

A STORY OF EARLY DRAYTON, QLD – THE WEBB HISTORY



Sylvia Webb was born 4 Jan 1929 in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. She married **Kenneth Ernest Geldard** on the 14 Jun 1948 at St Luke’s Anglican Church, Miles, Queensland, Australia.

This is the story of how, the Webb family arrived in Drayton, Queensland, Australia. The Webb and associated families originated in Gloucestershire, England, UK, where



they had a very long history especially in the village of Coaley and its surrounds. (*St Bartholomew’s, Coaley pictured right*). There are two early

Apprenticeship records, one (left) dated 1694 giving John Webb, son of Thomas Webb, a Clothier (Cloth Merchant) of Painswick, (10 miles ne of Coaley) the Freedom of the City of London to work as an Apprentice for John Eakins, a Citizen and Haberdasher of London.



and Haberdasher of London.

A second record is dated 1701 giving another John Webb, the son of a Samuel Webb of Gloucester, the Freedom of the City of London. This means that both Johns were allowed to enter through the city walls of London (left)ⁱ and work in the city itself. Samuel Webb

was a clothier and the Master to whom John is indentured is Nathaniel Adams, a Citizen and Clothworker to London.

The records show that both Samuel & Thomas Webb were Cloth Merchants and were affluent enough to provide both their sons, John with seven-year apprenticeships to London Cloth Merchants, so we know that the 17th century Webb family was an affluent family and indications apart from the above Apprenticeship records, indicate that they had earlier family connections in London itself.

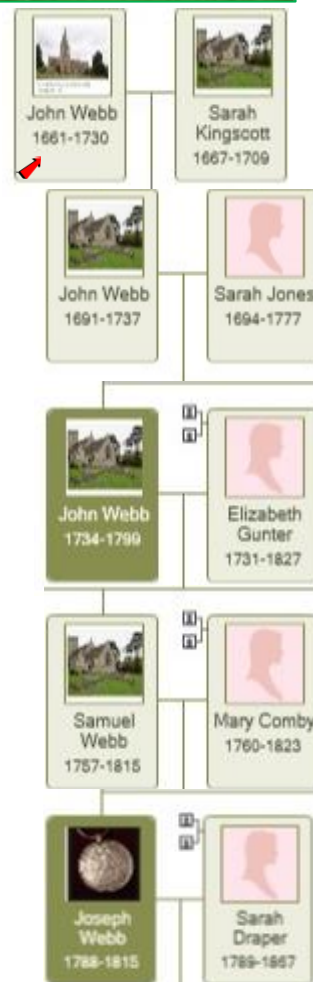
This situation implies that the 17th century Webb family was a family of ‘social descent’ where younger sons of each generation, found themselves in a lower social & economical position than their parents or grandparents were, as the estate always went to the eldest son. For further explanation see Endnote ⁱⁱ. Thomas, Samuel and their sons, both John’s are very likely members of Sylvia’s family, as they have the same naming patterns ie as you will see in the following families, both John, Thomas and Samuel are Webb family names of her line and they are living in the same area.



Reminding everyone, that there are no 100% certainties, but the most likely earliest Webb ancestor which I can trace with ‘some confidence’ is a 6 x great grandfather, for Sylvia - **John Webb**, baptised 30 Jul 1661, at Woodchester about five miles away from Coaley (*see top right arrow*). John, aged 30 married **Sarah**

Kingscott, aged 25 in Coaley, 30 Mar 1691. Sarah was baptised 5 May 1667 in Coaley, her parents were John & Sarah Kingscott – Sylvia’s 7th great grandparents. While there are many burial records in Coaley for John Webb and Sarah Webb, possibly John died in 1730 aged 69 and Sarah either 1724 or 1748 but both were buried in Coaley, Gloucestershire.

Among their many children was a son, **John Webb** b. 30 Jan 1691/2 (for explanation of double date see Endnote ⁱⁱⁱ) in Coaley. John had four brothers, Daniel, Richard, Thomas and Samuel and four sisters,



Mary, Martha, Esther & Sarah. Prior to 1837 with the beginning of civil recording, we mostly rely on Parish records of baptisms, marriages and burials. These baptism records usually date from the several days after the birth, but do not reflect the exact date of birth. There might be some slight discrepancies in the dates & the place, this is because there were two lists, the parish list & the Bishop's list which often was several days later & recorded in the administrative centre for the area, often a few miles away.

John Webb b. 1691 married **Sarah Jones**, 9 Feb 1719 in Coaley, Gloucester. Sarah Jones was baptised 28 May 1684 also at Coaley. John Webb and Sarah Jones' had eight children, William, Hester, Mary, Sarah, Elizabeth, Anne, **John** and Samuel. Their son, **John Webb**, was baptised 28 Aug, 1734 in Coaley. He married **Elizabeth 'Betty' Gunter** on the 23 Apr 1753 in Coaley and who also had been baptised 13 Sep 1731 – also at St Bartholomew's, Coaley. Her parents were Richard Gunter and Martha Ford, also both from Coaley. John Webb and Betty Gunter had five children, Mary, b.1753 d.1753; William b. 1754; Samuel b. 1757; Mary Bendall b. 1759 and Joice b. 1761. (One of their grandmothers could be a Christian Bendallman).

John & Elizabeth's son, Sylvia's 3 x great grandfather, **Samuel Webb** was born/baptised in Coaley on 15 Sep, 1757. On his 20th birthday, 15 Sep 1777, Samuel (Farm Labourer^{iv}) married **Mary Comby** at Cam about 1 ½ miles away from Coaley. Samuel could sign his name and his two witnesses, his elder brother, William and a Samuel Chappel, could also sign their names, quite confidently, indicating that they were all educated. This fact indicates that in future generations, the family were probably moving 'socially downward', ie with the main inheritance going to the eldest son, other sons having to provide for themselves, took more menial ways of supporting themselves – for explanation of the term, see previous Endnote.

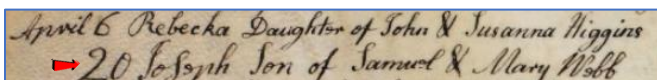
Samuel's wife, **Mary Comby** was baptised at Dursley, about 3 miles from Coaley, on 13 May, 1760. Mary's mother was **Elizabeth Shakespear** – both her father, **William Combe** and mother, Elizabeth could sign their own names, but Mary herself, could not read or write. Born in 1564, 49 miles away at Stratford-upon-Avon, was the famous writer, William Shakespeare. His father was John Shakespeare, who was a Glovemaking and Wool Merchant, so with overlapping trades, there is a '**remote possibility**' of some connection.

Samuel Webb and Mary Comby appear to have had nine children, all who appears to be able to read and write, indicating a higher socio-economic level, Elizabeth b. 1778 d. 1779; William, b. 1781 (Labourer); Jacob, b. 1784 d. 1800; **Joseph**, b. 20 April 1788; Jane, b. 1790 d. 1790; David, 1791; Jesse, 1793; Samuel, 1796 (Woollen Cloth Weaver) & youngest child, **Job**, b. 6 May 1799.

Their youngest son, **Job Webb** was a Carpenter and on 31 Dec 1825, he married Charlotte Spratt at Coaley. Thirteen years later, on 18 Jan 1838, Job and Charlotte emigrated to Australia, arriving at Sydney Cove, on the vessel "Layton". They were Wesleyan Methodists, had no children, Job could both read and write and Charlotte could read a little. Job also claimed to be five years younger than he was, a common practice for emigrants, to be more employable. Obviously, they settled in Sofala, just north of Bathurst, NSW. Job died in 1877 and Charlotte in 1860, both buried in Sofala. It appears they had no children.

Sylvia's 2 x great grandfather was Samuel and Mary's third son **Joseph Webb**, , baptised in Coaley, 20 Apr 1788, the same year the First Fleet arrived in Sydney Cove. Joseph Webb became a soldier, I have been unable to locate his enlistment date, but it was probably in 1805, about the age of 17 years old, or even earlier, if he lied about his age, which was very common. This meant he could have joined as early as 1801 or 1802 at 13 or 14 years old. Remembering, that there was no way of checking someone's age back then. The only record was of baptism, and that was held in that particular church.

About 1802, the British were really fearful about the prospect of invasion by Napoleon - "*Never since the days of Oliver Cromwell had any name caused so much fear in England as did that of Napoleon Bonaparte. From 1802 until his first*



April 6 Rebecca Daughter of John & Susanna Higgins
→ 20 Joseph Son of Samuel & Mary Webb



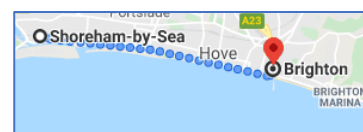
downfall, in 1814, a spirit of alarm & uneasiness pervaded all classes in Great Britain, from the King & his Ministers down to the most illiterate peasant. Those who were witnesses of, & participators in, this panic have now passed away, but the national pride which our victory over Napoleon at Waterloo excited in every Briton's breast is as strong as ever & will last till the crack of doom."^v

Corporal Joseph Webb was an NCO in the 91st Regiment of Foot (Argyllshire Highlanders), then transferred to the 92nd foot, then to the 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars. Research on the 91st Foot shows the 1st Battalion embarked for Hanover, Germany in December 1805 and after service in Germany returned to

Joseph Webb
Male
25 May 1807
Saint Nicholas, Brighton, Sussex, England
Sarah Draper
1067106

England in February 1806. **Corporal Joseph Webb** aged 19 married **Sarah Draper** aged 18, on 25 May 1807 at Brighton in Sussex, (*see left*) her father is named as **Samuel Draper**, a Mariner of Brighton, Sussex.

Sarah Draper's father is a sailor. Sailors could be away for periods up to five years, and with none or sporadic money coming back to the families, forcing the families to exist in a desperate way. I am unable to locate a baptismal record for Sarah, but census records show that Sarah was born approx. 1789/90 and she was born in Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, six miles west of Brighton. Death records show that a woman, named **Sarah Draper**, pauper died at Shoreham by the Sea, Sussex in 1794, this is possibly Samuel's wife and Sarah's mother.



While I should point out that there are several Joseph and Sarah Webbs, with sons, Joseph, so it is important that they are not confused.

However, logically this death record 'could' be Sarah's mother, thus making Sarah a virtual orphan at the age of 5 years old. So, if this is the case, we have no idea of whether Sarah lived with other family, or ended up in the Poor House, the latter I suspect, as she appears to come from a desperately poor family. However, like her husband, Cpl Joseph Webb, Sarah is able to read and write, which was common if young women were employed as servants, as they were often taught so they could be more effective in their employment.

Their first child of Joseph Webb & Sarah Draper (Sylvia's 2 x great grandparents) was **Eliza Draper Webb**, baptised 27 Apr 1808. Just a few weeks later, the 91st Foot First Battalion embarked for Portugal in June 1808 & the Battle of Vimeiro later that month before fighting the Battle of Corunna Jan 1809.

At some time, Joseph has transferred to the 92nd, but the document showing that, has no year on it, so I don't know when it was, but it was renamed 92nd Regiment of Foot (Gordon Highlanders) in 1809, so that is a logical time for him to have transferred into it, meaning that he could have remained in Brighton for longer with his family. In late 1809, the 92nd took part in the Walcheren Campaign in the Netherlands. It returned to Portugal in Sep 1810 to fight in the Peninsula War, then the Portuguese Battle of Fuentes de Onoro in May, 1811, the Second siege of Badajoz in June 1811 and another battle in Oct 1811 and six months later, the Battle of Almaraz in May 1812 and 13 months later June 1813. The 92nd Foot then pursued the French Army into France and fought at the Battle of the Pyrenees in July 1813, the Battle of Nivelle in Nov 1813 and the Battle of the Nive in December 1813. The 92nd fought in the Battle of Orthes in Feb 1814, the Battle of Toulouse from Apr 14-18, then returned to England.



