

# CROOK FAMILY

This resume on the Crook family was particularly written in response to the article in Nigel Pocock's monograph "The Pococks, Longs, and Colletts of Barn Bridge, South View, Kellaways Farm and The Elms, East Tytherton, Wiltshire." (pgs43 - 45), where it said:

*At this point, the history becomes confused (again!). Kellaways House and Farm were then sold to Sir John Eyles of South Broom House (Bishop's Cannings, near Devizes) in 1737, and then to Mr. Paggen Hale (b. 1714-15) in 1740. In 1797 William Hale, of Locksley's Herts., son and heir to William Hale of King's Walden, Herts., (owner of Easton Piers) sold Kellaways House and Farm to Mr. Thomas Crook (or Coke?) of Headington near Calne.*

Research was being undertaken by the writer concerning the Pocock family and it was found that the particular branch of the Pocock family of interest to the writer had strong connections to the Crook family.

**Edward Crook** was born in Tytherton Lucas (Baptised Chippenham) 21 July 1719 (father Edward Crook). He married Elizabeth Edwards in Corsham on 21 March 1744/45. At the time of his marriage he was a Bachelor and Yeoman of Tytherton Lucas. Elizabeth was a spinster of Corsham. They had ten children (all Baptised in Bromham): Thomas, Edward, John, Simon, Elizabeth, Robert, Alice, Catherine, Walter, Mary.

Edward's will states that he was a Gentleman of Corton in the Parish of Hilmarton, Wiltshire. The will is dated 31 January 1800 and proved 13 December 1802. His Executors were his sons Thomas, John and Walter. Thomas, his eldest son, and Walter, his youngest, were bequeathed in trust all his property and investments. There is no mention made of his wife, so she must have pre-deceased him.

Notes:

1. No burial for Elizabeth (nee Edwards) Crook has been found, although a burial for an Elizabeth Crook on 16 August 1796 may well be her. This would link with there being no mention of Elizabeth in Edward's will of 31 January 1800.
2. Edward, in his will, mentions a daughter, Jane. There is a Baptism for Edward and Jane (nee ???) Crook at Heddington, Wiltshire on 12 November 1762 for a daughter, Jane. The date of her Baptism could well mean that she was the eleventh child of Edward Crook. A second marriage for Edward to a Jane ??? has not been found. Could there be an error in the Baptism record and Jane should read Elizabeth???

Thomas, the eldest child. He was Baptised in Bromham, Wiltshire, on 15 April 1746. He married Elizabeth Guy in Corsham on 02 April 1781. Elizabeth was Baptised in Corsham on 31 January 1743/44, parents: William and Mary Guy. Elizabeth had a sister Jane Guy who married Samuel Pocock in Corsham on 16 February 1769. Elizabeth died and Thomas married a second time to Ann Rendall at Shalbourne, Wiltshire, on 02 July 1798. Thomas was then of Tytherton Kellaways.

Thomas's will was dated 24 January 1822 and proved on 16 July 1824. There is no particular reference to Kellaways House and Farm in his will.

Walter, the youngest son. As with Thomas, he was Baptised in Bromham - 11 December 1757. Walter married Anne Prior in Little Bedwin, Wiltshire, on 15 August 1792. Walter was then a Bachelor of Heddington. There is no mention of any children in his will which was dated 16 May 1825 and proved 05 February 1828.

**Edward Crook's** older brother was also a **Thomas**. This Thomas was Baptised in Overton & Fyfield, Wiltshire, on 17 August 1712 and was buried in Tytherton Lucas on 26 November 1783. At the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Eddols on 24 April 1744, he was living in the Parish of Chippenham. As with Thomas, Elizabeth was buried in

Tytherton Lucas on 28 January 1791. They had eight children, born either in Chippenham or Tytherton Lucas: Edward, Thomas, Simon, John, Robert, Richard, Elizabeth, William. Thomas, was Baptised in Chippenham on 20 April 1750. He married Mary Susannah Bayliffe in Corsham on 03 July 1787. Mary was the daughter of George Searle Bayliffe of Seagry, Wiltshire. (*Seagry is of interest to the writer because 'our' branch of the Pocock family farmed there from around 1705 until at least 1714*). George Searle Bayliffe's ancestors first settled in the Chippenham area of the County in 1567, and were clearly 'well-to-do' in and around Chippenham. Thomas Crook's marriage to Mary Susannah Bayliffe, was apparently "quite a society wedding". Thomas was of Tytherton Lucas when he married Mary and it appears that they lived there for all of their married lives. An excellent web-site covering the Bayliffe family and Thomas and Mary Susannah Crook can be found at <http://www.bayliffe.me.uk/georgesearlebayliffe.htm#tag4>

[*It would seem to be clear that this Thomas Crook is not the one that purchased Kellaways House and Farm in 1797. He is a cousin to Thomas Crook Baptised in 1746 - see the resume 'The Cousins - Thomas Crook', below*].

Robert, Thomas and Elizabeth Crook's fifth son was Baptised in Chippenham on the 05 February 1754. Robert's will dated 21 July 1796, proved 12 May 1800, states that he is a Gentleman of Kellaways. He has as his Trustees, Thomas Crook and Walter Crook, both Gentlemen of Heddington.

[*From the research undertaken it would seem to be clear that this Thomas and Walter were Robert's cousins - his father Thomas's brother, Edward's, sons.*]

### **The Pocock connection.**

**Samuel Pocock** was Baptised on 01 December 1742 in Chippenham, Wiltshire. He married Jane Guy on the 16 February 1769 in Corsham. They had ten children: Richard, Mary, Jane, William, Elizabeth Guy, Samuel, John, Kitty, Thomas and Robert. In Samuel's will dated 29 August 1797 one of his Trustees is his "most respected friend" Mr Thomas Crook of Kellaways.

Robert, Samuel and Jane Pocock's youngest child. Robert was Baptised in Enford, Wiltshire, on 23 July 1788 and married Mary Crook on 07 May 1812 in Newbury, Berkshire. Mary's parents were Edward and Amy (nee Bew) Crook. This Edward was Baptised on 09 May 1762 in Tytherton Lucas. His father was Robert Crook (Baptised 22 October 1725 in Tytherton) and Robert is a younger brother to Thomas (Baptised 17 August 1712) and Edward (Baptised 21 July 1719).

**Richard Pocock**, older brother of Samuel, was Baptised on 14 February 1737/38 in Chippenham. He died in Chippenham at the age of 88 years. His will dated 05 June 1817 gives one of his executors as "my good friend" Walter Crook of Kellaways.

### **THE COUSINS - THOMAS CROOK and THOMAS CROOK**

#### **Thomas Crook**

1746	15 April	<i>Baptised</i> : Bromham, Wiltshire	Parents: Edward & Elizabeth (nee Edwards) