



## *ANCESTORS OF JOHN -----*

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**Note.**

Some of the key names and places in this report have been removed and replaced with dashes as this has been designed as a guide only.

# ***ANCESTORS OF JOHN S-----***

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

This report is based on family history research into the ----- and -----ancestry of -----. Research has been undertaken by Family Traits Research Services in the period of March to May 2008.

A family tree illustration is enclosed within this package which shows ancestors and descendants of John -----. A kinship report and all in one diagram are also enclosed; these show the relationship between John ----- and all persons named within this report.

Information within this report is verified and is sourced from birth and marriage certificates and returns from the English census reports of 1841 to 1901. Copies of certificates, census returns and transcriptions are included within this report. In addition, some family information was provided by M--- -----, which provided the starting point for the research, the aim of the research was to trace the ----- and -----/----- paternal ancestral lines.

The ----- ancestral line has been traced back to the parish of ----- in Devon.

John ----- was baptised at M----- Parish Church on the second of December 1798, the second son, sixth of seven children to Richard ----- and his wife Jenny -----.

The Parish registers of M----- show that families by the name of S----- were living within the community of M----- from at least 1601. M----- experienced a growth in prosperity in the late 1500's and many new families would have arrived and settled in M----- at that time.

M-----

*(Author Mary June Smith)*

## ***Some aspects of social history***

### ***Setting***

*The town of M----- ascends three steep hills from a hollow in the Poundwell area and is dominated by the Church of St George on the hilltop to the west. It is located midway between Bigbury Bay and the southernmost boundary of Dartmoor, and lies between the rivers of the Avon and the Erme to the east and west respectively. The parish covers approximately ten square miles of mainly hilly country descending to the river Erme, with an ancient ridge road running along the northern boundary from a point near Sequers Bridge. Five of the Manors in the parish appear in the Domesday Book: Motberia (Modbury), Silfestana (Shilston), Comba (Spriddlescombe), Lega (Leigh) and Orcatona (Orcheton).*

### ***Population and Economy***

*M-----'s origins date back to Saxon times when it was known as 'Moot Burgh' probably the meeting place of a parish or district, which after the tenth century became the 'Ermington Hundred'. During the century following the Norman Conquest, the population increased considerably to four or five hundred. Two centuries later, however, the Black Death accounted for a considerable decline in numbers of at least a third to about three hundred, leading to a general recession. Towards the end of the fifteenth century M----- moved into a period of great prosperity. Extensive building of houses and farms took place, with large estates changing hands.*

*During the seventeenth century the merchants of the town grew in importance, wielding considerable influence, clothiers featuring prominently among their number. M----- reached a further peak of prosperity in the late eighteenth century with the development of the serge industry. A domestic system of production has left little evidence today of the industrial era, except insofar as the Georgian and Regency houses in the main streets are more visibly the dwellings of a commercial prosperity than those of a modest market town.*

*By 1801 M-----'s population numbered 1,813, with as many as 882 people employed in the wool trade. In 1821 there were 2,195 inhabitants, an increase partly due to the decline in the death rate.*

*Subsequently the population began to decrease due to the rise of the mechanised wool industry in the north of England, fuelled by coal and adequate water supplies. M-----'s old style woollen manufacturing industry was thus left behind by the Industrial Revolution. Workers migrated to large cities in search of employment and others emigrated to the New World to found and join new settlements. The exodus of many agricultural workers and, in part, the failure to have a*

railway line routed via M----- from Plymouth to Kingsbridge also played a part in the decline of the town's population. However, M----- carried on as a thriving market town until the Second World War, the final cattle market being held in 1944. The decrease in population continued until 1961 (1,077 inhabitants). Since then, with an influx of 'New M-----' people and the building of new housing estates, the numbers have increased to the present level of roughly 1,500.

## **Architecture**

Social changes in the eighteenth century had their effect on the appearance of the town. It was probably during this century that the present street plan was established. Before the eighteenth century there would have been rows of small houses and cottages at an angle to the present streets, with a wide market place around the crossroads at the centre of the town, surrounding the Shambles and Yarn Market. New houses of greater magnificence were erected on the street fronts, incorporating the older cottages at the rear and blocking the original alleyways. Sometimes these adapted buildings would be domestic dwellings and sometimes workshops or retail outlets, usually with living accommodation included. Examples are: Brook House in Galpin Street, Chain House in Brownston Street (front Queen Anne, rear Jacobean), 21 and 22 Brownston Street and 16 Church Street.