Gordons and Greys to the Front, an 1898 painting by Stanley Berkeley, showing the incident at Waterloo, when the 92nd joined the charge of the Scots Greys by hanging on to their stirrups in June 1815

At some stage, Joseph transferred from a foot regiment into a Cavalry regiment, the 7th Hussars (Queens Own). This was the unit he died in, again we have no idea when he transferred from the 92nd. The 7th Hussars returned to the Peninsular from England in Aug 1813, and were involved in the Battle of Orthes, Feb 1814. The Duke of



1815 British Hussars. Military ... pinterest.com

Joseph Webb
Corporal
7th (or Queens Own) Hussars
Killed In Action



Wellington reporting that *the 7th Hussars distinguished themselves on this occasion and made many prisoners.* But in March 1814, the unit was moved to Brighton, UK., so if Joseph

A Corn Law was first introduced in Britain in 1804, when the landowners, who dominated Parliament, sought to protect their profits by imposing a duty on imported corn. During the Napoleonic Wars it had not been possible to import corn from Europe. This led to an expansion of British wheat farming and to high bread prices. Farmers feared that when the war came to an end in 1815, the importation of foreign corn would lower prices. This fear was justified and the price of corn reached fell from 126s. 6d. a quarter in 1812 to 65s. 7d. three years later. British landowners applied pressure on members of the House of Commons to take action to protect the profits of the farmers. Parliament responded by passing a law permitting the import of foreign wheat free of duty only when the domestic price reached 80 shillings per quarter (8 bushels). **During the passing of this legislation, the Houses of Parliament had to be defended by armed troops against a large angry crowd.** This legislation was hated by the people living in Britain's fast-growing towns who had to pay these higher bread prices. **The industrial classes saw the Corn Laws as an example of how Parliament passed legislation that favoured large landowners.** The manufacturers in particular were concerned that the Corn Laws would result in a demand for higher wages.

<https://spartacus-educational.com/PRcorn.htm>

was with them then, it makes the gestation period for the baby Joseph, baptized 25 December, 1814, a definite possibility.

However, another possibility - we have no way of knowing if Sarah and daughter, Eliza 'followed the drum' as many of the Army wives did. This meant that they followed their husbands all over Europe and were part of the baggage train, waiting behind the lines as their husbands went into battle. Otherwise, left at home, the families led a very lonely life, desperately poor, waiting for their husbands to return and never knowing if they were dead or alive. So which was Sarah?

Sometime after their return to Brighton, the 7th Hussars were active internally, involved within England in putting down the riots and rebellions against the Corn Laws (*see left*). This would have pitted English soldiers against their own people, their own families and citizens, which meant mounted cavalry with drawn swords charging ordinary people, killing and maiming.

People of Coaley and surrounds have always been feisty and rebellious! Back in the 1600's, the people from that area were part in what is known as the Western Rising. They rebelled against deforestations of the Royal forest, sale of royal lands and enclosure of property by new owners, principally because of the effect on the poorest forest dwellers, who would then become burdens on the town's poor relief. Recorded as having a warlike character with armed mobs numbering hundreds, the rioters in the Forest of Dean and surrounding areas, fully destroyed the despised newly introduced enclosures, these riots were successful, due to the lack of efficient militia ...^{vi}. Even with their history as middle-class Merchants, by now the Webb extended family would have straddled all levels of society.

In 1793, just under 21 years before the birth of Joseph Webb in 1814, there was a nuclear winter when harvests failed due to the fallout

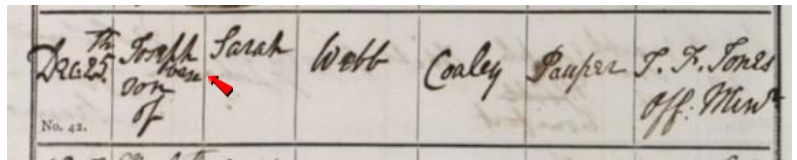
from an Icelandic volcano, and many died from the resulting famine. During the famine, a fungi grew on the poorer quality crops, which caused muscle spasms, confusion, delusions and hallucinations, this is believed to be often linked to accusations of witchcraft, which were still prevalent. It was only in 1735 that it became illegal for people to practice witchcraft, and as a result no longer were witches hung or burnt, the latest witch was executed in 1716, but scratch the surface and we still find superstition there among the uneducated.

Locally, in 1794, only 25 miles away in Bristol, one of the worst massacres of the 18th century occurred when a mob gathered to protest against the renewal of tolls on the Bristol Bridge. They were the victims of volleys of musket fire by a party of soldiers, 11 men and women were killed and 50 men, women and children were wounded. From 1796, not only that area, but all areas of England were subject to plagues of Smallpox, Typhus, Diptheria, Cholera, Measles and other deadly diseases? It appears that most of Cpl Joseph Webb's siblings are now struggling, many only able to work as Agricultural Labourers and we find them from the Forest of Dean down as far as Dursley.

So how did Sarah and Eliza end up 132 miles away from Brighton? In Coaley, Gloucestershire! Another researcher may be able to spend the time and delve deeper to locate any further records and present a fuller picture, as a result I can only create a hypothesis and there are several hypothesis that could fit – the pivotal unknown is **when!** When did Cpl Joseph Webb take or send his wife, Sarah and daughter, Eliza up to Coaley in Gloucestershire?

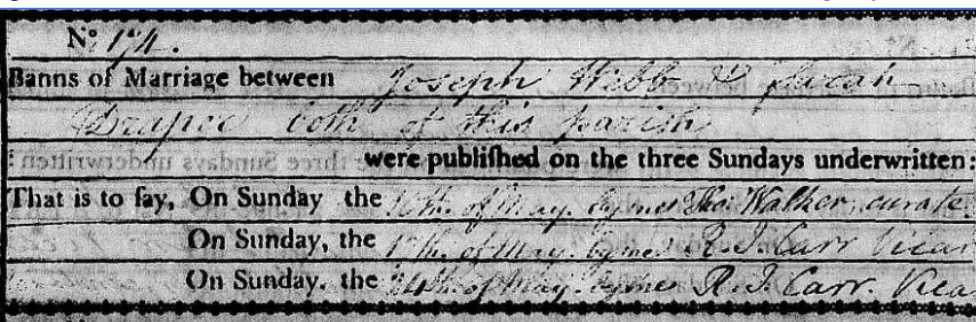
However, with the information we have available, there could be several theories, one theory is that Cpl Joseph Webb either returned home to his family in Brighton in March 1814 or brings them home with him from the continent when the 7th Hussars returned to duty within England. Aware of the genuine fear of invasion by Napoleon, Corporal Joseph would have been concerned for the safety of his family. Who would win the war? England or France? At the Battle of Waterloo, it was ‘touch and go’ and history books of the time bear that out, including the fear and terror felt by the residents of these English coastal areas. And Brighton on that south east coast was a high risk area. So, rather than leaving a pregnant wife and a young daughter alone, he takes or sends a pregnant Sarah with 6 year old Eliza, to travel the long 132 miles from Brighton to Coaley. It would have been an arduous trip, taking at least a week, via stage coach or a carter’s dray, with wooden cartwheels and dirt roads and the weather would be coming into winter.

However, one thing we definitely know is that life changed for Sarah and daughter, Eliza. On Christmas Day, 25 Dec 1814, Sylvia’s great grandfather, **Joseph Webb**, son of Sarah Webb, a Pauper of Coaley, second child of Joseph & Sarah Webb, was baptised



(right), and according to the 1851 census, he was born in Coaley, so it is probable that this is his baptism record. An anomaly is that the baptism was recorded not by a member of the clergy, but a lay person on the clergy’s behalf and described as Off. Min. (Officer for the Minister???), probably part of the local community & subject to local influences.

The word, ‘pauper’ seems to indicate that Sarah and daughter, Eliza were not supported by Cpl Joseph’s family. Two of many possible reasons could be that either the family were in desperate straits themselves or they did not accept Sarah as their son Joseph’s wife – maybe because both Sarah and Cpl Joseph were under age (21 years old) at the time of their marriage and maybe Cpl Joseph’s parents never gave their consent or were even consulted – “Those under the age of 21 had to have parental consent if they



married by licence; marriages by banns, by contrast, were valid as long as the parent of the minor did not actually forbid the banns.^{vii}” I have managed to locate the 1807 East Sussex banns record^{viii} of Joseph Webb and Sarah

Draper, shown left, demonstrating that they were legally married in the Church of England, but remembering that Coaley to Brighton, was like from London to Sydney and no phones!!!

However, an unusual thing has happened – there is a mystery here! The word ‘base’ has been inserted in Joseph’s baptism record – as a **later insert**, (see above right). The word ‘base’ means born out of wedlock & was extremely derogatory & carried a permanent slur, however we know that **Joseph was born within wedlock**, his parents, Joseph & Sarah were definitely married, as per the marriage record shown. Another consistency is also evident in the baptism entry, which reeks of local antagonistic influence. For Joseph Webb to be recorded as ‘base born’, the mother should be recorded under her maiden name of Sarah Draper, not her married name of Sarah Webb. Also, clearly Sarah, his mother confirms her son’s paternity by naming her son, ‘Joseph’ after his soldier, father! A genealogical site makes the following comment – “The parish records in most countries and times did not spare the mother or child & usually managed to get the “shameful” facts recorded. Even if the record only asked for names, the recorder would squeeze in a descriptive term^{ix}”. And as this fact of ‘base’ is false, it shows Sarah living in a community, through which an undercurrent of spite & maliciousness is running & it also implies that the people from where this is emanating had some influence in the local community.

Whether his father, Joseph was with the 92nd Foot or the 7th Hussars, there is an opportunity for conception in either March or April, 1814 and a birth in late December would be feasible. The baptism for Joseph is Christmas Day. Now a baptism on Christmas Day can indicate an unusual baptism, quite likely meaning that the child was sickly due to poor nutrition of the mother as a pauper or the baby was not expected to survive because it was born early. So Joseph Webb is not a ‘bastard’ as it has been recorded.

So, what could have life been like for Sarah Draper/Webb in 1814 when baby Joseph was born in Coaley? Life would have been cold, it would have been desperate, nearly every family was struggling to survive in the difficult times, there was agricultural famine and economically Britain was in a precarious position. Sarah’s father in law, Samuel Webb could read & write proficiently, indicating that he has had an education, his wife, Mary Comby was illiterate, but most of their children could read and write.

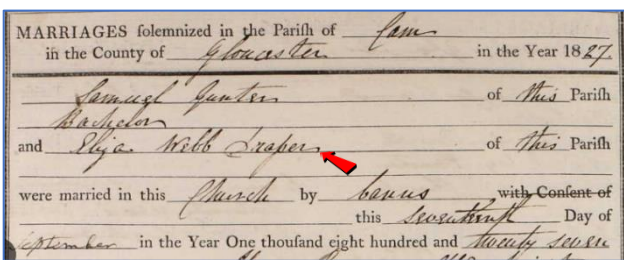
Bearing in mind, the class divisions of the times, one hypothesis could be that the Webb family disapproved of Sarah Draper, daughter of a sailor from Brighton and perhaps, a pauper mother. So, if Sarah arrived in Coaley, totally unannounced, claiming to be the wife of their son, it is possible that Joseph Webb’s parents, Samuel and Mary and their family refused to recognise Sarah’s marriage to their son. In those times, of famine and unknown illnesses, striking randomly without pattern or reason, causing death, strangers were regarded with great suspicion. So perhaps they saw her as an opportunist, an imposter, or a lower class pauper who was as



Eliza
Webb
Female
-
-
1808
17 Apr 1808
Brighton, Sussex, England
Brighton
Sussex
England
Joseph
Webb
Sarah

far as Cpl Joseph’s parents, Samuel and Mary were concerned, because they never gave their consent to the marriage, (even though performed legally) was not valid. As we see later, the wedding record for her elder daughter, Eliza Draper Webb indicates that this is definitely one possibility. However, only a month after the Christmas baptism of Joseph, his grandfather, Samuel Webb dies on the 31 Jan, 1815. So I imagine that life was turned upside down for all that family. His widow, Mary Comby died eight years later in 1823 and both were buried in Coaley.

About Eliza Draper Webb, Cpl Joseph and Sarah Draper’s eldest child, she was baptised as Eliza Webb on 17 Apr 1808 at St Nicholas, Brighton, Sussex (left), she obviously went north with her mother to Coaley when her brother, Joseph was born. However, at the age of 19 on 17 Sep 1827, in the village of Cam, about 2-3 miles south of Coaley (On map right, Coaley is red balloon, Forest of Dean is out of the map but just to the left of



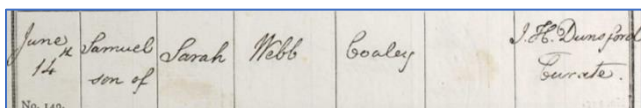
Blakeney), Samuel Gunter^x, bachelor of Cam parish, by banns, married **Eliza Webb Draper** also of Cam parish. Samuel Gunter could sign his name, whereas Eliza made her mark^{xi}. Strangely, at her marriage, Eliza is recorded as Eliza **Webb Draper**! Is this another indication that the Webb family in Coaley did not recognise her mother, Sarah as legally married to their son? And regarded both

Sarah’s two eldest children, Eliza and Joseph as ‘base born’? This could reinforce an earlier theory of why the word ‘base’ was later added into Joseph’s baptism record.

