth is shown as a widow in the 1939 Register taken later that year. She died towards the end of 1950 aged 87¹⁰; her death was registered at Colchester.

Rose married Charles COX in 1904¹¹; the marriage was registered at Fulham. Their son Norton was staying (or living?) with his grandparents, Arthur and (Elizabeth) Ruth in 1911. The 1939 Register shows them at 23 Broxholme House, Fulham.

Florence married James TAYLOR in 1913¹². They are shown in the 1939 Register at the same address (Barracks Cottages, St Osyth) as Elizabeth, Florence’s mother.

Jessie GOSLING (1869 – 1947)**0230G**

Jessie was the first child born following Esther’s second marriage, to Joshua GOSLING. No baptism record has been found, neither has she been found in the 1939 Register, so her birthdate can be given

¹ ONS marriage reference for Charles JENNINGS and Mary Ann BYE, Q4/1886, Tendring, 4a 712

² ONS death reference for Elizabeth Mary JENNINGS age 28, Q1/1884, Tendring, 4a 210

³ 1881 census for ‘In the street’, Little Clacton, RG11/1779 f75 p14

⁴ 1891 census for Tills Farm, Little Clacton, RG12/1400 f86 p3

⁵ 1901 census for Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, RG13/1694 f26 p19

⁶ possibilities are William Henry L (born Q2/1883, died Q2/1884) or Sydney Albert (Q2/1882, died Q2/1884)

⁷ possibilities are Mary (born and died Q1/1896), Thomas (born and died Q3/1897), or John (born and died Q1/1898)

⁸ 1939 Register

⁹ ONS death reference for Arthur C CAMPION, Q2/1939, Tendring, 4a 780

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Elizabeth R CAMPION age 87, Q4/1950, Colchester, 4a 482

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Charles William G COX and Rose Maud CAMPION, Q4/1904, Fulham, 1a 655

¹² ONS marriage reference for James TAYLOR and Florence N CAMPION, Q1/1913, Tendring, 4a 1121

only approximately – late 1868 or early 1869. She has been found in each census. She spent her early years with her parents at St Osyth, but during her teens she went into service and for at least ten years she lived by the south coast: the 1891 census¹ shows her at Broadwater (a district of Worthing) and the following one at Portslade². It seems that during the following few years she returned to Essex, for on 09 FEB 1907 she married Frederick John BORLEY at St Mary the Virgin, Great Bentley. He was a farm labourer, some seven years younger than Jessie, and came from Brightlingsea. There were no children from the marriage.

She died towards the end of 1947, aged 78; the death was registered at Colchester³.

Mary GOSLING (1871 – ?1939)

0230H

Mary's birth was registered in the last quarter of 1870⁴; she was baptised at Ss Peter & Paul, St Osyth, on 23 OCT 1870, the second daughter of Joshua and Esther. She married Robert GRIMSEY, her cousin, on 16 FEB 1889⁵. (Robert was the son of Robert GRIMSEY and Phoebe COOPER, who was Esther's sister – for more details of his family, see page 53.)

The 1891 census shows them living at Great Bentley⁶ with their one-year-old son Bertie. Robert was a brickmaker. The family increased rapidly in size; by the time of the following census, in 1901⁷, they had six children. They were still living at Great Bentley but at a different address.

The 1911 census return⁸ shows Robert and Mary living in Kirby le Soken with nine children, ages ranging from 15 to 9 months. Robert was a 'navvy sea ware'. Boarding with the family was George BACON (actually Alfred George), who was a 'navvy builders' and who presumably worked with Robert. He was 29, 10 years younger than Mary and 16 younger than Robert.

Robert died on 29 JUN 1919. Less than two years later, towards the beginning of 1921, Mary married her former boarder, Alfred BACON⁹.

Information from Audrey COOK¹⁰ confirms that Robert and Mary had 12 children in all, and that Mary left Robert (date unspecified, but before his death) to move to London with their lodger Alfred BACON. She states that a daughter had been born in 1915 to Alfred and Mary, and that they married in 1921 (after Robert had died)¹¹. Mary's son Charles (b 1895) was one of the witnesses on the marriage certificate. The marriage took place in Stepney, indicating that perhaps they had travelled to London to escape possible criticism from their families. The marriage certificate shows¹² that Alfred was a bachelor, age 41, living at Clayden Buildings, Salmon Lane, Stepney; his father was George Alfred BACON, farm labourer (deceased). Mary, a widow, was 48 and living at the same address; her father was Joshua GOSLING, farm labourer (deceased).

A possible death for Mary was in 1939, at the age of 68¹³.

¹ 1891 census return for 32 Wenban Road, Broadwater, RG12/836 f105 p2

² 1901 census return for Haselmere, St Andrew's Road, Portslade, RG13/943 f56 p20

³ ONS death reference for Jessie C GOSLING age 78, Q4/1947, Essex SW, 5a 199

⁴ ONS birth reference for Mary GOSLING, Q4/1870, Tendring, 4a 253

⁵ ONS marriage reference for Robert GRIMSEY and Mary GOSLING, Q1/1889, Tendring, 4a 439

⁶ 1891 census return for Aingers Green, Great Bentley, RG12/1404 f62 p19

⁷ 1901 census return for 23 Hill Cottages, Great Bentley, RG13/1702 f57 p3

⁸ 1911 census return for Vista Avenue, Kirby le Soken, RG14/10237 ED4 SN34

⁹ ONS marriage reference for Alfred G BACON and Mary GRIMSEY, Q1/1921, Stepney, 1c 500

¹⁰ via the internet

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Alfred G BACON and Mary GRIMSEY, Q1/1921, Stepney, 1c 500

¹² information from Audrey COOK via email

¹³ ONS death reference for Mary BACON aged 68, Q2/1939, Stepney, 1c 233

Grace May GOSLING (1875 – 1948)

0230I

Grace May was the youngest child of Joshua and Esther, and the last one that Esther was to bear. She was born when the family was living at St Osyth, on 01 MAY 1874¹.

By the time she was 17, and possibly earlier, she was a ‘general servant’ with Elizabeth PAYTON, a widow, and living at Rotherhithe². The following year, when she was not yet 18, she married William DAINES, who was some 13 years older. The marriage took place at St Olave, Southwark³, but presumably by that time she had left domestic service.

They were living at Weeley by 1901⁴, and the census return for that year shows six children – five daughters and a son. The eldest, Beatrice, had been born in the same year as their marriage, at Rotherhithe, but the second child, Florence, was born at West Battersea. They must have moved back to Essex some time after 1894, for the next six children were all born at Weeley.

The 1911 census shows that they had 12 children in all, of whom two had died. Only ten have been found: it is possible that Rubert Victor (born Q3/1899, died Q4/1899, both Tendring) was one of the infant deaths.

The 1939 Register shows that Grace was living at Braintree, in Sherne Hall Cottage. She is shown as being married, although there is no record of William on the sheet; the only other occupant of the cottage is a married man, Albert BRIGHT, who was 17 years her junior. A possible death for William was in 1936, when he was 75⁵, although this does not explain why Grace was shown as married three years later. She died in 1948, at age 74⁶.

¹ 1939 Register

² 1891 census return for 229 Lower Road, Rotherhithe, RG12/382 f80 p5

³ ONS marriage reference for William DAINES and Grace May GOSLING, Q1/1892, St Olave, 1d 368

⁴ 1901 census return for Clacton Road Heath, Weeley, RG13/1697, f53 p14

⁵ ONS death reference for William DAINES age 75, Q3/1936, Chelmsford, 4a 542

⁶ ONS death reference for Grace M DAINES age 74, Q4/1948, Romford, 5a 484

Appendix 044G – Robert GRIMSEY (1779 – 1828)

Robert, the eldest son of Robert and Prudence, was baptised at Great Bentley on *12 SEP 1779*¹. He moved to Manningtree and thence to Frating. Robert's name appears in the Colchester Poll Book for 1820; he is shown as a 'cooper', living at Frating. He remained a bachelor until about the age of 41, when he married Susan GRIMSEY (née GOLDACRE) on *17 OCT 1820* at Frating².

Research from other members of the (extended) family claims that Susan, who had been born about 1760, was the widow of Robert's uncle Isaac, who had died in 1814 (see Appendix 088O on page 115), and that two children were born from this marriage (both at Manningtree) – Sarah, on *12 SEP 1821*, and Robert, on *28 DEC 1823*. One of the witnesses at the wedding was Robert Grimsey senior, presumably his father.

This seems unlikely. First, the date of Susan's marriage to Isaac on *01 NOV 1803* is confirmed by the Frating marriage register. Isaac was about 45 at the time. I have found no record of Susan's birth or baptism, but it seems reasonable that she was born no earlier than 1760 (two years younger than Isaac) or later than 1782 (when she would have been 21 – 24 years younger than Isaac). If she later married Robert GRIMSEY following Isaac's death, she would have been at least 38, and possibly as old as 60, to his 41. For her then to have given birth to two children (the younger was born in 1823) would have been possible only if she were at the younger end of this age range – that is, it is more likely that she was born around the end of the 1770s, which means that she must have been about 20 years younger than her first husband. Clearly more investigation is required here.

Robert died at Frating and was buried on *07 JUL 1828*. The register shows his age as 44, giving a birthdate of 1784 rather than 1779.

Sarah GRIMSEY (1821 – ?)

044GA

Essex Baptisms record that Sarah was baptised at Manningtree on *12 DEC 1821*, with parents Robert GRIMSEY, a cooper, and Susan.

A possible marriage was in 1855 to Robert SNARE³, although she would have been 34 and possibly a little old for a first marriage. However, Robert and his wife Sarah appear in the 1861 census, living at Kirby le Soken, and it is quite clear that they had both been born in that village. Kirby is about 12 miles south-east of Manningtree so this may have been a quite different Sarah.

Robert GRIMSEY (1823 – 1910)

044GB

Robert was born two years after sister Sarah, also in Manningtree, and he was baptised on *28 DEC 1823*.

¹ Great Bentley baptism register

² Frating marriage register, page 6

³ ONS marriage reference for Robert SNARE and Sarah GRIMSEY, Q1/1855, Tendring, 4a 221

Appendix 044H – John GRIMSEY (1781 – 1859)

John¹, who was Alan Finch's gt-gt-grandfather, was baptised at Great Bentley on *01 JUL 1781*. He married Mary PINNER on *02 NOV 1810* at Kirby-le-Soken, although it is possible that some years before his marriage he fathered an illegitimate child, Sarah, who was baptised on *31 MAR 1805*²; the mother was Sarah GOLDACRE, a possible sister of Susan GOLDACRE who married Isaac, John's uncle.

The first six children from John and Mary's marriage (not counting the first Sarah) were baptised at Frating. On each occasion John's occupation was that of 'husbandman'. The youngest child, Robert, was probably also born in Frating but no baptism record has been found.

The 1841 census index shows John and Mary living at Colchester St James³. John's age was shown as 60; Mary was 50. The other occupants of the house were Robert aged 17 (almost certainly their youngest son), and Sarah COLE, aged 10. She was almost certainly the daughter of Sarah Ann (see below).

Ten years later, in 1851, John and Mary were still in Colchester⁴; John is listed in the census return as a 'cow keeper'. He died and was buried eight years later at the age of 78 from the same address on *02 NOV 1859*; in the census taken two years later Mary had taken over his earlier profession and is shown as a 'beer seller', living in the same street as in 1841⁵. She was providing a home for her grandson Henry (eldest son of their youngest son Robert). She died less than a year later⁶.

Sarah Ann (1812 – ?)

[044HB]

Sarah Ann was the first child born to John and Mary; she was baptised at Frating on *11 NOV 1812*⁷. Although the IGI has her mother as Ann (and shows no father) the baptism register at Frating shows both parents (as John and Mary). Possibly around 1830⁸ she married and became Sarah COLE; her husband was possibly Benjamin⁹ although the marriage hasn't been found. By the time of the 1841 census she was a 'female servant' at the house of Henry Harrison, a merchant, in Lewisham¹⁰. It is unlikely that a married woman would have found a position in domestic service and it is possible that Benjamin had died. The 1851 census return shows Sarah as a widow, working as a cook in Lewisham¹¹ for Alfred and Elizabeth BURGESS. Meanwhile her daughter, also Sarah, was living with John and Mary as stated above.

None of this is conclusive – in the 1861 census the only Sarah COLES found in either Essex or Kent, of the correct age, and born in the right area was living in Gravesend and married to Edward¹².

¹ much of the information about this family comes from Alan Finch

² Great Bentley baptism register: the IGI records the mother as Sarah GOLDACRE, the father as J GRIMSEY

³ 1841 census for Artillery Street, Colchester St James, HO107/344/7 f42 p1

⁴ 1851 census return for Barrack Ground, Colchester, HO107/1781 f606 p1

⁵ 1861 census return for Artillery Street, Colchester, RG9/1100 f93 p15

⁶ ONS death reference for Mary Ann Grimsey, Q1/1862, Colchester, 4a 174

⁷ Frating baptism register

⁸ the information for John, above, shows that a Sarah COLE aged 10 appears in the 1841 census; she would therefore have been born around 1831 and was probably Sarah Ann's daughter

⁹ Essex Archives Online shows the baptism of a Sarah COLE on *08 MAY 1831* at Thorington with parents Benjamin and Sarah

¹⁰ 1841 census return for Lewisham, Lewisham, HO107/484 f9 p24

¹¹ 1851 census return for Dartmouth Row, Lewisham, Kent, HO107/1591 f219 p20

¹² 1861 census for 6 Brunswick Road, Gravesend, RG9/470 f 231 p20

John (1813 – 1813)**[044HC]**

The eldest son, baptised on *11 APR 1813*¹, lived only two days and was buried on *13 APR 1813*². He appears variously as John ‘Bonnerworth’, ‘Benneworth’ or ‘Bonniworth’ although the second is more likely, naming him after his brother Isaac’s first wife.

Martha (1814 – 1885?)**[044HD]**

The third daughter, Martha, was baptised on *02 OCT 1814*³ at Frating. A Martha GRIMSEY appears in the 1841 census return as a servant in a house in Colchester⁴, and this is a distinct possibility, as although her age was given as 20 it could well have been rounded down. In the 1851 census return⁵ she was unmarried and living at 7 Military Road Colchester, a tailoress.

Ten years later⁶ she had taken up residence at another address in Colchester, as housekeeper to a George WINSTONE, from Somerset. She was still unmarried, but a little over four years later married George WINDSOR⁷. This was undoubtedly her former employer, as the 1871 census return⁸ shows George and Martha WINDSOR⁹ together as man and wife at the same address as ten years previously; he, some ten years younger than she, was from Nailsea in Somerset. By 1881 they had moved to a different address and, according to the details of the census return¹⁰, they had each aged only five years in the previous ten! There seem to have been no children from this marriage.

Martha has not been found in the 1891 census return and it seems that she had died by that time, although the only death that seems at all likely was registered at Pewsey, in Wiltshire,¹¹ in 1885, where the age at death (73) gives a YoB of 1812. However, there seems no reason why she should have been there at the time.

John (1816 – 1861)**[044HE]**

John was baptised on *27 OCT 1816*¹². He married Elizabeth JENKINS, who had been living with her father Jesse in Wivenhoe, in 1841¹³ (Wivenhoe is less than three miles, as the crow flies, to the west of Frating). John became a seaman in the Merchant Service, and he appears only in the 1861 census; it is assumed that he was away at sea for the others.

By 1851¹⁴ Elizabeth and the five children they had produced during that decade were living in Wivenhoe with her father, Jesse.

Ten years later, in 1861¹⁵, there were seven children living at home, which was in the next street from their earlier home; John and Sarah (the second and third, aged 17 and 14 respectively) had left. John (their father) died very soon after the census had been taken¹⁶.

¹ Frating baptism register, p1

² NBI

³ Frating baptism register, p3

⁴ 1841 census return for Maldon Road, Colchester, HO107/344 f43 p15

⁵ 1851 census for 7 Military Road, Colchester, HO107/1781 f81

⁶ 1861 census for Hythe Back Lane, St Leonards, Colchester, RG9/1100 f161 p19

⁷ ONS marriage reference for George WINDSOR and Martha GRIMSEY, Q3/1865, Colchester, 4a 382

⁸ 1871 census return for Back Lane, Colchester St Leonard, RG10/1688 f58 p23

⁹ ONS death reference for Elizabeth GRIMSEY aged 76, Q4/1899, Lexden, 4a 427

¹⁰ 1881 census return for Hythe Hill, Colchester St Leonard, RG11/1793 f58 p14-15

¹¹ ONS death reference for Martha WINDSOR aged 73, Q1/1885, Pewsey, 5a 126

¹² Frating register of baptisms, p5

¹³ ONS marriage reference for John GRIMSEY, Q3/1841, Lexden &c, 12 209

¹⁴ 1851 census return for West Street, Wivenhoe, HO107/1782 f30 p22

¹⁵ 1861 census return for Bath Street, Wivenhoe, RG9/1101 f37 p18

¹⁶ ONS death reference for John GRIMSEY, Q2/1861, Lexden, 4a 157

Although no marriage has been found for Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, the census return of 1871¹ shows her as Elizabeth BEARDSWELL, married to Frederick, and living in Boreham, on the outskirts of Chelmsford. As well as two sons of their own, aged 8 and 7, they seemed to have been providing a home for both the widowed Elizabeth (Elizabeth's mother) and Lucy, her younger sister.

Five of the remaining children (Sarah, Emma, Thomas, Laura and Elizabeth) were living at the same address as ten years previously²; Eliza, aged 15, was a servant in the neighbouring household of Sarah JENKINS³, likely to have been a sister-in-law of Elizabeth, so Eliza was her niece although this was not stated in the census return.

By the time a further ten years had passed three daughters (Emily, Eliza and Laura) were still unmarried and living at home with their widowed mother Elizabeth⁴; all four women were needlewomen. In 1891 Elizabeth was still living in the same street⁵; with her was her nine-year-old niece Laura WENT. The most likely death for Elizabeth was in 1899, by which time she was 76⁶.

The 1891 census also shows Emma, the third daughter, now aged 40, as an inmate of the workhouse at Stanway, which is about eight miles away from Wivenhoe on the far side of Colchester.

Adam (1818 - ?)

[044HF]

The 1841 census contains no record of Adam, the fifth child, and it is possible that he had died by this time. There is no record of Adam in the NBI, neither does the ONS record the death of an Adam before 1899.

Eve (1819 - 1887)

[044HG]

Eve was the sixth child and the third daughter. She was baptised on *16 JUL 1819*, again at Frating. She married Samuel NEVARD soon after her 21st birthday, on 21 JUL 1840⁷, and they produced six children. All six were living with their parents at the time of the 1861 census⁸. Samuel was a sawyer and carpenter, Phillip was a carpenter, Jacob a sawyer. Adam and Frederick were both shoemakers.

Samuel died in 1870⁹; Eve appears as a widow in the 1871 census¹⁰, still living at the same address although only Harry (a gas fitter) and Emma were living with her. Also in the house was 3-year-old Samuel, grandson to Eve – though whose son is unknown. He had been born in Wandsworth. By the time of the 1881 census¹¹ she had moved house, still within Colchester, and Emma was still living with her. Also in the house are two grandchildren, Ellen and Charles, aged 5 and 1 respectively.

Eve died in 1887, aged 65¹².

Robert (1827 - 1910)

[044HH]

Robert was the youngest child of John GRIMSEY and Mary PINNER. Although there is a gap of some eight years between Robert and his next elder sibling no other children have been found.

¹ 1871 census return for Boreham, Essex, RG10/1664 f134 p5

² 1871 census return for West Street, Wivenhoe, RG10/1689 f33 p11

³ 1871 census return for West Street, Wivenhoe, RG10/1689 f33 p11

⁴ 1881 census return for West Street, Wivenhoe, RG11/1794 f36 p17

⁵ 1891 census return for West Street, Wivenhoe, RG12/1413 f30 p11

⁶ ONS death reference for Elizabeth GRIMSEY aged 76, Q4/1899, Lexden, 4a 427

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Samuel NEVARD and Eve GRIMSEY, Q3/1840, Colchester, 12 85

⁸ 1861 census for 14 Golden Noble Hill, Colchester St Giles, RG9/1098 f36 p5

⁹ ONS death reference for Samuel NEVARD aged 50, Q3/1870, Colchester, 4a 199

¹⁰ 1871 census for Golden Noble Hill, Colchester St Giles, RG10/1684 f21 p14

¹¹ 1881 census for 64 Arthur Street, Colchester, RG11/1787 f9 p12

There is a good deal of uncertainty about him, not least because Robert was a common name. Although he has been found in each census return, that of 1851 shows him as a ‘gardener’, and born in Woodham Walter, which is some 25 miles southwest of Frating. There is no record that his parents, John and Mary, were ever there or, indeed, any reason why they should have been. However, it gets worse: later census records show him as having been born in Wales. The 1861 census shows him as a ‘jobbing gardener’ but all the others, up to that of 1901, show him as a ‘railway platelayer’. There is no record in the 1851 census return of a Robert GRIMSEY who was born in Wales.

The remainder of this section must be treated as a possibility and nothing more.

He married Mary Ann KEMBALL (or KEMBLE) at Colchester on Christmas Day 1846¹. The marriage produced two children, Henry and Mary Ann, born respectively in 1848 and August 1850. They were both baptised on *13 OCT 1850*, and on census night 1851 the family was living at ‘Barrack Ground’, Colchester². However, the Robert in this census return is shown as having been born in Woodham Walter, in Essex, which is some 26 miles from Frating; his age is shown as 27, rather than the 24 it should be, and so it is possible that this is a different Robert Grimsey.

Mary Ann (Robert’s wife) died in 1852³, followed by his daughter Mary Ann a year later⁴. It seems that Henry was brought up by his paternal grandmother Mary; the 1861 census⁵ shows him living with her in Colchester.

Four years later, in 1856, Robert married a second Mary Ann, this time a WILSON⁶. This wedding was at Colchester Register Office on 02 JUL 1856⁷ and 14 children resulted from this second marriage⁸; it is perhaps a little surprising that not one of his sons found so far was named Robert. All seem to have been baptised at St Mary Magdalen, Thorrington; at least five of the children from this second marriage died young and at least five married. The 1861 census return⁹ shows Robert as a ‘jobbing gardener’, living in Colchester with wife Mary Ann and two children, Sarah and Eliza.

In both the 1871¹⁰ and 1881¹¹ census returns the family was living at ‘Barracks’ in Thorrington, where Robert is shown as a railway platelayer or labourer. He has been found in each census from 1861 to 1891; in each he is shown as having been born in Wales in about 1826. Jessie is shown as ‘Jane’ in the 1881 return.

It is interesting to note that in 1881 a John DEATH and his family lived next door to Robert and Mary Ann. One of the DEATH children (George) would, five years later, marry their daughter Emily. John’s neighbour on the other side was Timothy GUNN and his family; Timothy was the seventh son of Prudence GUNN née GRIMSEY (the youngest sister of John, Robert’s father) and Timothy was thus a cousin of Robert.

The family was still living at ‘Barracks, Thorrington’ ten years later in 1891¹². Three daughters were still living with their parents – Ellen, Margaret and Jessie. Possibly Ellen’s husband William BELL had died by this time, but Jessie’s husband is known to have been alive. Also in the household were Kate, a three-year-old grand-daughter (but whose?) and four-year-old Herbert F TODMAN. Herbert

¹ ONS marriage reference for Robert GRIMSEY and Mary Ann KEMBALL, Q4/1846, Colchester, 12 117

² 1851 census return for Barrack Ground, Colchester, HO107/1781 f651

³ ONS death reference for Mary Ann GRIMSEY, Q2/1852, Colchester, 4a 140

⁴ ONS death reference for Mary Ann GRIMSEY, Q3/1853, Colchester, 4a 131

⁵ 1861 census return for Artillery Street, Colchester St James, RG9/1100 f93 p15

⁶ ONS marriage reference for Robert GRIMSEY and Mary Ann WILSON, Q3/1856, Colchester, 4a 361

⁷ information from Sue Crook: the marriage certificate indicates that Robert GRIMSEY was a widower, with father John GRIMSEY, an innkeeper

⁸ most of the information relating to this family comes from Alan Finch

⁹ 1861 census return for Artillery Street, Colchester, RG9/1100 f93

¹⁰ 1871 census return for 88 Barracks, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f61

¹¹ 1881 census return for Station Road Barracks, Thorrington, RG11/1786 f138 p7

¹² 1891 census return for Barracks, Thorrington, RG12/1405 f118 p3

was the son of Jane, the sixth child of Robert and Mary Ann, and therefore their grandson; he had been born in Croydon.

Robert died and was buried at Thorrington on *31 MAR 1910*; Mary Ann survived him for only a few years and was buried, again at Thorrington, on *14 FEB 1914*¹. Her address at the time was Rosemary Lane.

The first child, **William**, was baptised on *12 NOV 1856* and buried less than five months later on *01 APR 1857*.

Sarah Ann, the second child and first daughter, was baptised at Thorrington on *31 OCT 1858* and buried on *19 FEB 1871*.

Emily (*27 OCT 1861*), the fourth child, was born in Colchester and married George DEATH on 12 JUN 1886 at Thorrington; this is part of Sue Crook's family.

Ellen (*28 OCT 1863*), the next daughter, married William BELL at Thorrington on 21 OCT 1893, five years after her illegitimate daughter Kate had been born.

Jane, baptised on *29 JAN 1865*, married Frederick TODMAN from Croydon on 06 NOV 1885; their son Herbert was born in Croydon in about 1887 but was shown with Robert and Mary Ann, his grandparents, in the 1891 census return.