In the early nineteenth century housing standards were much lower than they are today. Many dwellings now housing a small family were tenements for two or more large families. For instance, 5 Broad Street housed five families in 1851 and there were two uninhabited tenements at the same address. Cottages in Poundwell Street, Back Street and Galpin Street have been demolished. Outside the town many mills, farmhouses and cottages have disappeared, those remaining housing smaller families.

## **Chapels**

From the eighteenth century the Nonconformists became firmly established in M----- . A Presbyterian Meeting House was built in 1736, in Galpin Street beside the water conduit. A Wesleyan Chapel was founded in about 1781, with access under the arch in Brownston Street. The old chapel was sold in 1835, a new building having been constructed in 1834 in New Road. The Baptists established themselves in M----- in 1791, and in 1795 had a meeting house behind 7 Brownston Street. In 1806 the present building in Church Street was opened. A Quaker Meeting House was in existence in M----- in 1808, having been referred to as a 'very silent meeting'.

## **Family and Christian names**

The M----- Parish Registers show family names for the years 1601-1610 of families resident in M----- today. Burials recorded during this period include members of the families of B-----, C-----, H---, H-----, H----, H-----, L-----, P-----, ----, S-----, W----- and W-----. Interestingly, Christian names during the same period show much of the same popularity, particularly males, as at present. John is a clear favourite followed by William, Thomas, Richard, Henry and Nicholas. Female names during that decade were led by Joan (usually spelt Johan), then Mary, Elizabeth, Agnes and Margery. More biblical names and names of virtues, such as Grace, Prudence and Peace, emerged in later centuries, with the growth of Non-conformist denominations and baptisms held outside of the Church of England, but these were never in the top ten favourites.

## **Leisure**

There is evidence of at least eighteen public houses having been in business over the past centuries, not to mention The Half Moon which featured in the eighteenth-century Andrews' Diaries as an establishment to which to 'retire' following a busy day. Twelve inns were listed in 1850. In addition, during the nine days duration of the Great Fair, instituted by the Bishop of Exeter in 1310 to celebrate St George's day, anyone was permitted in past times to sell liquor, a holly bush hung outside the premises exempting the householder from paying excise duty. The opening of the M----- Fair was announced by the Portreeve's proclamation of the Edward III Charter and the hoisting of a flower decorated glove by the Town Bell above the former Bell Inn in Broad Street. The ceremony originally symbolised the right of the parishioners of the borough to free trade.

The M----- Mile race and the Fair procession (now known as the Carnival) date back to the nineteenth century. The fair was held, with stalls and cattle market, in the streets of M----- until 1940 and was revived in 1971, the Charter now being read by a representative of the Parish Council.

Cockfighting is recorded as taking place in 1708. It seems that over two centuries later, certain M----- inhabitants were still indulging in this practice. The Andrews' Diaries make note of a football match at Brownston in 1749, bull baiting on a Sunday afternoon in 1751, and 'great wrestling' in 1771. The diarist enjoyed bathing in the Erme estuary under

*'Orcheton Wood' and took part enthusiastically in musical events. In 1789 he attended lectures on Electricity and Magnetism, fifty years before the founding of M-----'s Literary and Scientific Institute.*

*Most people will have heard of **STETSON** hats, but it is not widely known that the Stetson family originally came from M-----. Cornet Robert Stetson, progenitor of the Stetson Kindred of America Inc., was born in M----- and baptised in St. George's Church in 1615. He married Honour Tucker of Plymouth and they emigrated to Massachusetts. Eight children were born to them, and their descendants still send generous donations towards the upkeep of our Church where the Stetson family records are deposited.*

John H----- S----- married before 1837 which was the year in which civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales began, therefore a marriage certificate for John H----- S----- does not exist. It is known that John married a girl from Malmesbury, Wiltshire, named Eliza C-----. The marriage does not appear to have taken place at M-----, they may have married at M-----, in any event, Hardwicke's Marriage Law stipulated that the marriage ceremony must take place in the Anglican Church of the parish that the bride and or groom were living at the time of the marriage. M----- is a good 140 miles from M----- though John was a builder by trade and would have gone wherever his work took him.