Fourteen months after Eliza’s uncle Job and his wife Charlotte left for Australia, Samuel Gunter and his wife, Eliza Draper Webb and three of their children also emigrated to Sydney, Australia in March, 1839 on board the ship “Susan”. According to Ancestry emigration records, Eliza records herself as ‘a native of Brighton, daughter of Joseph Webb, soldier and of Sarah Webb, daughter of Samuel Draper, sailor of the same place.’ The Gunters settled around Maitland and as we see by the Advertisement (see p10) found in The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser Wed. 27 July, 1853, inserted by Joseph Webb and responded to by Samuel Gunter and the relationship between brother and sister is re-established. But at the age of 66, in 1864, Samuel Gunter was killed in an accident, when a tree fell on him. Eliza then married Henry Pankhurst (Further information is available on my Ancestral Family Tree).

So, for Joseph – there is a mystery! Neither, Eliza or Joseph were ‘base born’ or ‘bastard children’! But what the story is, we will never know & sadly, their father was not alive to confirm them as his.

However, back to their father, Cpl. Joseph Webb, soldier. On the 17 June, 1815 the Cavalry regiment, the 7th Hussars, a most prestigious unit - returned to the Netherlands, then after a battle with French lancers, the next day at the Battle of Waterloo, and it is here that we definitely know that Cpl Joseph Webb, was present in the 7th Hussars. The 7th Hussars was held in reserve until evening, but then again undertook a series of successful charges. A letter wrote “*We charged 12 or 14 times and once cut off a squadron of cuirassiers, every man of whom we killed*” Sadly, it was during one of these charges - Cpl Joseph Webb was Killed in Action at the Battle of Waterloo 18 June 1815. (*A very famous battle against overwhelming odds, worth googling 7th Hussars Battle of Waterloo or reading a book on it – such as “Sharpe’s Waterloo” by Bernard Cornwall or “An Infamous Army” by Georgette Heyer, a period story set against a meticulously researched recounting of this battle.*)



After his death in 1815, Joseph’s widow, Sarah Webb nee Draper, remained a widow for six years and continued to live in Coaley. However, in an entry for baptism by the Rev J.H. Dunsford, on the 14 June, 1818,

we find a baptism in Coaley for **Samuel**, son of Sarah Webb. There is no ‘status’ entered for her, so it seems that Sarah’s status in the community has changed. This is a half brother of Joseph and Eliza, and Sarah has been a widow for three years! Hmmm! The name ‘Samuel’ seems an appropriate name – usually it reflects the paternity of the child, but in this case, there are many ‘Samuels’ in Sarah’s life, her father, her father in law, & her son in law, but unless the father is an unknown Samuel somewhere, I would say that she has named him after her own father. Most likely the family may not been advised of Cpl Joseph’s death at Waterloo & his wife has to wait the prescriptive seven years, to become a widow! Sarah his wife, would be his next of kin, and perhaps the Army cannot locate her away from Brighton, to inform her of her husband’s death.

Both Joseph and Samuel in their wedding records, name Joseph Webb as their father, while clearly this is impossible for Samuel, but obviously he believes it, which presupposes that Cpl Joseph’s whereabouts and death were unknown. Then in Joseph’s emigration and in Samuel’s second wedding record, they both name their father as Thomas Webb. While some researchers have speculated that this could be a lover by that name, but I think it is because of simpler reasons.

First, we have to take into account that both Joseph and Samuel are illiterate, neither could read or write, while both Joseph’s wife, Sarah and Samuel’s first wife, Sarah can read and write, his second wife, Susanna cannot.

Secondly, when Eliza was 12, Joseph 6 and Samuel 2, on 21 Dec 1820, the widow Sarah Webb, nee Draper, married Thomas Savage and they had another three children. Thomas Savage was also known by the name – Garlick. The words “alias Garlick” is recorded on their marriage record. So, Thomas Savage/Garlick was then Joseph’s step-father for 33 years at the time of their emigration to Australia and in the 1841 census, Joseph and his family were actually living next door to his mother, Sarah and his step-father, Thomas and their children. Also, Thomas Savage had been Samuel’s stepfather for 35 years at the time of his second marriage to Susanna, so due to the fact that both Joseph and Samuel were illiterate and have been used to their wives supplying the information for and completing any paperwork, the wives just wrote what they knew. Personally, I would suspect that Thomas Savage is actually Samuel Webb’s father. There must have been some reconciliation in the family, as Sarah Savage nee Webb nee Draper was the witness to her brother-in-law, Job’s marriage to Charlotte Spratt in 1821 or else it implies a divided family. This was two years before Mary Webb nee Colby died in 1823 and four years, before Job and Charlotte emigrated to Australia in 1825, where they settled in Sofala, NSW.

So before we continue the journey of Joseph and Sarah, what happened to Samuel, his younger brother? He lived his life around Gloucestershire, working as a labourer with horses, he had two wives, in

1842 he married Sarah Powell at Lydney, Gloucestershire, their children are Elizabeth, 1844; George; 1848; Elias, 1853; then in 1855, the widower, Samuel married Susannah Patterson at Newnham, Gloucestershire, children are Joseph 1858; William 1859; Thomas, 1862; Emily 1866; Jane 1969 & Ruth 1871. Samuel died at Lydney in 1906.

Beginning the journey to Drayton, Queensland, Australia, were Sylvia's great grandparents **Joseph Webb**, b. 1814 in Coaley, Gloucestershire, an Agricultural Labourer, who married **Sarah James** in Awre with Blakeney, Gloucestershire (See map page 6) on the 13 Nov 1838. According to the 1851 English Census, Sarah was born in about 1818/19 in Oldcroft, Dean, Gloucester & she is deaf. (See family tree right) Deafness was often caused by measles, which was raging at that time.

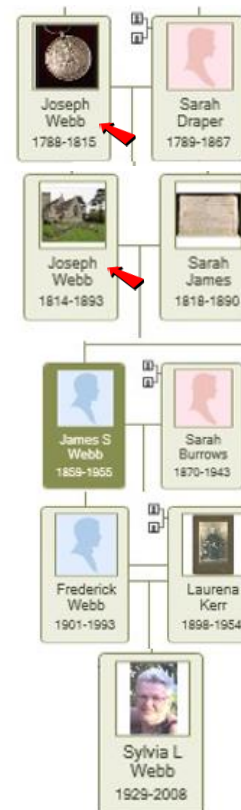
Sarah James' father was Richard James b. 1789 Oldcroft, Gloucestershire, he married Ann Charles b. 1796 Oldcroft, Gloucestershire on 3 Nov 1817 in Newland, Gloucester. Richard worked as a Collier and when he died, he left a will of under five pounds, which was a healthy amount in those days. The executor is Henry Charles of Oldcroft, Collier, probably a brother in law! Ann Charles parents appear to be Thomas Charles b. 1764 in Lydney, Gloucestershire and possibly an Ann James.

Richard James' parents were Phillip James and Mary Wanklyn. The only baptism record I can find for a Phillip James, born 22 Jul 1753 is in Newland, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, 12 miles from Awre. (As shown in the previous paragraph, this is where his son Richard James and Ann Charles were married.) It appears that Phillip James married Mary Wanklyn at Awre with Blakeney on 19 Feb 1787, by Banns. Mary Wanklyn was born 11 Nov 1759 at Awre with Blakeney, Gloucestershire. Both Phillip and Mary could sign their own names, and so could Mary Parsons and Micheal? Webb their witnesses. It appears that Mich? Webb could have been the Verger, as he witnesses most of the marriages in the register. Various Ancestry Trees, go back several more generations, but these rely very much on guess work as the dates don't match up – so another researcher might have the time to sort them out.

Elizabeth
Webb
Female
-
-
1852
10 Oct 1852
Blakeney
Gloucestershire
England
Joseph
Webb
Sarah
-
England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Life Events (BDMs)
Parish Baptisms
England, Great Britain

So Australia bound! In **1853**, Joseph Webb & Sarah James emigrated to Australia, arriving in Moreton Bay on board the "Florentia" on 25 April, along with four of their original six children, Eliza, 13; Mary Anne, 10; Joseph 8; and Sarah Anne 6. Their son, Moses b. 1850 had died in the May, the previous year, 1851. According to a Findmypast record Sarah had then given birth to their daughter, Elizabeth, baptised in Blakeney, Gloucester to parents, Joseph & Sarah Webb, 10 Oct 1852. The "Florentia" set sail for Australia on the 22 Nov 1852 and somewhere either before the "Florentia" sailed or during the voyage, little Elizabeth died. I have been unable to locate a death record for her, so perhaps her death was recorded at a stopover in Gibraltar or Capetown^{xii}. Those pioneer families were certainly made of strong stuff!

The fact that Joseph has recorded 'Thomas' in the emigration records as his father, as I theorized previously, was probably a natural mistake. As the emigrant, Joseph Webb could not write, it would have been Sarah James who though deaf, can both read and write, and she would have filled in/supplied the information for the forms, and while she knew her husband's name was Webb, and after nearly 40 years, she probably had forgotten his real father's name and just said Thomas. On the emigration record, Sarah James records her parents as still alive, their names are Richard and Ann! And as we read more about this particular family, Joseph and Sarah, we need to continually bear in mind that while Joseph was (partially?) illiterate and Sarah was deaf, we should be impressed by the unacknowledged contribution that these two made to the early history of Queensland.



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According to the Moreton Bay Courier **21 Feb, 1853**^{xiii}, the “Florentia” was originally due to dock at Portland Bay, Victoria but “official information on the chartering of the ship to proceed to Moreton Bay, has been received in Brisbane by the Government Resident.^{xiv}”

This information is an indication of the underlying conflict that was happening in Moreton Bay Colony at that time. Since Alan Cunningham had discovered the Darling Downs in 1827, the pastoralists or ‘émigré squatters^{xv}’ had been moving north via this inland route. However, up until 1842, no free settler was allowed within 50 miles of the convict settlement at Moreton Bay, described for convicts as an “early paradise” of “utmost dread”. But with the last convict removed from Moreton Bay in 1839 and since 1842, Moreton Bay Settlement had become open for free settlement. But even prior to this time, the squatters had been moving up through the New England district to settle in the southern Downs area and began quickly to take up land around Moreton Bay Colony, thus establishing themselves as the ‘major social, economic and political factor in colonial society’. A Land Act in 1860 allowed squatters to lease areas of land from 25 to 100 square miles (65 to 260 square kilometres) for an initial fee of 10 shillings per square miles and an annual rental which ranged from 10 to 56 shillings per square mile. The squatters were not restricted to 100 square miles but could take out as many leases as they could afford^{xvi}. So after 1860 ‘this elite group was in a position to dominate the new colony of Queensland until challenged in the late 19th century’^{xvii}.

But in 1840, transportation of convicts to NSW ceased and as a result there was no longer any convict assignments made. With the abolition of slavery in the United Kingdom in 1838, many saw enforced convict labour in the same light as slavery. In that year, the NSW government had more than 10,000 applications from employers for assignment of free convict labour and now was unable to meet the demand. While the squatters/pastoralists wanted the convict quasi slave labour to continue, the obvious alternative was to encourage ‘free settlers’ to emigrate, in particular single men. But the Australian newspapers of the time, show that the pastoralists were consistently complaining that the majority of emigrants were families rather than single men. These then had to be housed, and families catered for and these men were also looking to select and farm their own land^{xviii}. This escalated into a conflict between pastoralists who grazed cattle and sheep right up to the various town boundaries, especially towns in the Southern Downs and free settlers who were frustrated by being unable to take up holdings with a view for farming^{xix}. It was like the American wild west – graziers versus farmers!

After 1842, the race to supply labour was on between Governor Fitzroy and Dr John Dunmore Lang. Governor Fitzroy represented the Pastoralists who were desperate for convict labour. Whereas Dr John Dunmore Lang was passionately against slavery and convict labour and desperate to supply labour from ‘Free Settlers’ rather than revert to convicts. Dr Lang personally visited England and is believed to have acquired from the English Colonial Office, promises of land in Moreton Bay Colony for new settlers. He called the northern area of NSW, now Queensland, Cooksland. It was here that he was keen to grow cotton, farmed by free settlers, which would compete with the West Indies and their slave labour.