Adam, baptised on 10 APR 1870 at Thorrington, married Emily Jane NEAR in 1891 and the census of that year² shows them living with her parents at Aldham, on the far side of Colchester from Thorrington.

The second **William**, baptised on *30 MAR 1870*, lived only five weeks before being buried on *08 MAY 1870*.

Harriett, baptised *14 MAY 1871*, was buried at Great Bentley on *24 JAN 1958* at the age of 86, apparently still a spinster.

Alice, baptised *14 DEC 1873* at Thorrington, was buried less than eight months later on *05 AUG 1874*.

The second **Alice**, baptised on *08 AUG 1875*, appears in the 1891 census return as a domestic servant³ in the home of Thomas MILLS, a clothier, and his wife Amanda.

The youngest daughter, **Jessie** (*28 SEP 1879*), married Joseph Thomas SCATES on 19 AUG 1900, also in Croydon; this is Alan Finch's family.

Finally, the youngest child, a third **William**, was baptised on *27 NOV 1881* and buried just over three years later on *07 DEC 1884*.

¹ Thorington burial register (photocopy of page)

² 1891 census return for London Road, Aldham, RG12/1416 f13 p17

³ 1891 census return for Lower Green, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f111 p8

Appendix 044I – Isaac GRIMSEY (1783 – 1849)

Isaac was baptised at Great Bentley on 25 MAY 1783. On 05 DEC 1809, at the age of 26, he married Mary BENNEWORTH at Thorpe-le-Soken¹. They had two children, Isaac and James, each of whom also married.

She died, aged only 23, in the late summer of 1813 and was buried on 22 SEP 1813². The following year, on 17 OCT 1814, Isaac's second marriage, to Susannah HUMM, was registered at Kirby-le-Soken. Susannah had been born at Thorpe-le-Soken. As she had been born around 1790³ a possible baptism (although the place does not agree) was at Colchester in 1788⁴. This marriage produced a further eight children.

Isaac is recorded in the Colchester Poll Book for 1820 as being a resident of Brightlingsea, where he was a labourer, and this is confirmed 20 years later when Isaac and Susannah are shown in the 1841 census⁵, again at Brightlingsea; he was still a labourer. Living with them were Joseph, Robert, Charlotte, Sarah and George.

Isaac died in 1849⁶ and in the next census, in 1851⁷, Susannah is shown as a widow. She was living in Colchester with Charlotte and Sarah, and an unnamed granddaughter who was less than one month old. She died in 1860; the death was registered in Colchester⁸.

Isaac (1810 – 1841)

044IA

The firstborn son from Isaac's first marriage was named Isaac. He married Keziah FARRINGTON on 09 NOV 1835, but died and was buried on 25 DEC 1841⁹; no children have been found.

Keziah married again towards the end of 1850, to William BOND¹⁰. William, a farmer from Ardleigh, was about seven years older than Kezia. She died in 1886, aged 76¹¹.

James (1811 – 1882)

044IB

James, the second son from Isaac's first marriage, was born in Thorpe le Soken and baptised on 17 NOV 1811¹². He married Sarah SPINKS on 15 JAN 1837 at Bradfield. This village is on the south bank of the River Stour, a couple of miles west of Wrabness, the village where Sarah was born; James, Sarah and baby son George were living here on census night in 1841¹³ (three-year-old James was with George SPINK, presumably Sarah's father, living close by¹⁴). Of eleven children born to James and Sarah, three died within a year and at least two didn't reach the age of 30. All were baptised at St Lawrence, Bradfield, except for the youngest daughter who was baptised at St Osyth.

¹ Mary had been baptised, at Thorpe le Soken, on 07 MAR 1790, daughter of James and Sarah

² from the Frating burial register

³ from 1851 census return

⁴ IGI baptism of Susannah HUMM, 18 AUG 1788, Colchester (birth on 12 SEP 1786), parents John HUMM, Sarah

⁵ 1841 census return for Cook Lane, Brightlingsea, HO107/338/7 f13

⁶ ONS death reference for Isaac GRIMSEY, Q4/1849, Lexden &C, 12 95

⁷ 1851 census return for East Street, Osbornes Yard, Colchester St James, HO107/1781 f586 p14

⁸ ONS death reference for Susannah GRIMSEY, Q3/1860, Colchester, 4a 129

⁹ NBI

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for William BOND and Kezia GRIMSEY, Q4/1850, Lexden &c, 12 295

¹¹ ONS death reference for Keziah BOND aged 76, Q1/1886, Tendring, 4a 310

¹² Essex parish records

¹³ 1841 census return for Street, Bradfield, HO107/338/6, f25 p6

¹⁴ 1841 census return for Street, Bradfield, HO107/338 f24 p10

By 1851 the family, comprising James, Sarah and four children (George, Charlotte, Emma and Isaac), was living in Thorpe-le-Soken¹, where James was a blacksmith. During the past ten years three children had been born and died in infancy.

Ten years later² just the four youngest children were living with their parents, who continued to live at the same address until their deaths, which occurred within a few months of one another; James died in 1882³ and Sarah early in 1883⁴.

The census returns record that James and George, the two eldest children, were born at Bradfield, Mary Ann, the youngest, was born at St Osyth and all the others at Thorpe-le-Soken. This appears contrary to the baptismal evidence, but the family may have returned to Bradfield to have the children baptised; it was about nine miles from Thorpe-le-Soken.

Four of the children received Benneworth as an additional Christian name, from James's mother. The suggest that Sarah's mother's name was Charlotte.

The eldest son, **James**, was baptised on *11 MAR 1837*; on census night in 1841 he was with his maternal grandfather George SPINK⁵ and a 15-year-old Martha, presumably Sarah's younger sister. Ten years later (in 1851⁶) he was a 'house servant' at 'The Bell' in Thorpe-le-Soken. His place of birth is given as 'Bradfield'. In 1857, when he was only 20, he married Sarah GOSLING⁷ and they had three children – Catherine Abigail, Maurice and Gertrude, born about 1858, 1862 and 1866. His profession became that of a blacksmith, although the 1891 census return⁸ shows him as a licensed victualler, with their address at that time of the Queen's Head, Colchester. Sarah died in 1904⁹; James died two years later in 1906, at the age of 68¹⁰. Their son Maurice's first marriage, to Sarah Chapman TAPLIN, produced ten children and his second, to Kate MANN, a further four.

George Benneworth was born in 1839¹¹ at Bradfield and on 10 SEP 1860¹² married Catherine ARCHER, who had been born in Old Brompton, Middlesex, at St Luke's in Bradfield; the marriage was registered in Tendring district. George, and some of his sons, were harness makers. They had six children: George Archibald (1861-1866); Annie Julia (1863-1884); Charles Benneworth (1866-1941), who married Clara JOHNSON on 04 SEP 1895; Catherine Janet (1869-1944), who married Christopher Henry WALLIS in 1895; George Stanborough (1873-1883); and Ernest William (1879-1883). George Benneworth died in 1915¹³; Catherine died three years later aged 84¹⁴.

The first **Charlotte** was baptised on *18 AUG 1841* and was buried just two weeks later on *01 SEP 1841*; the second **Charlotte** survived only a week longer, being baptised on *31 JUL 1842* and buried on *21 AUG 1842*. Her sister **Sarah** was baptised on the same day and was buried a

¹ 1851 census return for Abby [sic] Street, Thorpe-le-Soken, HO107/1779 f324

² 1861 census return for Abby Street, Thorpe-le-Soken, RG9/1093 f14 p21

³ ONS death reference for James GRIMSEY aged 71, Q4/1882, Tendring, 4a 220

⁴ ONS death reference for Sarah GRIMSEY aged 67, Q1/1883, Tendring, 4a 228

⁵ 1841 census return for Street, Bradfield, HO107/338 f24 p10

⁶ 1851 census return HO107/1779

⁷ information about James GRIMSEY (1810 - ?) from Pete Frost via email

⁸ 1891 census return for 80 Hythe Hill (Queen's Head), Colchester, RG12/1412 f51 p3

⁹ ONS death reference for Sarah GRIMSEY aged 63, Q1/1904, Colchester, 4a 416

¹⁰ ONS death reference for James GRIMSEY, Q4/1906, Colchester, 4a 423

¹¹ ONS birth reference for George Benneworth GRIMSEY, Q 3/1839, Tendring, *either 12 240 or 12 248*

¹² ONS marriage reference for George Benneworth GRIMSEY and Catherine ARCHER, Q4/1860, Tendring, 4a 427: information relating to Catherine ARCHER and the marriage from Pat Gould

¹³ ONS death reference for George B GRIMSEY aged 75, Q2/1915, Sudbury, 4a 971

¹⁴ ONS death reference for Catharine GRIMSEY aged 84, Q4/1918, Sudbury, 4a 1899

little under a month later on 26 AUG 1842. It is likely – although not proven – that these last two were twins.

The surviving **Charlotte (Benneworth)** – the sixth child and fourth daughter – married Frederic Charles BRANCH in 1870¹. However, very shortly after the marriage Frederick died² and Charlotte married again in 1898³, to Benjamin COX. It is likely that she died in 1923, aged 78⁴.

Emma, the fifth daughter, died in 1860 at the age of 16 or 17.

In 1873 **Isaac**, the eighth child, who had been born at Thorpe-le-Soken, married Martha Amelia FELGATE⁵ from Weeley, who was three years younger than he. In the 1881 census they were living in Brightlingsea⁶, where Isaac was a ‘blacksmith and beerhouse keeper’. No children are shown: as the eldest would have been only about seven, it is reasonable to assume that none had been born by that time. Isaac died in 1920, aged 71.

Sarah Spink (her second forename after her mother) was baptised on 26 OCT 1851 at Thorpe le Soken. She is shown in the 1871 census, at the age of 19, as a domestic servant working for Charlotte Aird, but she died before the following census at the age of just 29.

Joseph, the penultimate child to be born, was baptised on 31 DEC 1854. He married Emma MILLER in 1875⁷ and they had nine children (confirmed by the 1911 census return). The 1881⁸ census return shows Joseph as a ‘house carpenter’, while Emma was a tailoress. Ten years later they were at the same address⁹. They lived in Colchester, where Emma had been born in about 1857, and were at the same address in both 1901¹⁰ and 1911¹¹; this last shows the address as 56 Old Heath Road. Joseph died in 1920¹², but Emma lived until 1943¹³.

The youngest child, **Mary Ann Benneworth**, was also a domestic servant in the 1871 census¹⁴ although she was only 13. She hasn’t been found in the following census, that of 1881, but on 14 APR 1884 she married John SOUTHGATE, a saddler, at Brightlingsea. Their first child, Ernest George, was born while they were living at Thorpe, but some time during the following year they moved to Eardisley in Herefordshire, over 200 miles away, where their three youngest children were born. They remained there for the rest of their lives. Mary Ann died in 1917, aged 59¹⁵; John survived her by 20 years, dying in 1937 aged 83¹⁶.

As already noted (page 92), following the death of his first wife Mary Isaac married Susannah HUMM on 17 OCT 1814. Perhaps the wedding had been arranged in rather a hurry, for the first child, Susanna, was baptised on 22 OCT 1814¹⁷, a mere five days after the wedding. The 1841 census return shows Isaac and Susan, together with children Joseph, Robert, Charlotte, Sarah and George living in

¹ ONS marriage for Frederic Charles BRANCH and Charlotte Benneworth GRIMSEY, Q1/1870, Tendring, 4a 284

² ONS death reference for Frederic Charles BRANCH, Q1/1870, Tendring, 4a 284

³ ONS marriage reference for Benjamin COX and Charlotte BRANCH, Q4/1898, Chelmsford, 4a 935

⁴ ONS death reference for Charlotte COX aged 78, Q3/1923, West Ham, 4a 28

⁵ ONS marriage for Isaac GRIMSEY, 1/1873, Tendring, ref 4a 271

⁶ 1881 census return for Park Road, Brightlingsea, RG11/1785

⁷ ONS marriage for Joseph GRIMSEY and Emma MILLER, 1/1875, Colchester, 4a 394

⁸ 1881 census return for Old Heath, Colchester St Giles, RG11/1788 f46 p11

⁹ 1891 census return for Old Heath, Colchester St Giles, RG12/1407 f50 p15

¹⁰ 1901 census return for Old Heath, Colchester St Giles, RG13/1706 f61 p12

¹¹ 1911 census return for 56 Old Heath Road, Colchester St Giles, RG14/10290 ED6 SN1

¹² ONS death reference for Joseph GRIMSEY aged 65, Q1/1920, Colchester, 4a 932

¹³ ONS death reference for Emma GRIMSEY aged 87, Q4/1943, Colchester, 4a 1060

¹⁴ 1871 census return for Street, Thorpe, RG10/1678 f25 p13

¹⁵ ONS death reference for Mary A B SOUTHGATE aged 59, Q2/1917, Kington, 6a 649

¹⁶ ONS death reference for John SOUTHGATE aged 83, Q2/1937, Kington, 6a 634

¹⁷ baptism register for Kirby-le-Soken

Brightlingsea¹. Isaac died and was buried at Brightlingsea later the same year, on 28 DEC 1841; in the 1851 census Susannah is listed as a widow aged 61², living with Charlotte and Sarah in Colchester. Her occupation is shown as ‘allowed by parish’. She died in 1860³.