By 1841 John and his family were living at Vine Street, L-----, John was at that time working as a plasterer. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1842 John's wife gave birth to twin son's E----- and E----- S----- at number 9 Vine Street, L-----.

The census returns of 1851 show that John and his family remained at Vine Street. John was evidently hard working and on the census of 1851 he is described as being a builder, employing two men.

John and Eliza had four sons and all of them left to school to become builders/decorators. By the time of the 1861 census John had moved his family to number 14 A--- Terrace, F----- Road, L-----. John then aged 63 was still described as being a builder and his son E----- worked as a plasterer.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1867, Elisha S----- married Amelia Emily S---- at South Hackney where they both lived at that time. Amelia was the daughter of tailor Jabez S----, and Elisha was described as being a builder.

Elisha and Amelia S-----'s first-born son William Ernest S----- was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 1868 at number 9 Oval, -----.

The 1871 census shows that Elisha and his family were living at number 25 Morpeth Road, -----, -----, where they would remain for at least another twenty years. Elisha's parents John and Eliza remained at number 12 Alma Terrace. John H----- S----- died at L----- in 1872 and Eliza died in 1876, also in L-----.

By 1881 Amelia and Elisha had six sons, Elisha was enumerated as a house decorator and William, then aged 13 was described as being a scholar. By 1889 William had joined the building trade and married 19 year-old Agnes Rose G---- at -----, B----- G---- on the first of July 1889.

In 1891 William and Agnes were living at number 1 Shafton Road, south H-----, William was enumerated as being a paper hanger, they had moved to 42 Meadow Road, South L-----, where their son Albert Edward S----- was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1895.

William's mother Amelia died at L----- in 1899, by 1901 Elisha appears to have remarried, he had moved away from Morpeth Street and was living in the same property as his son William at number 42 Meadow Road.

On the Twelfth of February 1917 Albert Edward S----- married Laura Florence M----- at C----- Chapel, L-----. Albert was aged 21 at the time of the marriage and was a clerk. Private number 1---- in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Labour Battalion. His residence is given as 28 Meadow Road, son of William Ernest S-----, Builder. Laura was a Cardboard Box Maker and was living at number 16 Meadow Road, daughter of House Painter George M-----.

Albert Edward Victory S----- was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 at number 12 Hanover Gardens, K-----, son of Albert Edward S----- and Laura Florence S-----.

Albert Edward Victory S----- married Laura B-----/----- on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1946 at St. Saviours Church, C-----.

At the time of his marriage Albert was 27 years old and employed as a Civil Servant, he was living at number 84 Kynaston Avenue, T----- H----. Laura was living at number 88 K----- Avenue and was employed as a shop manager. Laura was born on the Twenty-fifth of March 1916 at number 35 Ravensdale Mansions, H----- Park, ----- . She was named Laura B----- and her mother gives her own name as Laura B----- also.

Laura's natural father was not named on the birth certificate, her stepfather was a Solicitor's Clerk names Frank Ernest P----- . We can see from the marriage certificate of Frank Ernest P-----, that Laura's mother's name was in fact Laura B-----.

The B----- line has been traced back to the B----- parish of M----- B-----/t.

M-----/T

*M-----T, a parish in the hundred of MANSHEAD, county of BEDFORD, 2¾ miles (S. E.) from Woburn, containing 346 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Bedford, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £11.16.3., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. [A Topographical Dictionary of England - Samuel Lewis - 1831]*

## **Landscape**

*The parish contains 1551 acres (628 hectares) of land and sits on a slight ridge, the highest point of which is about 530 feet above sea level and the lowest point around 400 feet above sea level. The parish is drained by six streams, of which four flow southwards and two north-eastwards. The Agricultural Research Council define the soil over the whole area of the parish as being of the Oak association - mainly non-calcareous gley soil with imperfect of poor drainage. Underlying this is solid gault clay and lower greensand, neither of which reach the surface anywhere in the parish. Some gravel and sand also occurs and was extracted in the past.*

## **Before Domesday**

*No prehistoric or Roman finds have been recorded in the parish, neither have any for the Dark Ages but the fact that a settlement is recorded in the Domesday Book shows that there was a settlement here by 1066 at the very latest. It has been suggested that M----- B----- and B----- may once have formed a single estate and were divided at some point before the Conquest - the zig-zag nature of the boundary between the two being cited as evidence of following existing field boundaries.*

## **Domesday**

*The Domesday Book of 1086 records Milton Bryan as Mildentone meaning "middle farm". It records two individuals as holding Milton Bryan between them. Odo, Bishop of Bayeux held four hides and his tenant was one Ansgot. The holding included 4 villagers, 3 smallholders and 8 slaves. There was enough woodland for 30 pigs. Before 1066 seven freemen had held this land between them and it had been worth £2. Unusually, when Odo acquired it the value had doubled to £4, a value it retained in 1086, indicating that it had not been visited by any of William I's armies on their way north to put down rebellion, as happened elsewhere in the county.*

*The other landowner in 1086 was Hugh de Beauchamp, later created Baron of Bedford, who held six hides, his tenant being William Froissart. The manor contained 6 villagers, 3 smallholders and 4 slaves. This manor had enough woodland for 40 pigs. In 1066 it had been held by Auti, "one of Earl Algar's Guards [huscarles]". It had then been worth £8 but this was halved by the time it was acquired and had only grown to £6 by 1086.*

## ***Manor of Milton Bryan***

*It is the manor of Hugh de Beauchamp which later came to be regarded as Milton Bryan Manor. The overlordship later passed to the Mowbray family, Dukes of Norfolk until some time after 1470. By the latter half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century the descendents of Hugh's tenant William Froissart had been replaced by the Bryan family, hence the modern name of the parish. In 1344 John Bryan gave the Manor to Woburn Abbey and it remained with it until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, it was taken by the Crown in 1542 and annexed to the Honour of Ampthill, like many manors in mid-Bedfordshire.*

*In 1599 Elizabeth I granted the manor to Michael and Edward Stanhope and in 1601 Michael sold it to Christopher Estwick, his family held it until 1626 when it was conveyed to Sir Francis Staunton, his family selling it around 1655 to William Johnson. It remained in the Johnson family until 1784 when Catherine, the heir, married Sir Hugh Inglis (a Director of the East India Company), who died in 1820. The manor remained with this family until it was bought by the Duke of Bedford in 1906.*

## ***World War Two***

*During the Second World War Milton Bryan was the site of radio studios from which so-called black propaganda was broadcast to Germany. The studios survived, in ruined form, behind numbers 22-25 Milton Bryan in Church End.*

## ***Population***

*A total of 10 villagers, 6 smallholders and 12 slaves are recorded as living in Milton Bryan in the Domesday Book. This total of 28 should be multiplied by a factor of at least four to account for these men's dependents giving a healthy figure of over a hundred. In modern times Milton Bryan, in common with many villages in this part of Bedfordshire, has declined in population as these figures show:*

*1801 – 333; 1851 – 376; 1901 – 182; 1951 – 158; 2001 – 148*

Richard B---- was born in Bedfordshire circa 1776, the first sign of Richard and his wife Amy in the Parish registers of Milton Bryant is the baptism of their daughter Elizabeth in 1795. The last known child of Richard and Amy B----- was eighth child, fifth son, James B----, born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1815 at Milton Bryant.

The 1841 census return shows Richard living at Wood Green, Milton Bryant, aged 65 and employed as an Agricultural Labourer, his wife appears to be called Millie, this could well be a second wife or the name that Amy was better known as, her name may well have been Amelia, a search of the parish registers should give more information.

In 1841 James was living and working, as a Male Servant, about six miles from Milton Bryant at East Side, Stoke Hammond, in the County of Buckinghamshire.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1847, at Stoke Hammond, James then employed as a Labourer, married widow Sally E-----, maiden name L-----, daughter of Baker, William L-----.