As a result of Dr Lang’s promises and encouragement, three ship loads of free settlers bound for Moreton Bay Colony sailed. The first ship of Dr Lang’s emigrants to arrive was the “Fortitude”, and influenced by the pastoralists, the land grants promised by the English Colonial Office were disputed by the NSW Government upon the arrival of the “Fortitude”. As a result, displacing the local native Turrbal people, whose main camp it was, the new settlers were forced to camp in the area now known as Fortitude Valley. Writings show that the quality of the people from the “Fortitude” was such, that despite the

promises of land grants not being met, within months, they had established themselves successfully and contributed much to the growth of Moreton Bay Colony. John Dunmore Lang sponsored three immigrant ships in total the “Fortitude”, “Chaseley” & the “Lima”, which all arrived in 1845.

Between the first ship sponsored by Lang, and the later 1853 arrival of the “Florentia” over 2,000 immigrants passed through Moreton

In all parts of Australia, ‘squatters’ were people who settled on land without being granted rights to do so by the government. These pioneers developed large areas of country and grazed sheep and cattle. Wealthy squatters had much influence with colonial governments and could be given title to their land.
“Australia’s Heritage” Vol. 5 p. 778/782

Bay, but still not enough. So, in **1853** Mr Edward Lord from Drayton was travelling to Germany to secure German immigrants to fill the labour shortage. The pastoralists were also attempting to import Chinese and Indians to work cheaply^{xx}.

1853 was an interesting time to arrive in Moreton Bay, it was only six years prior to separation from NSW in 1859. On another front, the conflict called ‘The Black Wars’ between the incoming white settlers and the native tribes raged from 1840 to 1860 from the Moreton Bay Colony out to the west through the Downs and Maroonia and up further north, these conflicts are now described as the bloodiest in the history of Colonial Australia^{xxi}. Estimates vary but perhaps as many as 1,000 white settlers were killed and at least 10,000 indigenous peoples, through conflict, famine and disease.

In **1853**, life as early Australians knew it, was changing. The expansion of the gold mining industry in NSW and Victoria was rapid – accruing more revenue than exports of wool from the pastoralists, which until then had been the primary export. The anti-transportationists scored a major victory when it was announced that shipping of convicts to Van Dieman’s Land would cease; the last ship carrying convicts arrived in Hobart in May. Squatters had established large grazing runs in the isolated areas of the southern colonies and were now coming under intense scrutiny. The vast tracts of land controlled by these people were blocking settlement of the regions by persons of lesser means. The Melbourne newspaper ‘The Argus’ started a campaign for the breaking-up of the large landholdings by legislation or by the application of punitive land taxes^{xxii}.

On the **30 Apr 1853** the Moreton Bay Courier announces that the “Florentia” had a tedious passage of 153 days from Plymouth and had to call into Hobart Town for provisions where some of her seamen absconded. The “Florentia” brings 249 immigrants, reported healthy, comprising 43 married couples, including 36 agricultural labourers, of which Joseph Webb was one. According to the emigrant records, Joseph’s parents Joseph (Thomas) Webb and Sarah Draper have died, Joseph can read, but not write (but this is in dispute) and he has a brother and sister in Maitland, NSW. Sarah’s parent’s Richard James and Ann Charles are still living in Gloucestershire. While Joseph is virtually illiterate, Sarah can both read and write, she also has a sister in Maitland and they are both Church of England (Anglican). They are in good health and have no complaints about their treatment on board the ship.

Reports regarding the voyage of the ‘Florentia’ were quite exciting. There was a problem with expectations and misunderstandings regarding those of strong religious and moral zeal, who had organised the Charter of the ‘Florentia’ and the owners^{xxiii}. Upon arrival in Moreton Bay, complaints were made against the Captain and the 2nd mate, which resulted in their not receiving payment for the voyage. An investigation discovered that the Captain enjoyed playing a game called “Blind Man’s Buff” with the females. Complaints were made that the Captain was behaving inappropriately and as a result influenced how the ordinary seaman behaved. Custom required the matron to ensure that the single women were locked below after dark, but the keys to their quarters disappeared and the hinges of the door taken off. The Captain accused the Matron of cruelty by insisting the women were to stay below. Despite the complaints, many wrote in support of the Captain^{xxiv}. However, the Webbs are not mentioned. There is an excellent website, which has much of this information available, so if you want to read more about this, google

<https://cassmobfamilyhistory.com/2014/03/25/was-it-all-fun-and-games-on-florentia/>

Whether Joseph and Sarah Webb had contacts there or not, but soon after arrival in **1853**, the Webbs moved directly to Drayton. Now a southern suburb of Toowoomba, previously called ‘The Springs’, Drayton was originally the primary settlement for the area, but due to a problem with the water supply, people gradually relocated the four miles north to Toowoomba. The Webb family’s presence in Drayton is confirmed sadly, by the death record of their 8 year old son Joseph, in Drayton on **2 Jul 1853** only a month

www.trove.nla.gov.au
The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 - 1893) Wednesday 27 July 1853 p 3 Advertising SHOULD this meet the eye of SAMUEL GUNTER, who lived about two years ago at Wallaby Farm, his brother-in-law, Joseph Webb, of Drayton, but formerly of Coley, near Dersly, Gloucestershire, would be glad to hear from him.
The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 - 1893) Wednesday 3 August 1853 p 3 Advertising
IF this should meet the eye of JOSEPH WEBB, of Drayton, he will hear of Samuel Gunter, by applying to T. W. Toby, Union Inn, near West Maitland

Sir Arthur Hodgson (1818-1902) Educated at Eton, he arrived in Sydney in 1839. After leasing a station in the New England district, he was persuaded by Patrick Leslie to come north where in Sep 1840 he took up Eton Vale, the 2nd run on the Darling Downs and Eton Vale became the social centre of the Darling Downs. He entered political life as the prime mover of the Moreton Bay and Northern Districts Separation Association, but his inflexible attitudes toward convict labour, and other progressive reforms required for a developing colony drew fire from 'the lower orders'. While successful in business, acquiring a fortune through massive profits from 'Eton Vale'; 'as a politician he was not a success'. He returned to live in England and died in 1902. To read more about Arthur Hodgson, see Aust Dictionary of Biography <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hodgson-sir-arthur-1155>

after they landed. Initially Joseph, his father worked as a carter^{xxv}. On the **27 July, 1853**, Joseph Webb of Drayton is advertising to find his brother in law Samuel Gunter in West Maitland (*See right*).

Also in **1853**, Drayton was the home of the Glabal people, who had been in conflict with the incoming white settlers since 1843. As a result of the 'Black Wars' which raged across the Darling Downs and further west, the indigenous population of the Darling Downs was almost wiped out by 1870^{xxvi}.

In **1853**, as already discussed, there was also conflict between the pastoralists, who now without the free convict labour of the past, wanted a supply of single Agricultural Labourers and deplored the number of married Ag Labs with families who were arriving and wanting to select land. Against the power and influence of the established squatters, the newly arrived free settler and town dweller had very little opportunities. Only able to buy at auction for cash at a high rate, such town sections as were from time to time offered for sale; but if they aspired to enter upon agricultural pursuits or to acquire a homestead in suburban localities, it was made very difficult. "*The squatter's leasehold extended to the town boundaries. The 'milkers' belonging to the townspeople who strayed onto the run in search of pasture proved to be a*

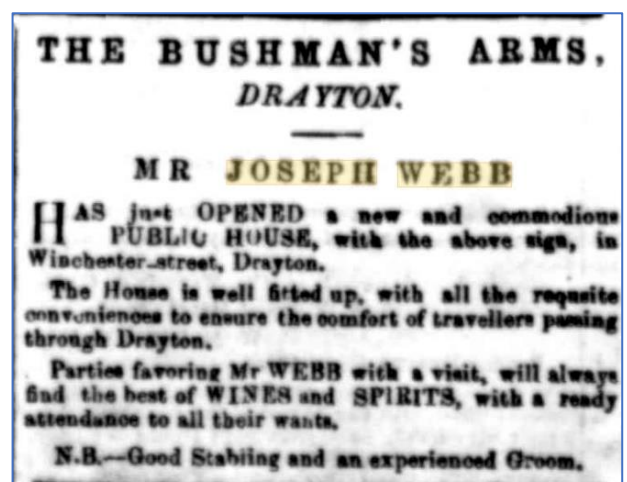
perpetual nuisance to the pastoralists. ... The population was split into two classes, separated by a chasm... There did not seem to be any way that the free settler, who had to live in the town could progress to the dignities and profits of squatterdom. Even agriculture was placed out of his reach.^{xxvii}"

On **May 3, 1856**, Joseph Webb adds his name along with the Rev Benjamin Glennie on a petition for a Public Hospital to be established in Drayton. In **1858**, a year before Separation of Queensland from NSW, Joseph Webb also adds his name to petition Arthur Hodgson to put himself up for nomination as the representative at the local Elections. The Darling Downs Gazette, **10 June, 1858** p2 published the lists of those who purchased Crown Land at auction and Joseph Webb purchased over 2 acres in Suburban Drayton for 17 pounds 10 shillings.

On **5 June, 1859**, Queen Victoria signed Letters Patent to form the colony of Queensland. A proclamation was read by George Bowen on 10 Dec 1859 whereupon Queensland was formally separated from New South Wales, Bowen became the first Governor of Queensland and Robert Herbert became the first Premier of Queensland^{xxviii}.

Again, from The Darling Downs Gazette, **23 Aug 1860**, "*Mr Joseph Webb's new public house in Winchester street is in a forward state of progress and will be completed in about two months. The frame work and wall plates are up and the building promises to be a roomy and substantial edifice; it will be slabbed and weather boarded. There are also three new cottages on the opposite side of this street, two finished and occupied and the other in course of erection.*"

It seems that from comparison to an 1850-60 map with today's Drayton, it appears that the street has been



renamed Rudd St., where the Rudd memorial is now on the corner. The booklet “Pubs and Publicans in Old Drayton” tells us that the old pioneer of Drayton, William Peak recounts that he and Alexander McPherson helped build the Bushman’s Arms. They felled the wood on the range near Gabbinbar and the first tree they felled, was split up into nine x nine foot lengths from which they got 270 slabs used to build the Bushman’s Arms for Joseph Webb at Winchester Street. “The Bushman’s Arms made no attempt to compete in style with the Bull’s Head or the Downs Hotel, it was as its name suggested, a solidly built but unpretentious bush inn.” An advertisement **18 Oct 1860** shows Joseph Webb wanting to sell by auction land at corner of Gipps and Bourke St., Drayton. ^{xxix}

Regular advertisements in the Darling Downs Gazette, from February through to July **1862** announces the opening of The Bushman’s Arms, Drayton (*See right*). The Darling Downs Gazette, dated **12 June 1862** tells of a meeting of Drayton inhabitants to be held at Mr Joseph Webb’s ‘Bushman’s Arms’ to make preliminary arrangements for the inauguration of local self-government and to discuss the merits of the new Electoral Bill at present before Parliament. The meeting declares the Bill as the most cruel and harsh to be imposed on any British subject. It seems that there is now division between the smaller free settlers and the pastoralists and the free settlers are demanding that they receive the same concessions and privileges on voting as they previously had as part of NSW. They passed a request for an amount of money to try to find a more permanent water supply.

The Brisbane Courier reported on **22 Sep 1862** p2 “ ... a public meeting of electors of Drayton was held at the Courthouse to nominate persons as Aldermen for the **first Municipal Council** ... there were about 50 persons present. The following persons were nominated ...”. Fourteen people were nominated, including Joseph Webb.

The Brisbane Courier also reported on **13 Dec 1862** p 3 “Drayton – on our visit, the other day to the picturesque town of Drayton, we were glad to see the different gardens looking so well and such a fine sample of wheat just then at maturity in the garden of Mr Joseph Webb, which was sown about six months since, in order that the wheat producing capabilities of the soil of Drayton might be tried.” This was probably in retaliation of the claims made by the pastoralists (squatters) that the land around Toowoomba and Drayton was not suitable for agriculture, farming being promoted by the small free settler. Joseph has thrown down the gauntlet to the pastoralists!

