

Collett Family History Website Update No. 50

www.collettfamilyhistory.net

Dear members of the extended Collett family, once again this month we have discovered why researching family history is so much fun. During the earlier half of this year two different people have made contact regarding the family depicted in Part 35 – The Melksham Line. Within that family are marriages to members of the Buckland family in the village of Kington St Michael near Chippenham in Wiltshire.

Whilst the old version of the file did not clarify the juxtaposition of the two families, the new information received from Ian Hextall in Canada provides a much better picture of what is a very complex situation.

The end result is that we have four Buckland siblings, three of whom married members of the Collett family, with the fourth sister marrying a James Wright. The Buckland daughter from one of the marriages married the Collett son from one of the other marriages, the pair obviously being first cousins through both sets of parents. And then, upon the death of the Buckland daughter, the Collett son marriage the daughter of James Wright and his Buckland wife, and again this was his cousin, but this time through the original Buckland siblings.

Confused? Well I was. So, to make it more easier to understand, an appendix (Appendix 2) has been inserted at the end of Part 35 which sets out who married whom and when that happened, together with the children resulting from these unions.

Unfortunately however, the original problem still remains; into which Collett family was Louisa Collett born at Kington St Michael around 1805, who married Edwin Buckland there in 1830. Could she have been the daughter of Daniel Collett, from his first and so far unidentified marriage, who then married Mary Buckland, Edwin's sister, in 1828 at Kington St Michael. And it was Daniel's brother Joseph Collett who married Elizabeth Buckland. You can now see why we have the need for Appendix 2.

Part 19 – The Oxfordshire International Line has received a mini update thanks to new information received from Andy Collett in Melbourne, Australia. He and his family were already listed in the file, but with very little detail which was spotted by Andy when he was 'surfing the net'. The update of this family line also now includes James Collett (Ref. 19P3) who was previously only mentioned separately in Appendix A.

Within Part 28 – The Faringdon Line (1840 to 1900) is Helen Collett (Ref. 28O46), the daughter of Henry Collett and Frances Hawkins, about whom very little was known up to now, that is. Thanks to her great granddaughter Jennifer Maddock, we now have a clearer picture of Helen. Firstly, she was actually Helena Elizabeth Collett but, who later, chose to use the name Elizabeth instead, just to confuse later family historians! This work has also highlighted other changes that were needed in relation to her siblings, and in particular her brother Harry Leonard Collett (Ref. 28O45), who had six children where none were shown previously. My thanks go to Bob Collett in Swindon, for acting as the 'go-between' for Jennifer Maddock.

As regards the new version of Part 31 – The Wiltshire to New Zealand Line, this now includes new details received from Paul Martin of Stokesley in North Yorkshire regarding the family of Frederick John Collett (Ref. 31O39). He is now credited with four children, where in the earlier version of the file, he only had two. In addition to this, and during the work on Part 28 referred to above, a conflict between two George Colletts born in London in 1869 was noted, and this has also been corrected.

Part 49 – The Kirtlington (Oxon) to California Line has been brought up to date with new information received from Brian Richard Collett in the States which, amongst other things, includes details of three previously unknown children of George Collett and Selina Shoubridge.

Part 53 – The South Wales Branch Line, concerning Henry Collett (Ref. 53P2) who arrived in New Zealand in 1861, has been extensively updated thanks to his direct descendent Heather Holloway nee Collett. Heather is involved in organising the 150th Anniversary Celebration of her great grandfather stepping foot on New Zealand soil, and this will take place in January next year. Her cousin and co-organiser Ray Collett, from Sydney in Australia, has written a book on the four generations of the Collett family from Henry Collett to the present day. To mark the 100th Anniversary in 1961, Nancy Maxwell, the daughter of Charlotte Collett (Ref. 53Q4) and Hamilton Maxwell, produced a document which she called ‘The Collett Saga’ in which she told the stories that were handed down from her grandfather, the aforementioned Henry Collett. And it is this that Ray has used to compile his book, and about which we hope to hear more in the future.

Last month (June) a lot of work was carried out to rectify and remove some of the errors contained within Part 36 – The Leeds (Barwick-in-Elmet) Line. Since then, Peter Collett Turnbull, who highlighted some of the issues, has kindly sent in details of his Yorkshire family. This starts off in Part 36, but then separates off from Barwick-in-Elmet to form a branch of the family in Wakefield and Leeds. Because of the complexity of trying to illustrate this within Part 36, it has been considered more effective to include the details in a new file. As a result, I am pleased to announce the launch of Part 55 – The Wakefield & Leeds Line. Further work on another update to Part 36 will be undertaken during August, and again, this is thanks to new details gratefully received from Peter in the last few days.

The major impact of this change will be felt today by Michael Richard Collett (Ref. 55S2) in Wiltshire, whose direct line of ancestors can now be found in Part 55, rather than Part 36, although it still leads back to Barwick-in-Elmet.

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Mini updates have also been carried out on:

Part 1 – The Main Line (1485 to 1800), to show the confirmed link to Part 53 – The South Wales Branch Line through Walter Collett (Ref. 1M20), and

Part 1 – The Main Line (1880 to 2004), to include mention of the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Lewis Frank Collett (Lew) and Helen Williams (Ref.