Susannah (1814 – ?)

0441C

Susannah was the eldest child from Isaac’s second marriage, She was baptised on 22 OCT 1814 (see above). She has not been found in the 1841 census return, but a possible wedding was registered later that year⁴. There are several possible spouses, but not one confirmation in the 1851 census. There are other possibilities – she may have died or have married before 1837.

Joseph (1818 – 1897)

0441D

Joseph, the second child and the eldest son, was born on 25 MAR 1817⁵ and baptised on 10 MAY 1818⁶. Joseph became a seaman, and his ‘Register Ticket’ (number 141606) shows that he first went to sea, as an apprentice, in 1834. It is likely that he married Sarah AUSTIN in 1843⁷; by 1851 they were living in Harwich⁸ (Sarah’s home town) with two young daughters and a servant. In 1858 Sarah died⁹ but Joseph married again a year later¹⁰, this time to Caroline BLOOMFIELD, at Dovercourt (part of Harwich). When the census was taken in 1861 Joseph was on board the vessel ‘Fairy’, in Colchester¹¹, with his young brother George. Caroline was living as a ‘mariner’s wife’ in Brightlingsea¹² – the census shows her as having been born in Brightlingsea, but a previous entry shows ‘Harwich’. In 1871, by which time Joseph was a ‘labourer’, presumably having retired from the sea, they had returned to Harwich¹³ and had a ten-year-old son, George; he seems to have been the only child from this marriage.

Caroline died during 1878¹⁴ and the census taken three years later¹⁵ shows that Joseph once more was describing himself as a ‘mariner’ – son George had also taken up the profession. Sometime within the following ten years he moved into the workhouse, which is where the 1891 census return¹⁶ shows him. He probably died some nine years later, aged 81¹⁷.

George has proved elusive but a possibility in the 1891 census¹⁸ shows George, a ‘steward on ship’ and a wife Mary lodging in Sculcoates, Yorkshire, with George Booth, a ‘Corporation sworn weigher’ and his family. The age is right – 30 – and the profession is feasible but his place of birth is shown as ‘Belgium’. However, living in the same street is a BLOOMFIELD family, who could possibly be relatives of his mother. There is no record of a George GRIMSEY of the right age in the 1901 census return.

¹ 1841 census return for Cook Lane, Brightlingsea, HO107/338/7 f13

² 1851 census return for East Street, Osbornes Yard, Colchester, HO107/1781

³ OND death reference for Susannah GRIMSEY, Q3/1860, Colchester, 4a 129

⁴ ONS marriage reference for Susannah GRIMSEY and [one of various others], Q3/1841 Lexden &c, 12 181

⁵ birthdate given on seaman’s ticket

⁶ no source recorded

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Joseph GRIMSEY and Sarah AUSTIN, Q2/1843, Tendring, 12 3 45

⁸ 1851 census return for Old Custom House Alley, Harwich, HO109/1780 f87 p36

⁹ ONS death reference for Sarah Ann GRIMSEY, Q4/1858, Tendring, 4a 139

¹⁰ ONS marriage reference for Joseph GRIMSEY and Caroline BLOOMFIELD, Q3/1859, Tendring, 4a 318

¹¹ 1861 census return for vessel ‘Fairy’, Colchester, RG9/4540 f23 p1

¹² 1861 census return for Providence Place, Brightlingsea, RG9/1101, f96 p7

¹³ 1871 census return for 1 Bridewell Yard, Harwich, RG10/1680 f61 p27

¹⁴ ONS death reference for Caroline GRIMSEY aged 57, Q2/1878, Tendring, 4a 196

¹⁵ 1881 census return for 9 Church Street, Harwich, RG11/1782 f5 p4

¹⁶ 1891 census return for Union Workhouse, Tendring, RG12/1401 f129 p1

¹⁷ ONS death reference for Joseph GRIMSEY aged 84, Q3/1900, Tendring, 4a 410

¹⁸ 1891 census return for 68 Hedon Road, Kingston-upon-Hull, RG12/3922 f50 p14

Robert (1820 – 1896)**044IE**

Robert was the third child from Isaac's second marriage (to Susanna HUMM, in 1814). He was baptised at Brightlingsea on *16 APR 1820*¹ and grew up with his parents in the village². The census return of 1851 shows him in the same street (and possibly the same house) as ten years previously living with John and Susannah SALMON³; his father had died two years earlier and his mother had moved to Colchester with his sisters Charlotte and Sarah. Although Robert's occupation is shown as 'mariner' he appears as a servant in the household.

He has not been found in either of the two following census returns, perhaps because of his profession, but in 1881⁴ he was shown as a 'watchman' on board the vessel 'Seagull' at Brightlingsea, still unmarried. Ten years later he was the sole member of the crew on board the vessel 'Janet' at Brightlingsea, shown in the 1891 census return⁵. He died⁶ and was buried on *28 MAY 1896* at Brightlingsea.

Charlotte (1822 – ?1818)**044IF**

Charlotte, the second daughter and the fourth child of Isaac's second marriage, also appears never to have married. She was baptised at Brightlingsea on *03 MAR 1822*⁷, and an entry in the parish register shows that she had been received into the church on *13 APR 1835*, when she was 13 years old. From living with her family in 1841 she moved to Colchester with her widowed mother and sister Sarah, possibly as a result of her father's death in 1849, and was living there in 1851⁸ together with an unnamed baby girl, shown as her mother Susannah's grand-daughter. Ten years later⁹, by which time her mother had died, Charlotte is listed as a 'servant' at the Lexden & Winstree Union House, in Stanway (now on the outskirts of Colchester). Although she is shown as unmarried a son Edward, aged 5, is also shown. Charlotte has not been found in the 1871 census return. A possible death was in 1877, although this was registered at Sudbury; it also indicates a year of birth of 1818. Although this would be possible the three census returns in which Charlotte is recorded give aYoB of around 1824.

The birth of **Edward** was registered¹⁰, but there is no likely death; he has not been found in the 1871 census.

Sarah (1824 – ?)**044IG**

Like her elder sister Charlotte, Sarah was living with her mother in Colchester at the time of the 1851 census return. No further trace of her has been found.

Martha (1827 – 1827)**044IH**

Martha, the sixth child of Isaac and Susannah, was baptised on *20 MAY 1827* and buried five months later on *24 OCT 1827*.

John (1828 – 1828)**044II**

John survived only seven months; he was baptised on *07 SEP 1828* and buried on *09 APR 1829*.

¹ baptism register for Brightlingsea

² 1841 census return for Cooks Lane, Brightlingsea, HO109/338/7, f13

³ 1851 census return for Cooks Lane, Brightlingsea, HO109/1782 f114 p31

⁴ 1881 census return for 'Seagull', Brightlingsea, RG11/1786 f119 p18

⁵ 1891 census return RG12/1405 f137

⁶ ONS death reference for Robert GRIMSEY aged 77, Q2/1896, Tendring, 4a 276

⁷ Brightlingsea parish register

⁸ 1851 census return for East Street, Osborne's Yard, Colchester, HO109/1781 f586 p14

⁹ 1861 census return for Lexden & Winstree Union House, Colchester, RG9/1103 f126 p3

¹⁰ ONS birth reference for Edward GRIMSEY, Q2/1856, Colchester, 4a 221

George (1832 – 1912)**044I]**

George, the youngest son of Isaac and Susanna, was baptised at Brightlingsea of 04 NOV 1832¹, although all the census returns in which he appears give his year of birth as 1833. He hasn't been found in the 1851 census return but like many of his brothers he too was a mariner and may have been at sea at the time. He married Lucy COOPER² in 1859 and they had eight children³. At the time of the 1861 census he was aboard the vessel 'Fairy' with his elder brother Joseph⁴. George too; in 1871⁵ he was again away from home for census night, but the rest of the family has been found, living in Brightlingsea; and in 1881⁶ the family, with George present, was living at (probably) the same address as ten years previously. George was away again in 1891⁷, on the vessel *Globe*, whilst his wife Lucy and youngest child Flora were at home in Brightlingsea⁸. The next census return shows him at home once more⁹; he and Lucy had taken in two lodgers, John and Fanny GENTRY. Lucy died eight years later, aged 73¹⁰; by the time of the 1911 census return¹¹ George had taken in a widow as a boarder. He died the following year, aged 80¹².

Wesley, their first son, was shown in the 1881 census return¹³ as a 'mariner', like his father. Within a couple of years he had changed from catching fish to selling them: in 1884¹⁴ he married Eliza TURNER, from Islington, and by 1891¹⁵ they were living in Islington with two children; Wesley was a fishmonger. Ten years later they had moved¹⁶, still within Islington, and there were five children. By the time of the 1911 census¹⁷ Wesley and Eliza had moved to Finsbury Park; three children (Ada, Wesley and Ellen) were still at home. The census return shows that six children had been born, but two had died; these were probably Olive (1901) and a later child. Eliza died in 1919 and several years later, in 1924, he married Caroline Mary FIELD. He died just three years later, in 1927; he was 66.

Edith, the second child and first daughter, was born in 1863. She married William JEFFERIES in 1885¹⁸, and they had just one child, Campbell Charles. Edith died in 1927.

Their second son, **William Cooper**, was an 'ordinary seaman' on board the vessel 'Queen Victor' at Newhaven in 1881, when he was just 16¹⁹. In 1889 he married Grace GODDARD²⁰; the 1891 census return²¹ shows Grace at home in Brightlingsea, with her sister Florence, although William hasn't been found and was probably at sea. Ten years later Grace was again

¹ Essex baptism records

² ONS marriage reference for George GRIMSEY and Lucy Edith COOPER, Q2/1859, Lexden, 4a 357

³ confirmed in the 1911 census return

⁴ 1861 census return for vessel 'Fairy', Colchester, RG9/4540 f23 p1

⁵ 1871 census return for Park Street, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f71 p27

⁶ 1881 census return for Park Chase, Brightlingsea, RG11/1785 f106 p14

⁷ 1891 census return for vessel 'Globe', Lewes, Sussex, RG12/800 f152 p1

⁸ 1891 census return for Well Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1405 f32 p22

⁹ 1901 census return for 57 Well Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f83 p20

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Lucy Edith GRIMSEY aged 73, Q4/1909, Tendring, 4a 375

¹¹ 1911 census return for 57 Well Street, Brightlingsea, RG14/10268 ED4 SN186

¹² ONS death reference for George GRIMSEY aged 80, Q4/1912, Tendring, 4a 788

¹³ 1881 census return for Park Chase, Brightlingsea, RG11/1785 f106 p14

¹⁴ ONS marriage reference 1891 census return for Nelson Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f97 p21 for Wesley GRIMSEY and Eliza Mary A TURNER, Q1/1884, Islington, 1b 483

¹⁵ 1891 census return for 43 Alfred Street, Islington, RG12/161 f61 p10

¹⁶ 1901 census return for 18 Cardale Street, Islington, RG13/182 f56 p14

¹⁷ 1911 census return for 10 Chatterton Road, Finsbury Park, RG14/992 ED22 SN357

¹⁸ ONS marriage reference for William JEFFERIES and Edith GRIMSEY, Q1/1885, Tendring, 4a 391

¹⁹ 1881 census return for vessel 'Queen Victor', Newhaven, RG11/1074 f89

²⁰ ONS marriage reference for William Cooper GRIMSEY and Grace Emma GODDARD, Q1/1889, Tendring, 4a 457

²¹ 1891 census return for Nelson Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f97 p21

without William, at the same address in Brightlingsea¹ with three children²; William was an ‘Able Seaman’ in the Royal Navy, and on census night was in Portsmouth³. By 1911 they had moved to a different street and had five children⁴, although the census return shows that six had been born of which one had died (probably one between Harold and Violet). William died and was buried on 06 APR 1936; the burial register shows him as ‘William Cooper’; Grace survived him by five years and died in 1941⁵.

The fourth child, **Frederick Charles**, was born in 1866⁶. He hasn’t been found in the 1891 census, but in 1896 he married Florence GODDARD⁷, almost certainly the younger sister of Grace, who was married to his elder brother William. Whether the two families met often must be open to doubt, because by 1901 Frederick and Florence were living in Wapping⁸; with them was Ebenezer, Frederick’s younger brother. He was no longer with them ten years later; Florence and Frederick had moved to Bermondsey⁹ and had a one-year-old adopted son, Maurice. They apparently later moved back to Essex, because Frederick’s death was registered at Tendring¹⁰; he was buried on 22 JAN 1938; Florence died in 1947¹¹.

George was the fifth child of George and Lucy, born in 1868. Although the 1881 census return¹² shows him living at home with his parents (he was only 15) he has not been found in the next census. In 1897 he was married in Ontario to Ellen Mary STEWART, who was from that city, so he may have been in Canada for some years. George and Ellen returned to England, arriving at Liverpool on 26 JUL 1897. The births of their three daughters were all registered in London: Elise May (1898) at Islington, Dorothy Ellen (1900) at Somerstown, and Gladys Irene (1902) at St Pancras. The 1901 census shows them living at St Pancras; that of ten years later shows they had moved to Enfield. Ellen died in 1927; George died in 1937, aged 69.

Amy Lucy was born on 20 JUL 1870¹³. She married George GODDARD in 1921. At the start of the war, by which time he was retired, they were living at Clacton. Amy died, aged 73, in 1944.

Ebenezer was the youngest son, born on 17 FEB 1873¹⁴: he, like many of his brothers and cousins, became a mariner. The 1871 census shows him as a cook on board the *Star*, which on census night was berthed at Lowestoft. The master of the vessel was Thomas GODDARD, doubtless father to Grace, Florence and George. At the age of 29 he married Annie TURTON at St George in the East, on 17 FEB 1902¹⁵. By 1911 he had retired from the sea and the census of that year shows him as a ‘garden attendant’ employed by the local Council; he and Annie were living with her stepfather James POCOCK and his wife in Stepney. Annie died in 1933¹⁶ and later the same year he married Ada ROPER¹⁷, ten years his junior. By 1939 Ebenezer and Ada

¹ 1901 census return for 67 Nelson Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f7 p3

² Harry (1892), Lily (1895) and Harold (1898)

³ 1901 census return for vessel ‘Steam...’, Portsmouth, RG13/999 f173 p0

⁴ the two youngest were Violet (1907) and Olive (1910)

⁵ ONS death reference for Grace E GRIMSEY aged 74, Q2/1941, Colchester, 4a 1452

⁶ ONS birth reference for Frederick C GRIMSEY, Q1/1866, Lexden, 4a 299

⁷ ONS marriage reference for Frederick Charles GRIMSEY and Florence GODDARD, Q2/1896, Tendring, 4a 876

⁸ 1901 census return for 27 Watts Street Buildings, Watts Street, St George-in-the-East, RG13/314 f13 p18

⁹ 1911 census return for 444 Rotherhithe Street, Bermondsey, RG14/1936 ED23 SN47

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Frederick C GRIMSEY aged 71, Q1/1938, Tendring, 4a 1002

¹¹ ONS death reference for Florence GRIMSEY aged 74, Q2/1947, Colchester, 4a 466

¹² 1881 census return for Park Chase, Brightlingsea, RG11/1785 f106 p14

¹³ 1939 Register

¹⁴ 1939 Register

¹⁵ Parish register for St George in the East, p244

¹⁶ ONS death reference for Annie R GRIMSEY age 60, Q1/1933, Stepney, 1c 404

¹⁷ ONS marriage reference for Ebenezer GRIMSEY and Ada ROPER, Q4/1933, Poplar, 1c 837

were living in Colchester. He died on 06 FEB 1963; administration was granted to Ada, his widow.

Flora Kate was the youngest child of Isaac and Susanna. She entered domestic service: the 1901 census shows her, aged 20, at Norwood in the household of William Wallace, who was the editor of a Stock Exchange official publication. Ten years later she was with the Stevens family in Tooting, where she was a house-parlourmaid. She never married and died, aged 80, towards the end of 1962¹.

The GODDARD family

As surmised above, the various GODDARDs were indeed part of the same family. The 1881 census shows that three separate families were living in Wellington Street, Brightlingsea:

John (37) & Ellen (32), with Ellen B (10), Horace (7), Gertrude (5), Edith (3), Francis (1); John was a 'master mariner'

Thomas jr (38) & Sarah J (35), with Grace E (14), George T (12), Florence (8?), Clifford (3mo); Thomas was a 'mariner'

Thomas sr (69), widower; 'master mariner'

These three lived in adjacent houses and presumably Thomas sr was the father of Thomas jr and John.

A few houses further along was home to Thomas & Agnes GRIMSEY. Thomas was a second cousin of the three GRIMSEYs above who married the three GODDARD siblings.x

¹ ONS death reference for Flora K GRIMSEY age 80, Q4/1962, Colchester, 4a 564

Appendix 044J – Lucy GRIMSEY (1784 – 1867)

On 18 JUL 1815¹ Lucy (who had been baptised on 17 APR 1784²) married James TILLET. Six children from this marriage have been found, at least two of which died in childhood. A report in the *Ipswich Journal* of 17 APR 1819 gives a list of donations received by the Colchester and Essex General Infirmary³: a Mr James Tillett is shown as having given £2 2s. This is likely to have been Lucy's husband although TILLET is a reasonably common name around the Colchester area. A probable death for James was in 1839⁴.

Lucy has been found in the 1841 census return, living in Frating. With her was her youngest daughter Rachel⁵, although Rachel died three years later and was buried on 04 FEB 1844. It seems that Lucy then moved to live with her daughter Susan, her husband Benjamin WELHAM and their family in Alresford, as she appears there for the next two census returns, those of 1851⁶ and 1861⁷. In the former she is shown as a 'pauper', in the latter an 'almswoman'.

Lucy died at the age of 88⁸ and was buried on 25 AUG 1867.

James (1816 – 1903)

044JA

James was baptised, at Frating, on 20 MAR 1816. He married Ann COPPIN on 07 JUN 1838⁹. They appear in the 1841 census return¹⁰ living in Brightlingsea with Jesse TILLET (presumably a brother of James') and an infant son James. They seem to have had a total of nine children.

James was a fisherman, and must have frequently been away; he was not at home when the 1851 census return¹¹ was taken as Ann is listed with four children¹² at a different address in Brightlingsea. The 1861 census return shows that James was away, on the vessel 'Rose', on which he was the master, at Colchester¹³. Two of his sons, Charles and Thomas, were with him as crew members, together with Daniel PITTOCK, the mate. James's wife, Ann, hasn't been found in the census return but their daughter Eliza, and the two younger sons Albert and Frederic, were staying (or living) with Sarah PITTICK¹⁴ who was, at a guess, Daniel's wife.

James and Ann were together again in the 1871 census return¹⁵, at the address where they were to remain for the rest of their lives. Just one son, George, was living with them; but ten years later they would be on their own¹⁶.

¹ no source referenced

² baptism register, Frating

³ information supplied by Dick and Jeanette Smith

⁴ ONS death reference for James TILLET, Q2/1839, Tendring, 12 196

⁵ 1841 census return for 'P B', Frating, HO107/338 f4 p2

⁶ 1851 census return for Copyhold, Alresford, HO107/1779 f88 p14

⁷ 1861 census return or Copyhold Cottage, Alresford, RG9/1092 f7 p7

⁸ NBI reference for Lucy TILLET aged 88, buried at Frating 25 AUG 1867 and ONS reference for Lucy TILLET, Q3/1867, Tendring, 4a 142

⁹ ONS marriage reference for James TILLET and Ann COPPIN, Q2/1838, Lexden &c, 12 163 and Essex Marriages

¹⁰ 1841 census return for North Street, Brightlingsea, HO107/338 f46 p3

¹¹ 1851 census return for Silkards, Brightlingsea, HO107/1782 f89 p23

¹² Jessey, Thomas, Eliza, Edward

¹³ 1861 census return for vessel 'Rose', Colchester, RG9/4482 f46 p1

¹⁴ 1861 census return for High Street, Brightlingsea, RG9/1101 f105 p25

¹⁵ 1871 census return for Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG10/1689 f99 p4

¹⁶ 1881 census return for Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG11/1786 f24 p5

Ann died in 1886, aged 68¹. In both the following two census returns² James was still at the same address, together with his daughter Eliza BROWN, who was also widowed, and her children. He died in 1903, aged 87³.

Jesse (1819 – 1899)

044JB

Jesse was born on 07 DEC 1819⁴ and, like his elder brother, he was baptised at Frating (on 26 DEC 1819). On 20 JAN 1846 he married Tamar GILBERT at Brightlingsea. The family, with a son James and daughter Tamar, are shown in the 1851 census living at Bosham (Sussex). Both children and (according to the census), Jesse's wife Tamar had been born at Brackley in Essex. Although the writing is reasonably clear no such place has been found. Jesse was a mariner (occasionally 'fisherman') and in both the 1861 and 1881 census returns was on board a vessel when the census was taken⁵; in both instances he is shown as 'master'. He also appears on a Crew List for the Emily Anne at Poole Harbour on 01 JAN 1888, by which time he was 68. Presumably he had retired by 1891 as the census taken that year shows him and Tamar together living in Mariners Terrace, Bosham. They moved from Brightlingsea to Bosham sometime during the 1860s as Tamar is recorded at this address from 1871 onwards.

Tamar died in 1894 aged 73⁶; her death was registered at Portsea. Jesse died in 1899, aged 80⁷. A total of eight children have been found.

Caroline (1822 – 1899)

044JC

When Caroline was 20 she was a servant in the household of Benjamin PAGE, a farmer, at Fingringhoe, a small village about five miles northwest of Brightlingsea. She married Thomas JENNINGS in 1846⁸, and the 1851 census shows them living in Great Bentley with two sons, Thomas and John. They remained in the same village (but at several different addresses) for the rest of their lives. Ten years later they had four sons and two daughters; by 1871⁹ the two eldest boys had left home but another son had been born. The 1881 census shows a further son and also the presence of a 5-year-old grandson. By 1891 all the children had left home (they had seven children in all). Thomas died in 1893¹⁰; Caroline died in 1899¹¹.

Susan (1823 – 1905)

044JD

Susan was the fourth child of James and Lucy. She was baptised at Frating on 14 SEP 1823¹² and the 1841 census¹³ shows her as a servant in the household of Samuel and Mary WELHAM at Alresford, where Samuel was a farmer. The same census entry shows Benjamin WELHAM as a 15-year-old mariner (Susan's age was given as 18), although in reality he was a year or two older than Susan. She and Benjamin were married on 21 DEC 1844¹⁴.

¹ ONS death reference for Ann TILLET aged 68, Q1/1886, Tendring, 4a 310

² 1891 and 1901 census returns for 59 Sidney Street, Brightlingsea, RG12/1404 f115 p16 and RG13/1703 f45 p29

³ ONS death reference for James TILLET aged 87, Q3/1903, Tendring, 4a 343

⁴ UK and Ireland Mate's Certificate of Service

⁵ 1861 on the 'Arrow' in Shoreham Harbour; RG9/4482 f36: 1871 on the 'Busy Bee' at Durham; RG11/4971 f195 p8

⁶ ONS death reference for Tamar TILLET age 73, Q4/1894, Portsea, 2b 297

⁷ ONS death reference for Jesse TILLET aged 80, Q4/1899, Chichester 2b 305

⁸ ONS marriage reference for Thomas JENNINGS and Caroline TILLET, Q4/1846, Tendring, 12 488

⁹ 1871 census return for South Side, Green Station Field, Great Bentley, RG10/1676 f25 p23

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Thomas JENNINGS aged 72, Q2/1893, Tendring, 4a 274

¹¹ ONS death reference for Caroline JENNINGS aged 77, Q2/1899, Tendring, 4a 329

¹² Essex Baptisms

¹³ 1841 census return for Arlesford, HO109/338.2 f6 p6

¹⁴ ONS marriage reference for Benjamin WELHAM and Susan TILLET, Q4/1844, Tendring, 12 507; Essex Marriages

Unlike several of her male relatives Benjamin was at home for each census night; for the whole of their married life they lived in Alresford, where Benjamin had been born, at an address shown variously as ‘Copyhold’ or ‘the Copyhold’. They appear to have had a total of ten children.

The 1851 census return¹ shows them with two young sons, Benjamin (1848) and John (1850), a nephew John BROWN and Susan’s widowed mother Lucy TILLET. Ten years later² they were in ‘Copyhold Cottage’ (perhaps the same building) with a further five children; Lucy was still living with the family.

By 1871 they were providing a home³ for seven children and one 1-year-old grandson, Charles. The following census⁴ shows just two daughters at home with Benjamin and Susan; by the time of the 1891 census⁵ just one daughter, Louisa, and Edward, a grandson, were there.

Benjamin died in 1893, aged 71⁶. The 1901 census return⁷ shows Susan living with James, her sixth child – he was also widowed and had three sons and two daughters living with him. Susan died in 1905, although the death was registered in the name of Susannah⁸.

Charles (1829 – ?1840)

044JF

Charles has not been found in the 1841 census return. A possible death was in 1840⁹, although as this was registered at Colchester it is not certain that this is the right one, as Alresford was within the Tendring registration district.

FindMyPast records the marriage of a Charles TILLET and Elizabeth DALE at Thorrington on 08 OCT 1846. However, somewhat confusingly the name of the groom’s father is given as Robert PORTER; also, Charles would have been only 17 at the time.

Rachel (1831 – 1844)

044JG

Rachel appears in the 1841 census return¹⁰ but had died by the age of 14.

¹ 1851 census return for Copyhold, Alresford, HO107/1779 f88 p14

² 1861 census return for Copyhold Cottage, Alresford, RG9/1092 f7 p7

³ 1871 census return for Copyhold, Alresford, RG10/1676 f8 p7

⁴ 1881 census return for The Copyhold, Alresford, RG11/1785 f57 p12

⁵ 1891 census return for Copyholds, Wivenhoe Road, Alresford, RG12/1404 f5 p3

⁶ ONS death reference for Benjamin WELHAM aged 71, Q2/1893, Tendring, 4a 276

⁷ 1901 census return for Spring Road, St Osyth, RG13/694 f85 p3

⁸ ONS death reference for Susannah WELHAM aged 81, Q4/1905, Tendring, 4a 373

⁹ ONS death reference for Charles TILLET, Q4/1840, Colchester, 12 49

¹⁰ 1841 census return for ‘P B’, Frating, RG9/338 f4 p2

Appendix 044K – Martha GRIMSEY (1787 – 1875)

Martha was the fifth child and second daughter of Robert GRIMSEY and Prudence HOLDEN.

She was baptised at Frating on *14 JAN 1787* and married Bruce (Brice/Bryce) PULFIER on *17 APR 1815*. He is shown in only the 1841 and 1851 census returns, from which it seems that he had been born, possibly in Suffolk, in about 1788. Records of only two baptisms have been found; Brice (1816) and Martha (1823).

Bryce died in 1860¹ and the following year² Martha, by now aged 74, was living with her daughter Martha FRANCIS and her family (by now there were six children). She was still with them in 1871³ but died in 1875⁴.

Brice PULFIER (1816 – 1872)

044KA

Brice was baptised on *07 MAY 1816*. He married Elizabeth NORMAN at Little Bentley on *04 DEC 1839* and they had at least four children. He died in 1872⁵ aged 57; Elizabeth survived him by 16 years and died, aged 75, in 1888⁶.

Martha PULFIER (1823 – 1876)

044KB

Martha was baptised on *03 FEB 1823*, and married John FRANCIS on *27 OCT 1840*. They started their married life living with Martha's parents⁷ but within ten years⁸ had moved to a different address, still within the same village. They had eight children, all of whom were born in Little Bentley. By 1861⁹ Martha's mother was a widow and had come to live with them, and she was still with them ten years later¹⁰, by which time she was 85. There are two possibilities of a death for John; one in 1865¹¹ and one in 1867¹². Martha died in 1876¹³.

¹ ONS death reference for Bryce PULFIER, Q4/1860, Tendring, 4a 134

² 1861 census return for Church Road, Little Bentley, RG9/1096 f56 p10

³ 1871 census return for Church Road, Little Bentley, RG10/1682 f61 p17/18

⁴ ONS death reference for Martha PULFIER aged 92, Q4/1875, Tendring, 4a 200

⁵ ONS death reference for Brice PULFIER aged 57, Q4/1872, Tendring, 4a 174

⁶ ONS death reference for Elizabeth PULFIER aged 75, Q4/1888, Tendring, 4a 252

⁷ 1841 census return for Ravens Green, Little Bentley, HO107.338/5 f13 p10

⁸ 1851 census return for Little Bentley, HO107/1780 f455 p19

⁹ 1861 census return for Church Road, Little Bentley, RG9/1096 f56 p10

¹⁰ 1871 census return for Church Road, Little Bentley, RG10/1682 f61 p17/18

¹¹ ONS death reference for John FRANCIS, Q4/1865, Tendring, 4a 161

¹² ONS death reference for John FRANCIS aged 45, Q4/1867, Tendring, 4a 137

¹³ ONS death reference for Martha FRANCIS aged 53, Q3/1876, Tendring, 4a 187

Appendix 044L – David GRIMSEY (1790 – 1865)

David was 'in service' of one sort or another for most of his life and never married. He was baptised at Frating on *30 APR 1790*. In the list of 'Admitted and Sworn Free Burgesses of Colchester' mentioned above (see 'Other information' on page 36) there is an entry for a David GRIMSEY of Frating and a George GRIMSEY of Kirby-le-Soken, both labourers and both shown as 'son of Robert'. They were both admitted on 09 OCT 1812.

The first census (1841¹) shows him living at Elmstead, some three miles to the north, as a 'male servant' of James and Elizabeth BROWN; James was a publican. The census return of 1851² shows his age quite clearly as 52, whereas it should have been 62. He was an ostler, living (or working) with Lucy NORMAN, a widowed inn-keeper; also in the dwelling was Mary Ann COLE, a 21-year-old servant.

Ten years later³, by which time he was 72, he was an 'ag lab', living with his brother George and the latter's wife, Sarah. He died at the age of 77 in 1865⁴ and was buried at Elmstead on *02 APR 1865*⁵.

¹ 1841 census return for 'The Market, Elmstead', HO107/338 f4 p3

² 1851 census return for 'East of village', Elmstead, HO107/1780 f493 p3

³ 1861 census return for Cridges, Elmstead, RG9/1096 f106 p18

⁴ ONS death reference for David GRIMSEY, Q2/1865, Tendring, 4a 155

⁵ NBI reference for David GRIMSEY aged 77 buried 02 APR 1865 at Elmstead, St Anne & St Lawrence

Appendix 044M – George GRIMSEY (1790 – 1877)

George was baptised at Frating on 30 APR 1790, on the same day as his brother David. In the list of ‘Admitted and Sworn Free Burgesses of Colchester’ mentioned above (see page 36) there are entries for a David GRIMSEY of Frating and a George GRIMSEY of Kirby-le-Soken, both labourers and both shown as ‘son of Robert’. They were both admitted on 09 OCT 1812.

George married Sarah PRITCHETT on 12 NOV 1813 at Thorpe-le-Soken, a village about two miles west of Kirby. The 1841 census¹ shows them living at Elmstead. They had at least one son, George.

Ten years later, in 1851, George and Sarah were still at Elmstead², and living ‘east of village’. They had two lodgers, both labourers. By the time of the next census, that of 1861³, they were providing a home for brother David (see previous section). Sarah died the following year⁴ and the 1871 census return shows George widowed and living as a pauper in Elmstead⁵. He was buried, at the age of 86, on 04 MAR 1877⁶ at Elmstead.

George GRIMSEY (1820 – 1875)

044MA

George married Susanna SARWARD⁷ on 03 NOV 1846⁸ at Brightlingsea. She had been baptised at Winterton, Norfolk on 26 NOV 1820⁹, the daughter of John and Jemima (née SHARP). In 1841 she was one of three ‘female servants’ in the household of Edward ELLIS, clergyman, of The Vicarage, Dedham.

George (junior) and his wife Susanna had six children, four daughters and two sons. George was a mariner and has not been found in any census return, probably because he was at sea on census night. Susanna has been traced in each census return except that of 1891.

On 14 OCT 1875 George and both sons, George and Isaac, were drowned at sea when their vessel *Galway Lass* was wrecked off Flamborough Head¹⁰. George was the Captain and his sons both seamen; five men, the remainder of the crew, also died. Following this tragedy Susannah moved to Brading on the Isle of Wight¹¹ where her second daughter Susannah lived with her husband and family; twenty years later she was living with her eldest daughter, Eliza, and her family in Chapel Street, Newhaven¹², perhaps in the same house she had occupied before the tragedy.

Eliza Sarward GRIMSEY (1850 – 1921)

044MAA

Eliza was born early in 1850. Her birth was registered in Lexden district, which includes Brightlingsea. The family then moved to Newhaven, on the south Sussex coast, where all her siblings were born. In 1877, not long after her father died, she married Jesse MAINWOOD¹³, a mariner.

¹ 1841 census return for Elmstead Market, Elmstead, HO107/338 f3 p1

² 1851 census return for ‘east of village’, Elmstead, HO107/1780 f495 p7

³ 1861 census return for ‘Cridges’ (?), Elmstead, RG9/1096 f106 p18

⁴ ONS death reference for Sarah GRIMSEY, Q2/1862, Tendring, 4a 151

⁵ 1871 census return for ?? Market, Elmstead, RG10/1682 f111 p19

⁶ NBI reference for George GRIMSEY aged 86 buried on 04 MAR 1877 at Elmstead St Anne & St Lawrence

⁷ George GRIMSEY of Brightlingsea, fisherman and bachelor ‘of full age’, married Sarah SARWARD of Colchester, also ‘of full age’, on 03 NOV 1846. The fathers were George GRIMSEY, labourer, and John SARWARD, Chief ... Coast Guard

⁸ ONS marriage reference for George GRIMSEY and Susannah SARWARD, Q4/1846, Lexden, 12 253

⁹ baptism register for Winterton with East Somerton, Norfolk, page 24

¹⁰ this information is given on a headstone reproduced in *Sun, Sea and Sails* by Alfred L Wakeling & Peter Moon, Scribe Publishing, 2000

¹¹ 1881 census return for Marys School, Masters House Street, Brading, HAM, RG10/1182, f4 p2

¹² 1901 census return for 60 Chapel Street, Newhaven, SSX, RG12/918, f44 p43

¹³ ONS marriage reference for Jesse MAINWOOD and Eliza Sarward GRIMSEY, Q2/1877, Lewes, 2b 309

Susannah Jemima GRIMSEY (1852 – 1916) 044MAB

The second child, also a daughter, was, born on 30 JUL 1852. Only a few months after her sister's wedding she married Thomas STEARS¹, a schoolmaster from Portsmouth, who was widowed with three sons. They moved to the Isle of Wight, where Susannah died in 1916 on the Isle of Wight.

George Edward GRIMSEY (1855 – 1875) 044MAC**Isaac William GRIMSEY (1858 – 1875) 044MAD**

The next two children, George and Isaac, were also born at Newhaven. They became mariners, like their father, and all three were drowned at sea when their vessel *Galway Lass* was wrecked off Flamborough on 14 OCT 1875.

Frances Rebecca (1861 – 1928) 044MAE

Frances was born (or baptised?) at Newhaven on 13 MAR 1861². In the 1881 census³, by which time she was 20, she and her sister Edith were living with Jessie and Eliza MAINWOOD and their two very young children. The census return shows them as daughters, but this is not correct – as their father had died four years earlier, had they been 'adopted' by Jessie and Eliza? Early in 1884 Frances married Percie Arthur St Clair ALDRIDGE⁴, and the 1891 census⁵ shows them living at Denton (which is a small village within the boundary of Newhaven, so they hadn't moved far). They had three children: Edith St Clair (1884), Percie George (1886) and William Arthur (1888). Ten years later another three boys had been born – George (1890), Charles (1892) and Francis (1895); although George died after only a few months, so does not appear in any of the census returns. Some time during the previous few years they had moved to Eastbourne⁶. They remained in Eastbourne for some time, although by 1911 they had moved to a different address – 25 Duke Street⁷. Less than two months after the 1911 census was taken the family emigrated to Canada: they left Southampton on 16 MAY and arrived in Quebec on 26 MAY 1911. They took up residence at Middlesex East, in Ontario, where Frances died at the age of 67 on 02 JUN 1928.

Edith Mary Ann (1865 – 1949) 044MAF

Edith was born (baptised?) on 08 DEC 1864. She appears in the 1881 census, together with her sister Frances, in the household of Jessie and Eliza MAINWOOD (see above). Towards the start of 1891 she married John FROWD⁸. He was some 20 years older than she, and came from Breamore, a village halfway between Ringwood and Salisbury. He had been married before, and had at least one child, Laura Maria (she appears as Laura Margaret in the 1911 census). Neither John nor Edith has been found in the 1891 census, but in 1901 they were living near Burbage, about five miles SSE of Marlborough in Wiltshire with three children. Gladys (8) had been born in Breamore, so presumably they had returned to John's home village for their first home; Ralph (6) and Norah (5) had both been born in Wiltshire, probably at Savernake although the village is very difficult to read. The 1911 census shows that they had moved to Lymington, in the New Forest, almost 60 miles south of Savernake. Laura is present on this occasion, and the census shows that five children had been born, of which one had died. This number presumably doesn't include Laura or any other children from John's first marriage. John died on 31 MAR 1937 and Edith died towards the end of 1949.

¹ ONS marriage reference for Thomas STEARS and Susannah Jemima GRIMSEY, Q3/1877, Lewes, 2b 270a

² many details in this section are taken from the Aldridge family tree on *Ancestry*

³ 1881 census return for 15 Chapel Street S E Terrace, Newhaven, RG11/1073 f 678 p54

⁴ ONS marriage reference for Percie Arthur ALDRIDGE and Frances Rebecca GRIMSEY, Q1/1884, Lewes, 2b 283

⁵ 1891 census return for Prospect Cottage, Denton, RG12/800 f 91 p1

⁶ 1901 census return for 3 Clifton Mews, Eastbourne, RG13/881 f 100 p25

⁷ 1911 census return for 25 Duke Street, Eastbourne, RG14/4822 f10 p167

⁸ ONS marriage reference for John FROWD and Edith Mary A GRIMSEY, Q1/1891, Fordingbridge, 2b 999

Appendix 0440 – Nicholas Bantock GRIMSEY (1797 – 1864)

Nicholas, the tenth child and seventh son of Robert and Prudence HOLDEN, was baptised at Frating, on *12 NOV 1797*. He was another member of the list of ‘Free Burgesses’ referred to above (see page 36), shown as a cooper and ‘son of Robert’ and admitted on *10 MAR 1820*. He is also recorded in the Colchester Poll Book for both 1820 and 1830 as a cooper, living at Frating.