It seems that if the previous article is anything to go by, Joseph Webb is making enemies amongst the powerful pastoralists. This is confirmed by the article on the **5 Feb, 1863**, The Toowoomba Chronicle page 3, prints an anonymous letter, “A pretty large gathering of “nobblerisers” (*I suspect that this slang word was ‘noble risers’ meant to deride those free emigrants who were attempting to move out of the class system, they left behind in England*) took place, yesterday afternoon at the Bushman’s Arms, Drayton where ‘mine host’ Mr Joseph Webb presides. The ‘special gathering of these gentry’ ... it was rumoured, took place in order to consult, concoct, contrive, hatch and devise means and measures to keep out from re-election into the Municipal Council an honest man, And in his place to put in the redoubtable Who of late, it is said, has tried hard to ingratiate himself with the rum and beer swilling fraternity so often and so cosily assembled at the above mentioned hostelry to the very great glee and comfort of mine host, who pockets the monies flowing from the brisk nobbler trade with infinite satisfaction. (There are at least another two paragraphs along similar lines, go to www.trove.nla.gov.au if you wish to read it). It finishes “A dog fight was also got up at this not very orderly house in the afternoon, by way of varying the sport, I imagine. “Mine host” however, was very unlucky – he got the calf of his leg bitten through by one of the infuriated brutes, and he now hops about like a bull-frog minus one of his hind legs.” Anonymously signed - an Elector.

On 30 Nov 1865, Joseph Webb, Innkeeper^{xxx} polled 36 votes against the other candidate who polled 24 votes and Joseph Webb is returned as an Alderman of Drayton. On the 12 Dec 1865, the Darling Downs Gazette reports that they “cannot find space this issue to give the report in entirety and will therefore take the liberty of giving the substance. Mr Joseph Webb took his seat for the first time. ... in doing

which the Mayor (perhaps Alderman Handcock!) made a very long speech which we regret not having room to insert ... Alderman Allen took (?) to express his opinion of the Mayor for summoning three of the alderman for their (?), and Alderman Boland in strong language, tabled a notice of want of confidence in the chairman. There apparently was a great storm in the council, but that is nothing new in the Drayton Council.”

The Darling Downs Gazette on **Sat 17 Feb 1866** reports a Drayton Municipal Council meeting held to elect a Mayor. Present were **Alderman Webb, Boland and Hamwood**. “*On the motion of Mr Hamwood, seconded by Alderman Webb, Alderman Boland was called to the chair. The chairman said he was thankful for the honour conferred upon him in placing him to preside on so important an occasion as the present. He thanked the ratepayers for placing him again second on the poll, showing that they believed he acted right in his late acts in the Council. They had to elect a Mayor for the ensuing year, and he should support the man he believed most honourable and trustworthy. Mr Webb was a good man; he made himself rich by his exertions, and he was sure the ratepayers would like to see him in the chair. He (Alderman Boland) had great pleasure in proposing Mr Joseph Webb, alderman, as a fit and proper person to fill the office of Mayor for the current municipal year. Mr Joseph Webb duly returned as Chairman of the Municipality of Drayton (Mayor) for the present municipal year. the new Mayor (Mr Webb) took it and thanked the Council for the high honour conferred upon him. He said he had not the slightest idea when he was returned an alderman a few months since that he would now be in so important and honourable a position. He would do his utmost to agree with the Council and would strive for the benefit of the town in every way and had only again to thank them.*”

Qld Times **27 Feb 1866** p.3 reports that a meeting of the Drayton Council took place when the Mayor (Joseph Webb, Esq was present with Alderman Boland and Hamwood. Alderman Houston & Alderman Handcock arrived late). Alderman Houston then verbally attacked Aldermen Boland and Alderman Hamwood implying that the two men were Cattle Stealers. It was proposed by Alderman Handcock that four members form a quorum instead of only three. Seconded by Alderman Houston. Alderman Boland then disagreed with the motion and moved an amendment that it remain at three as it had been the year before when Alderman Handcock had been Mayor and Alderman Hamwood seconded the Amendment.

Alderman Houston then verbally attacked the Mayor, Joseph Webb, saying he felt that it was a disgrace to the Council and Municipality to have for chairman one who knew himself to be quite incompetent for the position. However, much he might respect Mr Webb in his private capacity, he was no more fit to be Chairman of that Council than he was to be King of England. It was seconded, by Alderman Handcock, saying that everyone knew Mr Webb was not competent to fulfil the duties of Chairman of the Council. He had a good deal of respect for Mr Webb, because he believed him to be an independently minded man, and one that might do in his place as alderman very well; but when he assumed the place of office, to which he was elected by a minority of the Council It was well known that Mr Webb was unable to read or write and had to rely on the Town Clerk to carry on the business of the Council. For this reason, he had no confidence in him.

Alderman Boland made many attempts to speak during the delivery of Alderman Houston’s and Handcock’s speeches, but was checked by the Mayor, who philosopher like, maintained his equilibrium of temper with the most stoical perseverance. Alderman Boland said it was a shame for Mr Houston to come into the Council to bully it. Mr Webb was fitter to be Mayor than he; he had the voice of the people The issue was resolved in favour of the Mayor. (Back in 1862, **Alderman Houston** charged Joseph Webb with a Breach of the Towns Police Act, when Joseph hauled timber along the street. The charge was proven and the defendant (Joseph Webb) was fined two pounds. Alderman Houston was then charged with a similar offence by Joseph Webb and met with the same fate. And it appears that Joseph Webb had lent **Alderman Boland**, money!)

In the Brisbane Courier **Sat 12 May 1866**, Joseph Webb has the following memorial from a public meeting held in Drayton and presented to the Minister for Lands and Works, published. It reads, *“That your memorialists observe with extreme regret that certain squatting members of the Legislative Assembly have sought to frame a most unjust and iniquitous Land Bill, which should it ever become law, will have a most disastrous effect on the great mass of the inhabitants of the colony, as by allowing a few individuals to lease large blocks of country for an uninterrupted period of fourteen years, with the right of purchase of any portion of such country at 5s. per acre, will give the squatters, who are the principal capitalists of the colony, a decided and injurious monopoly and effectually prevent the settlements of agricultural populations.”* The memorial continues by asking that the restrictions which press so heavily upon the *bona fide* agricultural settler be removed. Thirdly, the memorial asks that the Government doesn’t succumb to the unjust demands of the squatters and warns that the squatters will try the most strenuous measures to get what they want, and if the government does not succumb then every member of the community will be grateful except those few interested and selfish monopolists who apparently care more for cattle than their fellow colonists. Signed on behalf of the meeting. Joseph Webb, Mayor, Chairman. This is most impressive! Joseph Webb was taking a most courageous stand against the powerful pastoralists.

In the Brisbane Courier, **9 Jun 1866** p5 reports that there was a *“meeting of Mr Groom and the Electors of Drayton on the Land Bill. ... the Hon. Member for Drayton and Toowoomba (Mr Groom) met the electors to give his opinions and to discuss with them the present Land Bill now before the House. The meeting was very fully attended and remarkably orderly throughout. His Worship the Mayor, Joseph Webb, Esq., was proposed to take the chair, but he begged to decline the honor in favour of Mr Phillips, who was unanimously voted to it.”* Mr Groom spoke for three hours and the following resolutions were put and carried. The first one was that the land around Toowoomba and Drayton was suitable for farming. Secondly, that the Land Bill must include a clause for leasing land; and committees in both Drayton and Toowoomba would draw up petitions embodying these two resolutions to be presented by W.H. Groom, Esq., MLA to the Legislative Assembly at Brisbane. *“The movers and seconders all concurred in the libellous manner in which some of the squatters in both Houses spoke of the Toowoomba district as not suited for agriculture.”* Several paragraphs are now devoted to observations made by various Alderman on the evidence shown by people actually growing crops.

But it seems that Joseph never came out unscathed. Things began to go drastically wrong for Joseph Webb as in the Queenslander Sat 1 Sep, 1866 p7 he writes *“The old associations of Drayton seem to be rapidly breaking up, her trade is languishing, and old familiar names are missing at council, store and cottage. Some of her leading storekeepers have migrated to the sister township others are scattered hither and thither, the glory of the Bull’s Head has departed and the Bushman’s Arms will shortly receive a new owner. Its proprietor (the Mayor) “goes home” in a few weeks and his resignation of the office was conveyed to the Council in the following terms: “Gentlemen – I beg leave to inform you that it is my intention to resign my seat as Mayor and Alderman of the Drayton Municipal Council from this date. The reason of my declining to sit longer is so much complaint of the ratepayers of the conduct of the Council, that I am ashamed of it. (signed) Joseph Webb.”*

In the Toowoomba Chronicle **1 Sep 1866** p.2 (see right) is a notice to Speculators, Publicans, Storekeepers, and Parties Furnishings that there was a most Important Unreserved Sale of that first class property known as the “Bushmans Arms”, Drayton, now occupied by Mr Joseph Webb, Mayor of Drayton, who is retiring from Business, with the Stock-in-Trade and Household Furniture.

The Toowoomba Chronicle Sat 1 Sep 1866 p2

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH.

To Speculators, Publicans, Storekeepers, and Parties Furnishing.

Most Important Unreserved Sale of that first-class Property known as the “Bushman’s Arms.” Drayton, now occupied by Mr. **Joseph Webb**, Mayor of Drayton, who is retiring from Business, with the Stock-in-Trade, and Household Furniture.

W. H. GROOM & CO. have been favoured with instructions from Mr. **Joseph Webb**, Mayor of Drayton, who is retiring from business, to sell by Public Auction, without the slightest reserve, on the premises known as the “Bushman’s Arms,” Drayton, on

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH,
At Eleven o’clock,

The whole of his valuable STOCK-IN-TRADE, comprising—

- Martell’s Dark Brandy
- Ditto Pale, in cases
- West India Rum, 30 O. P.
- Gin, J.D.K.Z. and Key Brands
- Sir William Burnett’s Old Tom
- Whiskey
- Bottled Ale and Porter
- Champagne
- Port and Sherry Wines
- Cordials
- &c. &c. &c.

I am not sure what is happening here, but the Darling Downs Gazette, **18 Apr 1867** publishes a Notice of Intention for Joseph Webb to apply for a Publican's General License at Winchester St., Drayton ... under the sign of the Bushman's Arms. (see right).

The Darling Downs Gazette dated **14 May 1867**, states that on Wednesday, 13 March, Joseph Webb was suing John Boland, his old Council mate for an overdue Promissory Note. Apparently, Joseph stated that he had already obtained a judgement against John Boland but it was never put in force. The Police Magistrate thought Joseph should take out a fresh execution. However, it appears that it could have been for a considerable amount and that Joseph Webb never received the money owed him as we see in The Brisbane Courier, **Mon 12 Aug, 1867** p.3 announces – INSOLVENCY – The following new insolvents are gazetted and among them is Joseph Webb of Toowoomba.

On the **15 Aug, 1867**, the Darling Downs Gazette reports “...A claim for 131 pounds was ordered to stand over the valuation of securities held by the claimants. Insolvent was allowed his wearing apparel ...” In the Toowoomba Chronicle **23 Nov 1867** p2. “In the Supreme Court of Queensland: In Solvency. In the Insolvent Estate of Joseph Webb. Take notice that, on the 9th day of Dec next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, I intend to apply to his Honor the Judge sitting in Insolvency, that a certificate of discharge be granted to me in accordance with the Insolvency Act of 1864. (signed) Joseph Webb. Toowoomba, 18 Nov. 1867. In the Darling Downs Gazette, **12 Dec 1867**, “In the estate of Joseph Webb – no one appeared to apply for the certificate and the sitting lapsed.” The Queenslander dated **1 Jul 1871** p.11 reports “In the insolvent estate of Joseph Webb. ... a certificate sitting was fixed for the 24 July, the previous certificate sitting, which was set down for 9 Dec, 1867, having lapsed in consequence of the non-attendance of the insolvent.” The Toowoomba Chronicle **29 Jul 1871** p2 reports that certificates were granted to Joseph Webb.

The Western Star, **2 Nov, 1878** (right) reports on the early success of Agriculture in the Downs and look who is one of the carters of the crop is! (see right) So obviously, Joseph has returned to his occupation, that he had when he first arrived – a carter. In the Toowoomba Chronicle **17 Apr 1890** p2. was “Mrs Webb, wife of Joseph Webb, a very old and respectable resident of Drayton, died in that town on Sunday last. The funeral took place on Monday and was largely attended.”

Joseph died **3 Apr 1893**. The Telegraph dated **1 Feb 1892** p6 reports the following accident - ... admitted to the hospital on Saturday night or early Sunday morning, ... was a serious one, namely, that of

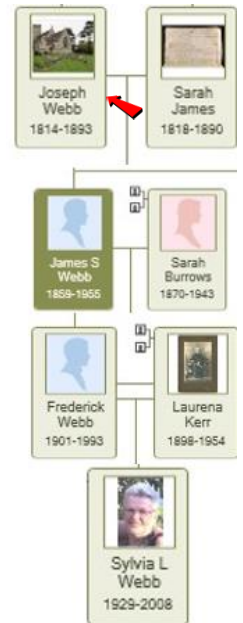
Early Agriculture on the Downs.

A selector on Thana's Creek obliges us with some information on the above subject, which, we have no doubt, will prove interesting. The cultivation of wheat on the Darling Downs was successfully engaged in so far back as the year 1844. In that year, or 1845, Mr. John Campbell, the then proprietor of Westbrook station, had a magnificent crop of wheat; and in the following year, at Eton Vale, Mr. Arthur Hodgson had also a splendid crop, and imported steel mills from Sydney to grind the wheat into flour. The yield was about thirty-three bushels to the acre. Mr. Hodgson did not deem it advisable to continue the growing of wheat, and its cultivation on Eton Vale and Westbrook lapsed. In 1854 or 1855, the first crop of oats grown in the “Swamp” (now called Toowoomba) was five acres of splendid oats grown in a paddock situated at the corner of the street intersecting Ruthven-street, just about Mr. Waraker's residence and on the opposite side of the road. It was formerly owned, or rented, by the late Mrs. Littleton, but at the time referred to was owned by the late Mr. Stephen Mehan, of the “Springs” (now called Drayton). This crop was a capital one, and was mowed by Mr. Samuel Mann (now of Toowoomba), and carted into Drayton by Messrs W. Gurnoy and J. Webb to the owner, the late Mr. S. Mehan, who then kept the Downs Hotel at Drayton. The first wheat known to have been grown in Toowoomba, or its immediate neighborhood, was produced in the year 1856 by a man named Thomas Ginn, on a two-acre allotment in what is now known as Ruthven-street, and was a splendid crop. The exact locale is where Mr. Wonderley, the chemist, has now his shop. Truly between then and now great changes have come over Toowoomba. The slab huts and bark hampies of that time are now no more, but have given place to business premises that would do credit to any of the inland towns of the colonies.—D. D. Gazette.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the district of Drayton, in Queensland.

J. JOSEPH WEBB, now residing in Drayton, in the district of Drayton, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply, at the next Annual Licensing Meeting to be holden for this district on the 16th day of April next ensuing, for a Publican's General License, for the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors, in the house and appertennances thereunto belonging, situated at Winchester-street, Drayton. The house contains three sitting rooms and six bedrooms, exclusive of those required for the use of my family, and is my own property, and which I intend to keep as an inn or public house, under the sign of the Bushman's Arms. I am married, having a wife and six children, and I have held a publican's license for several years. Given under my hand this 26th day of March, 1867. **JOSEPH WEBB.**

Joseph Webb, who, in driving down Brunswick Street, was thrown from his cart. When examined by Dr Jackson, it was ascertained he had several ribs broken. (This was in Brisbane and if it was our Joseph, he had obviously had a carting job to the Wool Stores, Teneriffe or somewhere near there). Obviously, it was very serious, especially for a 78 year old man, as it possibly had further and longer lasting ramifications, but the following news account shows how insensitive and cruel people can be, especially if it was our Joseph (another possibility could be his son, Joseph Thomas Webb, but records show that he was in northern NSW around that time). *The Darling Downs Gazette 8 Feb 1893 reports ... Joseph Webb was charged with vagrancy (homelessness). The police and a number of citizens gave evidence that the man had been loafing about town for months, doing no work, not paying for his board at various places and finally sleeping in billiard rooms. He was remanded for 8 days.* If these two articles refer to our Joseph, it shows a sad state of affairs that he had been reduced to that state, obviously that accident had been more serious!



Joseph Webb and Sarah James had nine children.

1. **Eliza Webb**, (left^{xxxib}. 1840 Coaley, Gloucester, married Alexander McPherson, (possibly the same Alexander, who helped build The Bushman's Arms) then as a widow, she married John Young and died in Kilcoy. Eliza and Alexander had five children.

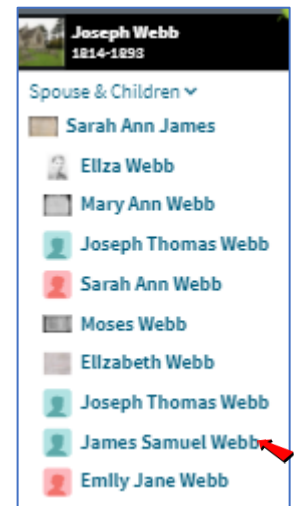
John (Jack) McPherson, (left^{xxxiii}) b. Aubigny, (see map)1860, m. 1885 Theresa Caldwell, d. 1911 Qld. They had five children;

Mary Ann Webb, b. 1842, Awre, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, m. 1868 Edward Twidale, lived in Millmerran as the wife of Edward Twidale, had nine children; **Joseph Thomas Webb**, b. 1844, Coaley, d. 1853 at 9 years old at Drayton, then NSW; **Sarah Anne Webb**, b. 1846, East Dean, Gloucester, m. 1866 William Farquharson, (b. 1840 Aberdeenshire, Scotland, living at Eton Vale Road - For connection to her sister in law, Betty Jane Rayner see Endnote



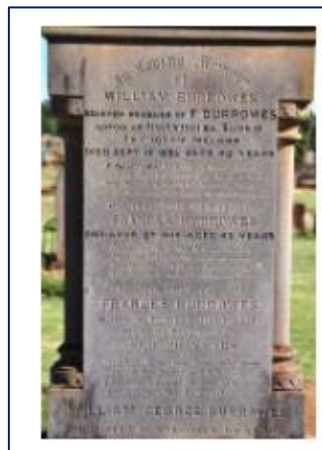
xxxiii), they had nine children, d. 1915 Drayton; **Moses Webb**, b. 1850 East Dean. d. 1851 Lydney, Gloucester; **Elizabeth Webb** b. 1854, Cambooya, then NSW, m. 1872 William Cherry, living at Oakey d. 1920, Oakey, Qld. They had eight children; **Joseph Thomas Webb** b. 1857 Drayton, Qld then NSW, m. 1885 Elizabeth Clark, Temora and lived in Temora, NSW, d. 1940 Tenterfield, NSW; **James Samuel Webb**, (Sylvia's grandfather) As below, b. 3 Aug 1859, Cambooya married Sarah Burrows and were living in Greenmount; **Emily Jane Webb** b. 1861, Cambooya, now Qld, m. married John Hughes and lived in Toowoomba, d. 1943 Toowoomba.

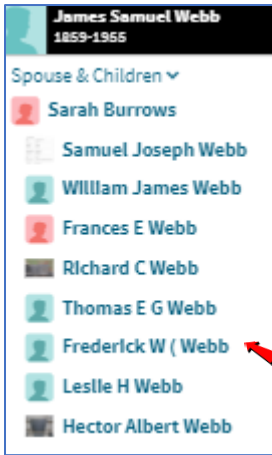
Sylvia's grandparents, **James Samuel Webb** and **Sarah Burrows** were married on 1 Oct 1888 in Toowoomba. Sarah Burrows was baptised 7 June 1870 in Queensland, her father was William Burrows, born in 1841 at Ballytylla, Co. Carlow, Ireland and her mother, Frances Alice Waters, born in 1839 in Dublin, Co. Dublin, Ireland - Sylvia's great grandparents. William and Frances married 25 Apr 1865 and left Plymouth in July 1865 on the vessel "Venilia", arriving in Brisbane 15 Oct, 1865. Frances travelled under her maiden name, so obviously the journey had been planned when both had been single.



Left is the headstone found in Toowoomba Cemetery for William and Frances Burrowes^{xxxiv}. It reads "In loving memory of William

Left is the headstone found in Toowoomba Cemetery for William and Frances Burrowes^{xxxiv}. It reads "In loving memory of William





Burrowes. Beloved husband of F. Burrowes, native of Ballytiglea Borris Co. Carlow Ireland. Died Sept 18, 1886, Aged 43 years”. An inscription below it, reads “Also, their Beloved Daughter Frances Burrowes. Died April 27, 1919 aged 47 years.” And a final inscription reads “Also his Beloved wife Frances Burrowes native of Dublin Ireland Died Sept 27, 1925 Aged 86 years. All three inscriptions have beautiful pieces of poetry inscribed, see^{xxxv}



Sarah Burrows parents, **William and Frances**

Burrows had eight children – as follows -

1. **Charlotte**, b. 8 Feb 1866, married Thomas Birkett 21 Oct 1889. Some of this information comes from the Ancestry Family Tree of Kerry Anne Heffernan. Charlotte and Thomas had seven children. In 1909 Charlotte and Thomas Birkett were living in Bunya Street Dalby and Thomas was working as a journalist. I would not be surprised if Thomas and Charlotte took some of their family on a visit to the USA and Canada at some time, as there are random shipping entries appearing. As most of the children were married in Chinchilla, it appears that they might have moved there around 1915-1917. Maybe Thomas Birkett worked as a journalist on the Chinchilla News! Charlotte died 11 Sep 1955 in Chinchilla, Western Downs, Qld. Seeing they are so local, out of curiosity, I have looked at their children as well.



Charlotte and Thomas Birkett’s eldest child was **Frances** b. 5 Sep 1890, married Andrew Mann, a farmer from Wondai in 1912. She died 13 Sep 1959 at Goomeri, Qld. Their second child was **Charlotte Lillian** (pictured right ^{xxxvi}) b. 25 Aug 1891, she married Ashbrook Peers Fuller, a Dentist in 1912. In 1913, Ashbrook has his registered address as the Grand Hotel, Dalby which is where his practice might be, and Charlotte is living in Bunya Street, Dalby, perhaps with her parents, while waiting for their own home. They had four children, Francis, Charles, Aileen and Audrey. Charlotte died 5 Nov 1950 in Chinchilla. Their third child was **Charles James** was born 5 Mar 1893 and barely lived a month, dying 3 Apr 1893. Their fourth child was **Myrtle May** born 1895 in Laidley. She married Richard Fleetwood Pickering 22 Jan 1916. In 1917, Richard, an Accountant and Myrtle are living in Chinchilla. Her son Robert Charles Fleetwood Pickering died in WW2 22 Apr 1943. His parents were living in Ipswich, Myrtle d. 19 Jun 1966 buried at Mt Gravatt cemetery. Their fifth child was **Mary Evelyn** b. 16 Jan 1899 in Dalby. On the 29 Apr 1920 she married Stuart Gordon Brown in Chinchilla, probably in the Anglican church there of St Cecilia’s, which both Jack and myself have celebrated many weddings etc. By 1943, Evelyn and Stuart were living in Herbert St., Allora where he was the Bank Manager and I know the house where they were living. I believe it is the same house, where Travers Goff, the Bank Manager in 1907 lived. What was so significant about Travers Goff, is that he was the father of Pamela Travers Goff, the author of Mary Poppins and the character of Mary Poppins as inspired by an Allora maid with a duck head umbrella. Evelyn and Stuart had two children Godfrey Gordon Brown (1921-1968) and Betty Gordon Brown (1923-2007). Evelyn died in 1975 and is buried at Mt Gravatt, Brisbane. Their sixth child was **Joy Millicent** was born 12 Sep 1902 and died three months later on the 1 Jan 1903. Their seventh & youngest child was **Ivy Winifred** b. 22 Sep 1906 in Dalby. She married Frederick Mann 9 Mar 1927 in Chinchilla. In 1943, she and Frederick were living in Heeny Street, Chinchilla, where Fred was the Butcher. Ivy died 9 Apr 1991 in Toowoomba. There were three children, but no information available as they are still living.