1Q14), which also includes a photo of the happy couple sent in by their son Alan – shown at the end of this newsletter, and

Part 3 – The Chedworth Line, to include clarification on the marriage of Henry Collett and Martha Spencer, and the passing of Betty Collett this year, and

Part 5 – The Tewkesbury Line, thanks to information received from Sue James from Pontardawe near Swansea, relating to Waterworth Collett (Ref. 5M22) and his two daughters Mary and Charlotte, and

Part 18 – The Suffolk Line (1820 to 2008) where some fine details have been added from the census records, plus new details received from Steve Keeble, and

Part 28 – The Faringdon Line (1680 to 1840), with the inclusion of the 1876 newspaper report of the inquest into the death of Charles Richards, the husband of Ann Collett (Ref. 28N30), which has been gratefully received from June Keating in New Zealand, and

Part 43 – The Staffordshire Line, thanks to Jim Thomas in the USA who kindly provided more details about Katherine Louise Collett (Ref. 43P4) who married Boon Barker, and

Part 46 – The Charlton-on-Otmoor (Oxon) Area Line, with some minor rewording relating to the husband of Hilda Maud Collett ((Ref. 46P55), thanks to Stephen Busby.

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And now for something completely different. All of those of you who are residents in the UK will know that, following the recent General Election, the new Coalition Government is cutting back on public spending. This is particularly hitting the education system.

The additional item this month, demonstrates that this is not anything new, and the following, extracted from 'Collett's Farthing Newspaper' relates to the village school in Bowerchalke and sounds all too familiar, over one hundred years on.

"Overcrowding was particularly evident in the infants' class where children were forced to sit three at a desk or on boxes and the fragile progress observed earlier was once more arrested. The Inspector in the following year stated:

I regret to report that the elementary work this year is very unsatisfactory and that the condition of the school is one of inefficiency. The grant has not been withheld for the past year but formal warning is now given that it may be withheld at the next inspection if Her Majesty's Inspector again reports the school as inefficient.

During the following two years this threat was carried out; the grant was withheld thus depriving the school of resources at the very time that support and encouragement was most needed. Further inspections followed and clearly showed the school to be too full and understaffed for effective teaching, and so resulted in the withholding of further grants.

Following the poor report in 1905 the Rev. Edward Collett used the argument below in his efforts to support the hard-pressed teachers, when he included this item in the Parish Paper on 7th December 1905:

School was visited last Tuesday by His Majesty's Inspector Mr Hodson who spent the greater part of the day in examining the children. Unfortunately the weather was very dismal and this circumstance was likely to have had its effect on them in making their answers somewhat less bright than they might otherwise had been. We thank Mr Hodson for the pains he took and we are sure he will send us a faithful report in due time. He seemed much impressed by the fact that while the children knew the lessons which they had been taught, their way of answering was so stolid and lifeless. We quite agree with him. From some of them it is hard work to get so much as a smile. But, poor little things, in many a home they get precious little encouragement to smile! And life – with the Smile left out of it – is not worth calling life."

SO KEEP SMILING

HELP WANTED TO LOCATED DAVID A COLLETT

We have recently received a request to find David A Collett. David was born at the Freedom Fields Hospital in Plymouth during 1965, the son of Janet Collett nee Crowe. As an adult David is known to have lived in Cornwall, and was certainly still living in the county up until around 2003, although he may have continued to live in that area of the UK beyond that date.

A search of all the currently available information on the website, including other collected data that still needs to be worked on, has revealed no David Collett, or indeed any marriages between the Collett and Crowe families. It is however, known that Janet had a sister Valerie, and that their father was Frederick William Crowe who was born in 1907, the son of William Crowe from the Eastbourne area of Sussex.

Whilst I appreciate that there is not a lot of helpful information here, I would be very grateful to hear from anyone out, if they recognise any of the players in this little drama.

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In summary, the updated files are:

- Part 1 – The Main Line 1485 to 1880
- Part 1 – The Main Line 1880 to 2008
- Part 3 – The Chedworth line
- Part 5 – The Tewkesbury Line
- Part 18 – The Suffolk Line 1820 to 2008
- Part 19 – The Oxfordshire International Line
- Part 28 – The Faringdon Line 1680 to 1840
- Part 28 – The Faringdon Line 1840 to 1900
- Part 31 – The Wiltshire to New Zealand Line
- Part 35 – The Melksham Line
- Part 36 – The Leeds (Barwick-in-Elmet) Line
- Part 43 – The Staffordshire Line
- Part 46 – The Charlton-on-Otmoor (Oxon) Area Line
- Part 49 – The Kirtlington (Oxon) to California Line
- Part 53 – The South Wales Branch Line
- WW1 Collett Fatalities

Plus the new line, Part 55 – The Wakefield & Leeds Line



The aforementioned Helen & Lew  
celebrating 60 years together on  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May this year

And finally, it has been decided that the trip to Belgium in 2011 will now take place during August or September, but that it is too soon to actually take firm bookings this far ahead. So for the time being, I will just keep highlighting the event in future newsletters. Then, by the time we get to around April next year, Liz will be able to provide the cost details, including Genevera's fees for the guided tours. In the meantime, if any of you, who have expressed an interest, find that you cannot make any specific dates during these two months, please let me know at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards

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