He married his cousin Susannah GRIMSEY on *18 JUL 1826* at Frating¹; she had been born on *22 SEP 1805* at Brightlingsea and was the daughter of Isaac, Robert’s brother, and Susan GOLDACRE, Isaac’s first wife (see also Appendix 0880 on page 115). One of the witnesses at the wedding was Prudence, Nicholas’s younger sister. Nicholas and Susannah had a total of seven children, but only one survived beyond the age of 25 and three died before they were 10.

The 1841 census return² shows Nicholas and Susannah living in Alresford with four children³. The first two, Isaac and Susanne, were baptised at Frating on *26 AUG 1828* and *23 FEB 1829*⁴, but Susanne died and was buried less than a week later⁵.

By 1851 the family had moved to Greenstead⁶, now a suburb of Colchester, some five miles to the north-west. The census return shows three children: Susanna, S Ann, and M A (Mary Ann); both Susanne and Robert (the third child) had died.

Before the next census was taken in 1861 Susannah (Isaac’s wife) had died⁷; she was buried on *01 JUN 1856* at Greenstead. The 1861 census return⁸ shows Nicholas in the Colchester Union Workhouse – this is almost certain, as the workhouse census return shows only initials, but it does list ‘N G, widower, age 64, profession cooper, born in Frating’. Three years later he had died⁹ – he was buried at Frating eight days later on *02 FEB 1864*. Only in the registration of his death have I learned that he had a second name, Bantock, although the origin of this second name is a mystery. His age at death was given as 65, implying that he had been born in 1799 rather than 1797.

Isaac (1828 – 1886)

0440A

The eldest child, Isaac, was born on *15 JUL 1828*¹⁰ and baptised on *26 AUG 1828*; the Parish Register confirms that his father Nicholas was a cooper. He was another of those admitted as a ‘Free Burgess’, on *26 FEB 1849*; he is shown as a ‘mariner’.

Although Isaac was living with his parents in 1841¹¹, at the age of 13, he has not been found in the next census. However, living next door to his parents were the COCKRELL family, with widowed mother Sarah and children S Ann, Catherine, Henry and Susan. In 1860 he married Sarah Ann COCKRELL¹², who was a couple of years older than Isaac. No children have been found from this marriage.

The following year the census return shows Sarah living alone¹³, as a ‘sailor’s wife’ which is a good clue to why Isaac does not appear in the census. By 1871 Isaac and Sarah were sharing a dwelling¹⁴

¹ Frating parish register, page 8

² 1841 census return for ???, Alresford, HO107/338 f8 p10

³ Isaac (1827), Robert (1830), Susanne (1833), Mary Ann (1847)

⁴ these dates from the Frating baptism register; Isaac had been born on *15 JUL 1828*

⁵ the Frating register records a burial on *28 FEB 1829*

⁶ 1851 census return for Greenstead Road, Greenstead, HO107/1781 f700 p15

⁷ ONS death reference for Susannah GRIMSEY, Q2/1856, Colchester, 4a 139

⁸ 1861 census return for Union Workhouse, Colchester, RG9/1097 f98 p3

⁹ ONS death reference for Nicholas Bantock GRIMSEY, Q1/1864, Tendring, 4a 162

¹⁰ dates from Frating Parish Register, page 15

¹¹ 1841 census return for ???, Alresford, HO107/338 f8 p10

¹² ONS marriage reference for Isaac GRIMSEY and Sarah Ann COCKRELL, Q2/1860, Colchester, 4a 387

¹³ 1861 census return for Greenstead Road, Greenstead, RG9/1100 f172 p13

¹⁴ 1871 census return for Six Bells Cottage, Greenstead, RG10/1688 f74 p3

with Sarah COCKRELL, Sarah's 74-year-old mother. Also in the house was (mother) Sarah's 18-year-old grand-daughter Catherine COCKRELL – she is likely to have been Sarah Ann's niece.

At the time of the 1881 census return¹ Isaac and Sarah were living alone together. Isaac died in 1886, aged only 58²; Sarah survived him by about nine years and died in 1895³.

Susanne (1829 – 1829) 0440B

The first daughter, Susanne, was baptised at Frating on 23 FEB 1829, by which time father Nicholas was a husbandman, and buried only five days later on 28 FEB 1829⁴.

Robert (1830 – 1847) 0440C

Robert, the second son, was buried on 25 APR 1847 at the age of 17⁵.

Susannah (1833 – 1851) 0440D

Three years after Robert was baptised another girl was born and baptised Susanna (or Susannah), at Frating; she reached the age of 18 before dying and being buried on 26 OCT 1851.

Sarah Ann (1835 – 1858) 0440E

Sarah Ann was living with her parents and sisters Susanna and Mary Ann at the time of the 1851 census. There is no record of a marriage and it is likely that she died in 1858⁶ aged only 23.

Nicholas William (1842 – 1844) 0440F

The youngest son was buried at Greenstead, at the age of two, on 12 NOV 1844 and the death registered at Colchester⁷, thus giving a birthdate of about 1842 although a baptism has not yet been found. The only birth of a Nicholas GRIMSEY registered in either 1841 or 1842 was that of a Nicholas Bundock, towards the end of 1841⁸, and this is sufficiently close to 'Bantock' – the second name of his father – to indicate that this is the right child.

Mary Ann (1847 – 1853) 0440G

The youngest child was baptised Mary Ann on 18 MAR 1847 although the only birth of a Mary GRIMSEY was registered in 1850⁹. She was buried on 03 AUG 1853¹⁰.

¹ 1881 census return for Greenstead Road, Greenstead, RG11/1793 f76 p20

² ONS death reference for Isaac GRIMSEY aged 58, Q1/1886, Colchester, 4a 334

³ ONS death reference for Sarah GRIMSEY aged 72, Q1/1895, Colchester, 4a 414

⁴ both dates from Frating burial register

⁵ ONS death reference for Robert GRIMSEY, Q2/1847, Colchester, 12 52

⁶ ONS death reference for Sarah Ann GRIMSEY, Q4/1858, Tendring, 4a 139

⁷ ONS death reference for Nicholas William GRIMSEY, Q4/1844, Colchester, 12 53

⁸ ONS birth reference for Nicholas Dundock GRIMSEY, Q4/1841, Tendring, 12 223 or 225

⁹ ONS birth reference for Mary Ann GRIMSEY, Q3/1850, Colchester, 12 74

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Mary Ann GRIMSEY, Q3/1853, Colchester, 4a 131

Appendix 044P – Prudence (1799 – 1871)

Prudence was the youngest – the eleventh – child of Robert and Prudence HOLDEN, and she was baptised on 14 AUG 1809¹. The gap of 12 years between the baptisms of Nicholas and Prudence seemed to indicate, as I first thought, the possibility of several other children; but the Frating baptism register shows that Prudence was in fact born some 10 years earlier, on 09 DEC 1799. No reason for her rather delayed baptism has been found.

On 28 FEB 1820, shortly after her 20th birthday, she married Josiah GUNN at Frating. I have recorded a total of eight children before Josiah died in early 1850²; at least five of these married.

The 1841 census return³ shows Josiah and Prudence living in Thorrington with four children (Jane, Fanny, Solomon and Timothy) and Henry NORMAN, who may have been a lodger or a relative.

Josiah, a brickmaker, died towards the beginning of 1850⁴ and in 1851⁵ Prudence, now aged 50, was still in Thorrington with Solomon and Timothy, the two youngest children.

Ten years after Josiah's death – on 14 APR 1860 – Prudence married again, to John HEARN⁶ and they appear in the census of the following year⁷. By this time she was 61; he was at least six, and possibly ten, years older than she; the census return gives his age as 67 while the following one shows 82⁸.

Prudence died only a matter of months after the census had been taken⁹, and in fact John was probably about nine years older, as he died in 1879 at the age of 89¹⁰.

Mary GUNN (1822 – 1869)

044PA

At the time of the 1841 census Mary was a servant in the household of Henry and Sarah VINCENT at Frating. Another of the servants in the household was David ELEY, some eight years older than Mary. He had been born in Little Waldingfield, Suffolk, about 20 miles north of Colchester. The following year, on 25 APR 1842, they were married¹¹. They had a total of nine children before Mary died in 1869¹².

They lived in Colchester, at the same address, for the whole of their married life, and all the children were born there. The 1851 census return¹³ shows David and Mary with four children. Ten years later¹⁴ seven children were at home, and by 1871¹⁵ David, now a widower, was still providing a home for seven children. He died in 1878, aged 72¹⁶.

¹ dates of birth and baptism from the Frating Parish Register

² ONS death reference for Josiah GUNN, Q1/1850, Tendring, 12 194

³ 1841 census return for Thorrington, HO107/338.27 f12 p9

⁴ ONS death reference for Josiah GUNN, Q1/1850, Tendring, 12 194

⁵ 1851 census return for Tenpenny, Thorrington, HO107/1779 f68 p5

⁶ ONS marriage reference for John HEARN and Prudence GUNN, Q2/1860, Tendring, 4a 351

⁷ 1861 census return for St Osyth Road, Thorrington, RG9/1092 f152 p1

⁸ 1871 census return for Thorrington Street, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f54 p11

⁹ ONS death reference for Prudence HEARN age 72, Q2/1871, Tendring, 4a 162

¹⁰ ONS death reference for John HEARN age 89, Q2/1879, Tendring, 4a 191

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for David ELEY and Mary Ann GUNN, Q2/1842, Tendring, 12 383

¹² ONS death reference for Mary Ann ELEY aged 51, Q2/1869, Colchester, 4a 178

¹³ 1851 census return for Old Heath, Colchester, HO107/1781 f146 p9

¹⁴ 1861 census return for Old Heath, Colchester, RG9/1098 f55 p6

¹⁵ 1871 census return for Old Heath, Colchester, RG10/1684 f43 p9

¹⁶ ONS death reference for David ELEY aged 72, Q3/1878, Colchester, 4a 226

Eliza GUNN (1826 – 1911)**044PB**

At the time of the 1841 census return¹ Eliza was a ‘female servant’ working for Betty NUTTELL and her family of two children in Colchester. On 23 JUN 1850 she married Robert CREEK². They settled in Thorrington.

By the time of the 1851 census³ they had a young son. Ten years later⁴ they had moved, still staying in the village, and had four sons. The 1871 census return⁵ shows Robert as a ‘groom & gardener’; living with them were five sons and one daughter.

By 1881 they had moved to a different address⁶, but still within the village. All of the children had left apart from the youngest two, Joseph (Josiah) and Catherine. The census return of 1891⁷ shows that all the children had left home and Robert and Eliza were living in Rosemary Lane, Thorrington. By 1901 Robert and Eliza had moved to Brightlingsea⁸, where they were lodgers with Joseph DRAKE. At the age of 75 Robert was still shown as a ‘groom & gardener’.

Robert died aged 81 in 1907⁹; Eliza survived him by four years, dying in 1911¹⁰.

Jane (1829 – 1892)**044PC**

Jane married Abraham ANDREWS on 26 JAN 1850¹¹. It seems that they had only one child: Emily Adelaide, born later that year¹². The census return of the following year¹³ shows them living in Thorrington with a nine-month-old Amy, who is presumably the same child.

By 1861 the three had moved to Colchester Road, in Thorrington¹⁴ – the daughter’s name was now Emily. Living in the same road was Jane’s sister Eliza. The address was slightly different in 1871¹⁵, but the family was just the same – as it was ten years later, in 1881¹⁶. By 1891¹⁷ Jane was shown as ‘blind’; she died the following year¹⁸. Abraham continued to live at the same address with Emily; in both 1901¹⁹ and 1911²⁰ his sister Emily SLOWGROVE was living with them. He lived until the age of 92 and died in 1917²¹.