James' father, Richard died in 1848 and we can see from the census of 1851 that James and his family had remained in Stoke Hammond, James was working as an agricultural Labourer.

James and Sally's third son, fourth child, Frederick B---- was born at Stoke Hammond on the Fifth of October 1856. By 1861 the B---- family were living at Leighton road, which was the main road through Stoke Hammond at that time. James continued his work as an agricultural labourer, his eldest son Richard aged 13 was also employed as an agricultural labourer and the younger children were all enumerated as scholars. Sally's father William L----- was living with the family.

In 1871 James, Sally and their two youngest children were living at High Street, Stoke Hammond. James died at Stoke Hammond in 1873, this was followed by the death of his wife Sally in 1881.

Feederick had made his way to Finchley, Middlesex by 1881 and was working on the Railways as a Platelayer, he was lodging at The Gardens, Red Lion Hill, unmarried at that time we can see from the census returns that his wife to be, Jessie H----, was working as a Domestic servant and living with her family half a dozen doors away on Red Lion Hill. Frederick and Jessie married at St. Clements, Kennington on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1882.

By 1891 Frederick and his family were living at number 7 Avelon Road, F-----. Frederick was enumerated as a Platelayer and Jessie as a Laundress, the couple's fourth child and second daughter Laura was born at number 7 Avelon Road, Barnet, Finchley on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1891.

Around the year 1894 Frederick became an invalid, possibly an accident at work considering his employment as a Platelayer on the railways. In 1901 Frederick and his family were living at number 10 Warwick Street, Finchley. Frederick B---- died in the Barnet registration district in the first quarter of in 1903, this was followed, very soon after, by the second marriage of his widow Jessie in the April, May, June quarter of 1903 to Bertram N-----, later documents show that Jessie N----- was a witness at her daughter Laura's marriage to Frank Ernest P----- in 1923.

By 1916 Laura was employed as a Grocers Cashier and was living at number 35 Ravensdale Mansions, Haringey Park, Crouch End, when her daughter Laura was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1916, as mentioned earlier the birth is registered as Barber rather than B----, this could be a genuine error, though we can see that Laura could write which indicates that a false name may have been given in order to protect the Baker family from the shame of an illegitimate birth, this practice was not uncommon at that time.

Laura B---- married Frank Ernest P----- on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1923 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Edmonton-

*1923 Marriage Solemnized at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Colney Hatch Lane, Muswell Hill, in the District of Edmonton in the County of Middlesex.*

*Sixth January 1923. Frank Ernest P-----, Bachelor, aged 50 years, Solicitors Clerk, Residing at 64 Westfield Road, Hornsey. Son of Robert P----- (deceased), Spring Manufacturer. Married Laura B----, aged 30 years, Spinster, Residing at Middle Lane, Hornsey. Daughter of Frederick B---- (deceased) Railway Servant.*

*Married in the above church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Wesleyan Methodists by certificate. This marriage was solemnized between us Frank E P----- and Laura B---- in the presence of us Jessie N----- and Amy Alice G---- and in the presence of H.S. Seekings, Authorised Person for the above Church.*

Laura B----'s daughter Laura B---- then became known as Laura P-----.

Laura P----- married Albert Edward Victory S----- on the Fourth of August 1946.  
Children of Albert and Laura S----- are-

John S-----, born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1948 at South Norwood.

Jean S-----, born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 1951 at Kennington.

David S-----, born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1953 at Wandsworth.

Albert Edward Victory S----- died on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1993 at Lambeth, aged 74 years. Laura P-----/S----- died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2004, aged 88.

## NOTES-

A number of discrepancies may be noted regards age on census returns and marriage, birth and death certificates. There can be a number of reasons why the age of your ancestors might appear incorrect from census to census, the age of adults was rounded up or down to the nearest five years for the census return of 1841. Sometimes people just forgot how old they were, simply because they were not asked very often. Some people would be unable to work out their age from birth year to census year. Also, some people took a few years off for the sake of vanity. Ages at marriage were often inflated to make the marriage appear lawful and/or take place without parental consent. Sometimes ages would be adjusted to make a marriage seem more respectable if there was a large age gap.