2. **William Burrows** and **Frances Water's** second child was **Richard Burrows**, b. 2 Dec 1867 in Toowoomba, Qld. **Richard** died in Toowoomba on 25 Nov 1947. In 1894, 19 Dec, Richard married Clara Frances Cafferky, (pictured right ^{xxxviii}the marriage is registered in Qld, but I imagine a search of Trove would find the location. They had six children – **Edith Sophia** Burrows b. 25 Nov 1895, she married Herbert Arthur Cornelius in 1921& died in 1969 in Brisbane; **William Richard Victor** Burrows b. 11 Aug 1897 in Toowoomba, Qld, in 1917, living at Atholl, Westbrook, his occupation was a clerk, at age 20, he enlists in the Army to fight in WW1; married May Elsie Elliott in 1926. William dies in 1960 in Toowoomba; **Cecil Cafferty** Burrows, b. 24 Jun, 1903 married Isobel Kerr in 1935, in 1972, Cecil and Isobel are living at 19 Hume Street and he is working as a Fireman, Cecil dies two years later in 1974 in Toowoomba; **Richard Percival** Burrows b. 30 Jul 1905, Westbrook, Qld, in 1937 it appears he is living at home and working as a labourer; **George Clarence** Burrows, b. 15 Jul 1907 Qld, he married Lydia Rosina Jackson in 1936 and died 17 Nov 1966 in Toowoomba; **Olivia Clare** Burrows was born 13 Jul 1909 Qld, she married Alan William Meusch in 1943 in Townsville, in 1953, they are living in Tent Hill via Gatton and Alan is a schoolteacher, Olivia died 10 Nov 1973.

Richard Burrows
Clara Frances Cafferky
19 Dec 1894
Queensland
Queensland
1894
000912
3453



3. **Sarah Burrows** married **James Webb**, Sylvia's grandparents.

4. **Frances Burrows** b. 1871, in the 1917 Electoral Roll, there is a Frances/Fanny living with her mother. Fanny died in 1919 and is buried with her father and mother in Toowoomba Cemetery.

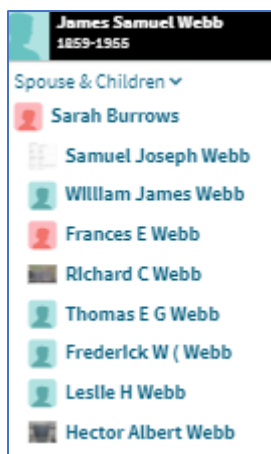
5. **Jane Burrows** b. 1873 Westbrook, Qld. d. 12 Oct 1950 Toow(oomba, Qld. Jane married John Zimmerle on 30 Mar 1872 at Westbrook. They had nine children, **Ethel May** b. 1899 Toowoomba m. 1914 Henry James Norris (b. Lucknow, India) d. 1979 Toowoomba; **Elizabeth Victoria Bauer** b. 1801 Wyreema m. 1924 Herbert Somerset Stower d. 1978 Toowoomba; Twin - **George Percival** b. 1 Jan 1903 Toowoomba m. 1933 Vera Bertha Blades, d. 1992 Toowoomba; Twin - **John William** b. 1 Jan 1903 Toowoomba, 1925 Electoral Roll Farmer at Wyreema; **Florence Jane aka Frances Jane** b. 1905 Toowoomba m. 1928 Harold Leslie Archibald Venz at Wyaralong d. 16 Aug 1996 Kingaroy; **Frederick William** b. 1907 Wyreema m. 1933 Iris Barrell d. 1998 Toowoomba; **Catherine Sophia** b. 1908 Wyreema, m. 1934 Donald William Collier d. 1991 Toowoomba; **John George** b. 1913 Toowoomba m. 1937 Phyllis Mabel May McGowan d. 1982 Toowoomba. **Colin Stanley** b 1916 Toowoomba d. 2004 Toowoomba. His wife's name is not shown, so obviously she is still alive & for privacy reasons, people still living cannot be shown.

6. **Mary Ann Burrows** b. 1875 Westbrook Homestead, Toowoomba m. 1899 William Thomas Boatfield (b. 1876 East Stonehouse, Devon, UK) d. 1939 Toowoomba. Mary Ann and William had eight children. **Herbert William Raymond** b. 1900 m. 1924 Ilma Maud Cox d. 1959 Stanthorpe; **Eva Frances Pretoria** b. 1901 m. 1926 Albert Norman Dickinson d. 1992 Toowoomba; **Muriel Grace** b. 1904 served in WW2 d. 1982; **Clarence Samuel** b. 1905 m. 1934 Alma Gertrude Weber d. 1973; **Maud Elwin** b. 1908 Laidley served in WW2; **Doris Nevis** b. 1912 Laidley d. 1936 Toowoomba; **Gertrude May** b. 1914 m. Daniel Joseph O'Grady d. 2015 Nudgee, Qld; **Colin Thomas** b. 1916 Laidley m. 1899 Edith Alice Abel d. 1976 Toowoomba.

7. **William George Burrows** Jnr b. 1877 at Westbrook. It appears that he never married, but there is a 1917 entry in the Electoral Roll showing him as a Farmer at Westbrook. There is some confusion regarding William, with some researchers confusing him with his brother Richard and his wife and his father, also William George Burrows. But it appears that he died at Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Redland Shire, Qld aged 67 and was buried in Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery as shown left.

Sylvia's grandparents, James Webb & Sarah Burrows, as referred above & on page 16 & 17. As previously recorded, **James Webb** was born 3 Aug 1859 in

: William George Burrows
: 14 Aug 1877
: Westbrook, Toowoomba Region, Queensland, Australia
: 16 Sep 1945
: Dunwich, Redland City, Queensland, Australia
: Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery
: Toowoomba, Toowoomba Region, Queensland, Australia
: N
: William George Burrows
: Frances Burrows
: https://www.findagrave.com/me m...



Cambooya, on 1 Oct 1888 he married [Sarah Burrows](#) in Toowoomba. Sarah died in Toowoomba in 1943 and James died also in Toowoomba in 1955. They had six children.

1. **Samuel Joseph Webb**, b. 12 Jan 1889. He married Emma Park in 1914 and was living around Oakey. According to DVA, at the age of 53, he enlisted for WW2 on the 3 May 1942 at Proston, Qld, a short distance from where he was living at the time, a small community called Hivesville, Qld, with wife Emma, who was his next of kin. His Service Number was Q209893 as a member of the B884 Army Citizen Military Forces. His rank was Private and at the time of Discharge on the 21 Oct 1945, he was serving in the 20 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps (Qld) and advice from a War Historian tells me that it was a 'Dad's Army' type posting.

2. **William James Webb** b. 13 Jul 1890, Greenmount, Qld. Parents are listed as James Samuel Webb and Sarah Burrows. A record shows William James Webb, Engine Driver from Greenmount and son of James Webb of Oakey, enlisted in WW1 on the 29 June, 1916 in the 12/1st Pioneers Engineers. There is a 1916 marriage record for him in Victoria, to a Catherine Mary Ann Cooper (1886 -1949). They had three children, William Joseph 1918-1986; Leslie Herbert, 1923-1967 and George Leigh 1928-2009. The 1939 & 1946 Electoral Roll from Fmp shows William, a Blacksmith and Catherine living together in Maribyrnong, Melbourne. There is a 1967 death record for William James Webb in Victoria, it shows his parents as James Samuel Webb and Sarah Burrows.

3. **Frances Elizabeth Webb** b. 16 Oct 1892 at Greenmount, Qld, in 1914 she married Robert Burton and had three children, Frances, Edna and Samuel.

4. **Richard Charles Webb** b. 6 Mar, 1895 at Greenmount. In 1917, he married Eileen Esmy Bourne. In Oct 1923, while living at Pilton, according to the Courier Mail dated 30 April 1936, when Richard Webb at his uncontested divorce hearing, "gave evidence that he was married to Eileen on January 17, 1917 at Toowoomba, and afterwards lived with his wife at various country centres. There were three children. While they were at Pilton his wife left the home for two days and gave him no explanation of her absence when she came back. Until that time their married life had been happy. However, quarrels started about a man visiting the home, and after they went to live at Toowoomba that man continued to come to the house. Webb objected to the man's visits, but the wife said the man was welcome to come there as long as he liked. One Saturday morning in October, 1923, Mrs. Webb went down town with the baby, and was away practically all day. She came home about 4 p.m., and, picking up a few things, put them in a portmanteau, which she placed in a perambulator. She said she was leaving, took the baby underneath her arm, and did not kiss the other two little children good-bye. He did not see his wife again until February 17, 1936. The Chief Justice (Sir James Blair) who presided, asked if the wife had communicated with him, and Webb replied that she had not since 1923. He still had the two children." Eileen, for whatever reasons, who knows what goes on behind closed doors – but it is strange that Eileen left the two eldest children with their father! Eileen left Richard for Graham Theodore Bernicke, who fought in WW1 and later had been a dairy farmer at Clifton along with his parents. Graham and Eileen never married and had at least another six or seven other children and lived in many places in both Brisbane and Toowoomba.

The two children who remained with their father, Richard Webb appear to be Charles Richard Webb b. 1917, who married Kathleen Mary Ebeling b. 1918. The year before Richard dies, in the 1963 Electoral Roll shows a Caroline Webb living at 23 Gowrie Street, Toowoomba with him, so possibly Caroline is his daughter.

The baby, who went with the mother, was Kevin Patrick Webb, who became known as Kevin Patrick Bernicke. "*Lance Corporal Kevin Patrick Bernicke, No. QX29556, was accidentally killed in New Guinea on 16 December 1942 aged 19 years.* From The Courier-Mail dated 10 February 1943, Pg 6 - *Mr. and Mrs. Graham Bernicke and Family desire to express their sincere THANKS to all Relatives and Friends for their kind expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of their eldest Son, Kevin. Please accept this*

as our personal thanks. From The Courier-Mail dated 16 December 1943, Pg 6 - *IN MEMORIAM*. *BERNICKE*. Cherished memories of our dear Son, Kevin, who was accidentally killed in Wau, New Guinea, 16th of December, 1942, aged 19 years. Always in our thoughts. Inserted by his loving Mother and Father. R.I.P xxxviii

In 1837, aged 42, the year after Richard filed for divorce, he married Millie Maria Steinmuller, aged 33. I have no records of any children. Richard died in 1964 in Toowoomba.

5. **Thomas Edward George Webb** b. 1899 Greenmount, Qld., a farm labourer married Ivy May Barks in 1924. I have been unable to discover any children. Thomas died in 1979 in Toowoomba.

6. **Frederick Walter (Pop) Webb**, was Sylvia's father. He was born 1 Nov 1901 in Greenmount, Qld. On the 19 Oct, 1921 he married Laurena Hancena (Ernestina) Kerr, b. 1898 Gatton (*right*^{xxxix}). Frederick Walter was a Fireman living at Goodwood St., Toowoomba with his wife, Laurena Hancena.



7. **Leslie Herbert Webb** was born 15 Sep 1904 in Toowoomba, Queensland, to parents James Samuel Webb, farmer retired and Sarah Burrows. Leslie married Lucy Adeline Ryan 28 Oct 1925. 26 July 1969 a newspaper article (left) refers to Leslie Herbert Webb who is share farming at Goomburra. An excerpt from a most interesting article from The Warwick Daily News dated 3 Aug 1929 (lower left) quotes Leslie Herbert Webb and his wife, Lucy Adeline^{xl}. On the 12 Sep 1940, Leslie QX7271 enlisted at Kelvin Grove in 2nd AIF, his next of kin was Lucy Webb. He must have been discharged early as in 1943 Electoral Roll, both Leslie Herbert Webb, Labourer and Lucy Adeline Webb were living in Southport, but both living at separate addresses, which leads one to suspect that they had separated. Lucy died 21 Feb 1965 in Toowoomba.

MISSING CATTLE

As the result of a complaint lodged by **Leslie Herbert Webb** yesterday that four head of cattle owned by him were missing, investigations were made. David Morris Siebenhausen was arrested and charged in the Allora court with having stolen four heifers, the property of **Leslie Herbert Webb**. **Webb**, who works a farm at Goomburra, on the share system, notified the police of the loss of the stock. Inquiries showed that Siebenhausen had sold 19 head of stock to **Herbert Abernethy**, of Forest Plains. Both the complainant **Webb** and his wife identified four head of cattle, out of a total of 112 shown to them, as their property. Siebenhausen was then arrested and charged with the offence. After the hearing of formal evidence he was remanded until August 1, bail being fixed, self of £80 and one surety of a like amount.

The owner of the cattle was not present in court, and the principal evidence was given by **Leslie Herbert Webb** and his wife, **Lucy Adeline Webb**, the former working a property on the share system with Keyes.

Barely a year after WW2 ended, Leslie Herbert Webb, a storeman is living in Connells Point, NSW & married Verona Ezma Tonks on 16 March, 1946 at St Marks Church of England, Hurstville South. Verona was a

Spinster, Cashier, also living at the same address as Leslie, 169 Terry Street, Connells Point. Verona was born 8 Feb 1909 at Macleay River, NSW aged 37 years old, spinster. Her parents were Frederick Wellington Tonks, retired builder and Jessie Pearl Hibbard. Leslie gives his birth place as Toowoomba and his parents as James Samuel Webb and Sarah Burrows. His status at marriage is left blank, which makes one assume that he was divorced? (*see right*).

On 18 Oct 1943, Verona enlisted in WW2 at Paddington,

When and Where Married.	Names and Surnames of the Parties.	Dedication or Employment.	Usual Place of Residence.		
1946. 16 th March	Leslie Herbert Webb Verona Ezma Tonks	Storeman Cashier	169 Terry St. Connells Point " "		
Maid at <u>St Marks Church</u> <u>St. Hurstville</u> According to the rites of the <u>Church of England</u>					
Condition of the Parties. (Single or Widower, or Divorced, or Married, or Unmarried, or Unwedded Partner.)		Birthplace.	Age. (Last Birthday)	PARENTS.	
Spinster		Toowoomba Queensland Macleay River N.S.W.	41 37	James Samuel Webb Sarah Burrows (D) Frederick Wellington Tonks Jessie Pearl Hibbard	
This Marriage was solemnized between us		L. H. Webb Ezma Tonks		In the presence of us Maire Duggan A. H. Webb	
		By me		Wm. G. Bruce Officiating Minister.	

NSW. Her Service Number was NFX202522 and she was obviously a nurse as she joined 12 Australian Camp Hospital. Verona died in 1979 in Paddington, Sydney. Her spouse is listed as Leslie Herbert Webb. Leslie Herbert Webb died 4 Nov 1990 and they were both buried at Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Matraville, Randwick, NSW.

8. **Hector Albert Webb**, b. 30 Aug 1914 in Toowoomba is James Webb and Sarah Burrows youngest child. On the 31 Aug 1932 he married Myra Englart. He enlisted in WW2 as a Craftsman, into 1 Aust Workshop on 26 Dec 1944 Service Number QX62885 A 1954 Electoral Roll showed him living in Nambour. He died at Maroochydore, Qld in 1986.

Frederick Walter (Pop) Webb and his wife, **Laurena Kerr** had four children. But Laurena had a son born prior to her marriage, named Edward Victor Kerr aka Vic, born 12 Apr, 1917 in Kingaroy, Qld.

On the 15 Apr 1942, Edward Victor Kerr, an Able Seaman living at Miles Qld married Violet Sileva Smith, a Munitions Worker from Golf Parade, Manly in Sydney. They were married at St Matthew's Church of England, Manly. (and I the author, Katherine Hammer have been there!) Sometime after that he joined the Royal Australian Navy. Records show that Vic died in 1982 possibly at Mooloolaba, but another record shows that it was Buderim. Other Family Trees indicate that he had children. Right is a photo taken abt 1951/2 of Sylvia, her eldest child, her father, Pop and grandfather Jim Webb^{xli}.



Frederick (Pop) Webb and Laurena Kerr's four children were

1. **Walter James (Wally) Webb** b. 10 May 1922, Toowoomba. He married Vera Mabel Nichols in Nambour on 10 Sep 1960 and died in 2011.

2. **Keith Hartley Webb** b. 1925, Toowoomba, married Mavis Beryl Brownlie on 4 Sep 1951. Keith died in 2011.

3. **Sylvia Laura Webb** b. 4 Jan 1929, Toowoomba. On 14 Jun 1948, at St Luke's Anglican Church, Sylvia married **Kenneth Ernest Geldard** b. 2 Jan 1922 Miles at Toowoomba. Sylvia and Ken had five children, three sons and two daughters, two sons, Peter John Geldard b. 1952 died in an aircraft accident in 1995 and Robert (Bob) Walter Geldard b. 1957 died in 2019. Sylvia died 11 Jul 2008 and Ken died in 2017, it was my privilege to be the celebrant at both of their funerals (as well as Bob's) held at St Luke's Anglican Church, Miles, the same church in which they were married, 60 years earlier.

4. Pop and Laurena's youngest child was **Neville Frederick Webb**, b. 1931 Toowoomba and died 1992 Miles, Qld. He never married.

On 27 Feb 1942, their father, Frederick Walter (Pop) Webb, left Miles where he was living with his wife and children and travelled to Brisbane, where he enlisted in WW2, his service number was QX27720. He was discharged on 11 Jun 1946 from the 25 AIF. Pop's wife, Laurena died 22 Jul 1954. He later married Ethel Patch also from Miles. Pop died at the Sunshine Coast in 1993 and buried in Miles. Ethel died in 2013. Right is a photo^{xliii} of Sylvia (centre) and her husband Ken to her left and three of her children, and her siblings and their wives – possibly taken in the early 1960's.



ENDNOTES

ⁱ <https://www.google.com/search?q=london+city+walls> – Wikipedia (donation given)

ⁱⁱ However, historians do tell us that 85% of English people living today are descended from nobility. “Who Do You Think You Are” magazineⁱⁱ tells us that throughout history, until the time of the Industrial Revolution, due to poor living conditions, which led to much higher mortality in all aspects of the population, the wealthier 50 percent of the population had about 40 percent more surviving children than the less wealthier 50 percent. As a result, English society prior to the Industrial Revolution was a society of social descent. This meant that those at the bottom of the ladder would simply die off every generation, (through disease, famine and poor nutrition) so those socially above had to move downwards and many men were of a lower social rank than their fathers, especially younger sons, as it was only the eldest son who inherited the title and the estate. So the younger sons of ‘gentlemen’ became ‘yeomen’ while the younger sons of ‘yeomen’ became ‘husbandmen’, taking to the plough themselves. With this process occurring every generation, over hundreds of years, almost all English people are descended from Edward III, so often researchers may find that their 19th century grandfathers who were ‘shepherds’ came from 18th century ‘husbandmen’ and ‘yeomen’, who came from 17th or 16th century ‘gentlemen’. There are clues, for researchers which could point to a forebear’s rise or fall in status. If someone of low social status signs their name on a certificate, rather than marking a cross, it may imply social descent – especially if it was a man, because female domestics were sometimes taught to read and write. Secondly, if there is evidence of an ancestor being highly religious – for example choosing obscure biblical names for their children? Puritans and nonconformists both tended to be socially upwardly mobile. Clues can also be gained from wills or in the desire or social ability to acquire apprenticeships for children.

ⁱⁱⁱ CHANGE FROM JULIAN CALENDAR TO THE GREGGIAN CALENDAR. In the old Julian calendar, December 1750 would have been followed immediately by January 1750 and the New Year would have begun on 25 March. To bring England and Wales in line with the Continent and the Gregorian calendar, the year 1751 was decreed a short year of 282 days, running from 25 March to 31 December and 1752 began on 1 January. The calendar was also advanced by 11 days, so Wednesday 2 September 1752 was followed by Thursday 14 September 1752, which was therefore also a short year of only 355 days. I wonder how many of our 18th century ancestors were aggrieved and demanded the return of the 11 days. Family Tree Magazine, January 2016 P.98 www.family-tree.co.uk.

^{iv} According to Job Webb’s emigration record.

^v <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/51143/51143-h/51143-h.htm>

^{vi} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Rising_and_disafforestation_riots

^{vii} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage_Act_1753

^{viii} from Family Search records from East Sussex Record Office

^{ix} https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/52_donna.html

^x Also, interesting is that Eliza Draper Webb’s great grandmother was Elizabeth Gunter who married a John Webb in Coaley in 1753, one day someone might discover if Samuel Gunter is a relative of Elizabeth Gunter!

^{xi} Ancestry Family Tree of Margaret Gleeson14.

^{xii} Some researchers have recorded baby Elizabeth as having a twin brother named George Dudley Webb, however, I have been unable to locate a record for either his baptism or the civil record of his birth. Elizabeth’s records are at the end. I have also included at the end a baptism record from Family Search which records a George Webb baptised 8 Feb 1852 at Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire, some 40 miles north east of the locale of our Webb family. The parents of George are recorded as Joseph and MARY Webb, not Sarah. So I am wondering if the researcher saw their baptisms both as 1852 and assumed that they were twins. Also neither the Christian names George or Dudley are names which are synonymous with the family line of our Webbs.

^{xiii} All newspaper articles from www.trove.nla.gov.

^{xiv} Andrew Garran, Ed., “Australia; the First Hundred Years”, Ure Smith, Sydney. 1974. P349 ff

^{xv} Maurice French, “Conflict on the Condamine; Aborigines and the European Invasion”, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba. 1989. P. xi

^{xvi} Stuart Svensen, “The Shearers’ War; The Story of the 1891 Shearers’ Strike” University of Qld Press, Brisbane. 1989. P10

^{xvii} Maurice French, “Conflict on the Condamine; Aborigines and the European Invasion”, Darling Downs Institute Press, Toowoomba. 1989. P. xi

^{xviii} Australia’s Heritage, Vol 5, p. 778-782

^{xix} Andrew Garran, Ed., “Australia; the First Hundred Years”, Ure Smith, Sydney. 1974. P349 ff

^{xx} Andrew Garran, Ed., “Australia; the First Hundred Years”, Ure Smith, Sydney. 1974. P349 ff

^{xxi} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_frontier_wars

^{xxii} Michael Andrews, “Australia, Year by Year”, PR Books, 1988. P55

^{xxiii} Andrew Garran, Ed., “Australia; the First Hundred Years”, Ure Smith, Sydney. 1974. P349 ff

^{xxiv} <https://cassmobfamilyhistory.com/2014/03/25/was-it-all-fun-and-games-on-florentia/>

^{xxv} June Geldard, daughter in law of Ken Geldard and Sylvia Webb.

^{xxvi} <http://www.tr.qld.gov.au/our-region/history/indigenous-history/7870-indigenous-history>

^{xxvii} Andrew Garran, Ed., “Australia; the First Hundred Years”, Ure Smith, Sydney. 1974. P149

^{xxviii} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Queensland

^{xxix} From “Pubs & Publicans in Old Drayton” found in Toowoomba Public Library via June Geldard.

^{xxx} The Darling Downs Gazette, Tue 5 Dec 1865 p3

^{xxxi} Photo from www.ancestry.com, from the Family Tree of marnieelizabeth

^{xxxii} Photo from www.ancestry.com, from the Family Tree of marnieelizabeth

^{xxxiii} Joseph & Sarah Webb’s daughter, Sarah Ann married William Farquharson, whose father, William Farquharson was Betty Jane Rayner’s, (wife of Eric Geldard) 2 x great grandfather. There is also a connection to my mother, Mary O’Keefe through the Farquharsons.

^{xxxiv} Courtesy June Geldard

^{xxxv} William Burrowes – “A loving husband, a father dear. A faithful friend lies buried here. Our loss is great which we sustain in heaven we hope to meet again.” Frances Burrowes, daughter – “Home at last they labour done safe and blest the victory won, Jordan passed pain set free Angels now have welcomed thee.” Frances Burrowes (mother) – “A light is from our household gone, a face/voice? We loved is stilled, a place is vacant in our hearts that never can be filled.” From June Geldard.

^{xxxvi} Photo from Ancestry.com. Family Tree belonging to goshel4688.

^{xxxvii} Photo from Ancestry.com, Courtesy Robert Burrowes from the Robert Burrowes 56 Family Tree

xxxviii Biography by Kevin McCloy, Ancestry Family Tree

xxxix Photo from Ancestry.com. Courtesy of Anthony Kerr from Family Tree anthonykerr_1.

xl <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?!-state=Queensland&q=+%22leslie+herbert+webb%22&openFacets=true>

George Webb	
England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975	
Name:	George Webb
Event Type:	Christening
Event Date:	8 Feb 1852
Event Place:	Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire, England, United Kingdom
Event Place (Original):	Moreton in Marsh, Gloucester, England
Gender:	Male
Father's Name:	Joseph Webb
Mother's Name:	Mary

ELIZABETH
WEBB
1852
4
-
James
Westbury on Severn
Gloucestershire
England
6A
173
England & Wales Births 1837-2006
Life Events (BDMs)
Civil Births
Great Britain, England

Elizabeth
Webb
Female
-
-
1852
10 Oct 1852
Blakeney
Gloucestershire
England
Joseph
Webb
Sarah
-
England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Life Events (BDMs)
Parish Baptisms
England, Great Britain

xli From June Geldard. Used with permission.

xlii From Suzanne Gaiter. Used with permission.

All records are found or located at Ancestry.com; Findmypast.com; Family Search; The Genealogist. Family Trees used are courtesy of Family Tree Maker.