¹ 1841 census return for P B, Colchester, HO107/338 f18 p3

² ONS marriage reference for Robert CREEK and Eliza GUNN, Q2/1850, Tendring, 12 369; date was 23 JUN 1850

³ 1851 census return for St Osyth Road, Thorrington, HO107/1779 f73 p17

⁴ 1861 census return for Colchester Road, Thorrington, RG9/1092 f156 p9

⁵ 1871 census return for Thorrington Cross, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f57 p9

⁶ 1881 census return for Heath cottage, Thorrington, RG11/1786 f135 p2

⁷ 1891 census return for Hall Cottage, Rosemary Lane, Thorrington, RG12/1405 f123 p13

⁸ 1901 census return for Queen Street, Brightlingsea, RG13/1703 f74 p2

⁹ ONS death reference for Robert CREEK aged 81, Q4/1907, Tendring, 4a 368

¹⁰ ONS death reference for Eliza CREEK aged 86, Q1/1911, Lexden, 4a 458

¹¹ ONS marriage reference for Abraham ANDREWS and Jane GUNN, Q1/1850, Tendring, 12 321

¹² ONS birth reference for Emily Adelaide ANDREWS, Q3/1850, Tendring, 12 285

¹³ 1851 census return for St Osyth Road, Thorrington, HO107/1779 f71 p12

¹⁴ 1861 census return for Colchester Road, Thorrington, RG9/1092 f155 p7

¹⁵ 1871 census return for Thorrington Street, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f55 p6

¹⁶ 1881 census return for Colchester Road, Thorrington, RG11/1786 f142 p16

¹⁷ 1891 census return for Colchester Road, Thorrington, RG12/1405 f117 p1

¹⁸ ONS death reference for Jane ANDREWS aged 64, Q1/1892, Tendring, 4a 417

¹⁹ 1901 census return for Colchester Road, Thorrington, RG13/1704 f75 p1

²⁰ 1911 census return for Colchester Road, Thorrington, RG14/10283 ED19 SN21

²¹ ONS death reference for Abraham ANDREWS aged 92, Q2/1917, Tendring, 4a 807

Fanny (1833 – 1857)**044PD**

Fanny and Maria, the fourth and fifth children, were twins, born on 19 OCT 1833 and baptised, at St Mary Magdalene in Thorrington, the following day 20 OCT 1833¹. At age 17 Fanny was a servant in the household of John CULLUM, in Colchester. On the night the census was taken Andrew ELEY was a visitor in the house; he was too old to have been a son of David, who married Fanny's elder sister Mary, but was probably related to the family.

No marriage or any later census entry has been found for Fanny (or Frances). The only feasible death was in 1857², although that was registered in Dunmow District, some 20 miles west of Colchester.

Maria GUNN (1833-34)**044PE**

Maria was a twin with Fanny (see above). The fact that they were baptised at only one day old might be an indication that they were not expected to live long; Maria survived only seven months and was buried on 11 JUN 1834.

Solomon (1835 – 1916)**044PF**

Solomon was the sixth child of Prudence GRIMSEY and Josiah GUNN. At the age of 16 he was shown by the census return³ to be a brickmaker, and living with his widowed mother and younger brother Timothy in Thorrington. He married Elizabeth SIMMONS on Christmas Day 1860, and the following year they were living in Great Bromley⁴. Elizabeth came from Great Holland, some dozen miles to the east.

By 1871 they had moved to Thorrington⁵ and had three daughters; they were living close to Robert and Eliza CREEK and Abraham and Jane ANDREWS (Eliza and Jane were Solomon's elder sisters) as well as their mother Prudence and her second husband John HEARN.

Solomon was a brickmaker for the whole of his working life, and in 1881 they were living in Brick Kiln Lane⁶ with four children and a boarder. Altogether they had six children, of whom one had died by 1911. They were still at the same address ten years later in 1891⁷, when only James remained at home.

The 1901 census return shows that they had returned to the same area where Solomon had been living as a child⁸; James was still living with his parents, and he remained with them for at least another ten years⁹.

Solomon died in 1916¹⁰ and Elizabeth lived for a further seven years, dying in 1923 at the age of 83¹¹.

Timothy (1840 – 1910)**044PH**

Timothy, the youngest child of Prudence GRIMSEY and Josiah GUNN (and second son of that name, the first having been born on 27 DEC 1838 and dying on 17 APR 1839), married Mary Ann GARNETT in 1860¹². They spent the whole of their married life living in Thorrington, starting in

¹ Essex Baptisms

² ONS death reference for Fanny GUNN, Q2/1857, Dunmow, 4a 207

³ 1851 census return for Tenpenny, Thorrington, HO107/1779 f68 p5

⁴ 1861 census return for Balls Green, Great Bromley, RG9/1096 f70 p11

⁵ 1871 census return for Thorrington Street, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f56 p8

⁶ 1881 census return for Brick Kiln Lane, Thorrington, RG11/1786 f140 p12

⁷ 1891 census return for Brick Kiln Lane, Thorrington, RG12/1405 f118 p4

⁸ 1901 census return for Tenpenny, Thorrington, RG13/1704 f18 p11

⁹ 1911 census return for Brickfield Lane, Thorrington, RG14/10283 f19 p81

¹⁰ Thorrington Parish register, page 80; ONS death reference for Solomon GUNN aged 80, Q1/1916, Tendring, 4a 869

¹¹ ONS death reference for Elizabeth GUNN aged 83, Q1/1923, Tendring, 4a 738

¹² ONS marriage reference for Timothy GUNN and Mary Ann GARNETT, Q4/1860, Tendring, 4a 426

Colchester Road¹, where Timothy's elder sisters Eliza and Jane were also living. They had a total of 12 children.

By 1871 they had moved² and had four children living with them; ten years later, another address³ and six out of their by now nine children at home. The census return of 1891⁴ reveals that they may, indeed, have remained in the same dwelling for all these years as the address given is 'Barracks, Station Road'. However, the address given in the 1901 census return⁵ is different, although still in Thorrington.

Timothy died in 1910, at the age of 69⁶; the census taken the following year⁷ shows that Mary had moved to Brightlingsea to live with her daughter Eleanor and her family. Mary lived a further 12 years and died in 1922⁸.

¹ 1861 census return for Colchester Road, Thorrington, RG9/1092 f155 p8

² 1871 census return for Barracks, Thorrington, RG10/1677 f60 p16

³ 1881 census return for Station Road, Thorrington, RG11/1786 f138 p7

⁴ 1891 census return for Barracks, Station Road, Thorrington, RG12/1405 f117 p2

⁵ 1901 census return for Thorrington Cross, Thorrington, RG13/1704 f79 p10

⁶ ONS death reference for Timothy GUNN aged 69, Q2/1910, Tendring, 4a 323

⁷ 1911 census return for 43 Spring Road, Brightlingsea, RG14/10268 ED4 SN102

⁸ ONS death reference for Mary A GUNN aged 77, Q1/1922, Tendring, 4a 1121

Appendix 046K – William COOPER (1770 – ?)

William was baptised on *18 FEB 1770* at Layham¹. In 1803 he married Elizabeth BALLS², at Lowestoft, and by 1841 they were living at South Cove³, a small village near the coast just north of Southwold. She had been born in Hulver, another village just north of South Cove; he had, presumably travelled to find work – South Cove is 45 miles from Layham – and met Elizabeth. Ten years later they were still living in the same village⁴, by which time both Elizabeth and William were 77. It is likely that he died within the next few years, although the ONS records four deaths of a William COOPER registered at Blything (the registration district for South Cove) between 1851 and 1860.

¹ baptism register for St Andrew, Layham

² IGI marriage reference for William GRIMSEY and Elizabeth BALLS, 27 NOV 1803, Lowestoft

³ 1841 census return for Cove Bottom, South Cove, Suffolk, HO107/1015/9 f5 p4

⁴ 1851 census return for South Cove, Suffolk, HO107/1803 f87 p6

Appendix 088L – John GRIMSEY (1752 – 1813)

John was the first child of Robert and Martha, and was baptised on *23 AUG 1752*¹. He married Hannah ALLEN, and the note at the back of the Frating Baptism Register² confirms this, on *23 OCT 1777*. It is likely that Hannah had been baptised on *23 FEB 1752* in Great Oakley, with parents James and Sarah.

John and Hannah had one daughter, Sarah, who was baptised on *16 JAN 1778*³. Hannah died on *06 JUL 1780*, when Sarah was only two years old, and she was buried three days later⁴. John survived his wife by 33 years and was buried at Frating on *14 OCT 1813*⁵ at the age of 61 remaining, as far as can be established, a widower for the rest of his life.

On *31 MAR 1805* a Sarah GRIMSEY was baptised at Frating⁶. The register records her as the illegitimate daughter of John GRIMSEY and Sarah GOLDACRE. Her mother was possibly the sister of Susan GOLDACRE who was married to Isaac, John's younger brother⁷, in 1803; her father was possibly this John, who had been widowed 25 years earlier (he would have been 53 at the time), although the father could equally have been his nephew John, who would have been 24 (see Appendix 044H on page 87).

Sarah (1778 – 1814)

088LA

John and Hannah's only child Sarah married Joseph DAWSON, of Great Bentley, on *20 OCT 1803*⁸; he is described in the Frating register as 'Gent'. He had been baptised, at Great Bentley, on *01 OCT 1776*⁹ so was presumably about a year older than Sarah. John, Sarah's father, was a witness at the wedding. Sarah and Joseph had seven children¹⁰.

The Brightlingsea register¹¹ has seven baptism entries with parents Joseph and Sarah. The first two daughters were both been baptised as Sarah Ann, but in view of the date of Joseph's baptism it is possible that the two instances are simply the birth and baptism of the same individual, even though they are some ten months apart. It is also possible that the first child died after only a few weeks and the same name used for the second, but no burial records have been found to substantiate this.

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--|----------------|---|
| Sarah Ann | <i>15 MAY 1804</i> | | Hannah Allen | <i>12 OCT 1808</i> |
| Sarah Ann | <i>14 MAR 1805</i> | | Isaac | <i>07 JUN 1810</i> |
| Joseph | <i>18 JUN 1805</i> | | Susannah Smith | <i>04 JUL 1811</i> (born <i>11 FEB 1811</i>) |
| John Grimsey | <i>13 JAN 1807</i> | | | |

Sarah (mother) died towards the beginning of 1814, as the administration of the 'goods of Sarah Dawson of Great Bentley, deceased wife of Joseph Dawson' is dated *20 APR 1814*.¹²

¹ Frating baptism register

² see box on page 12

³ Frating baptism register

⁴ Frating burial register

⁵ NBI

⁶ Frating baptism register

⁷ see Appendix 088O

⁸ Frating marriage register

⁹ baptism register for St Mary the Virgin, Great Bentley

¹⁰ the first three and the last are in the Brightlingsea register of baptisms; Susannah's entry is the only one for which a date of birth (11th February) is given

¹¹ All Saints, Brightlingsea

¹² Essex Record Office ref. D/DU 381/21

Appendix 0880 – Isaac GRIMSEY (1758 – 1814)

Isaac GRIMSEY, baptised on 16 *JUL 1758*¹, married Susan GOLDACRE on 01 NOV 1803² at Frating. Sarah GOLDACRE, perhaps a sister or sister-in-law, was one of the witnesses. This may have been the same Sarah who was the mother of an illegitimate daughter (see the previous section).

Isaac and Susan had at least two children and named them, unoriginally, Isaac (*04 APR 1804*³) and Susanne (*22 SEP 1805*⁴). They were both baptised at Brightlingsea.

Isaac, the father, was buried at Frating on *19 JUN 1814*. Six years later his widow Susan married Robert GRIMSEY, Isaac's nephew (see Appendix 044G on page 86).

Isaac (1804 – 1804)

0880A

Son Isaac was buried only five days after his baptism, on *09 APR 1804*.

Susanne (1805 – 1856)

0880B

Their daughter, Susanne, survived and married her cousin Nicholas, son of Robert and Prudence (see Appendix 044O on page 107 for further details of this family) on 18 JUL 1826⁵. She was buried on *01 JUN 1856* at Greenstead⁶.

¹ Frating register of baptisms

² Frating register of marriages

³ Brightlingsea register of baptisms

⁴ Brightlingsea register of baptisms

⁵ Frating register of marriages

⁶ ONS death reference for Susannah GRIMSEY, Q2/1856, Colchester, 4a 139 or 159

Appendix 088P – Sarah GRIMSEY (1760 – 1837)

Sarah, the sixth child and first daughter of Robert and Martha, was baptised at Frating on *16 SEP 1760*¹, and married Richard HOULDING, of Great Bentley, on *02 OCT 1782* by licence². This is corroborated in the note in the Frating register³, and also in the extract from Martha's will⁴. John GRIMSEY (probably her eldest brother) was one of the witnesses. The marriage was by licence, and the register shows the groom's name is shown as HEALDING, but this is undoubtedly the same family.

Richard was the son of Thomas and Mary, who had been baptised on *04 DEC 1759*⁵. There had been an earlier baptism of a Richard HOULDING with parents Thomas and Mary on *28 MAR 1758* but also the burial of a Richard, with the same parents, on *23 OCT 1758*⁶, so it seems that another baby was given the same name as his deceased brother.

No children have been found from this marriage.

A likely death for Sarah was in January 1837, with a burial on *15 JAN 1837*⁷.

Richard was the younger brother of Prudence, and the chart clarifies the relationship between the two families.

¹ Frating baptism register

² Frating marriage register: although *Essex Marriages* reports that banns were read

³ see the box on page 12

⁴ see page 13

⁵ Essex Baptisms: there are two entries with the same name and the same parents

⁶ Essex Burial Index

⁷ Burial register for St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh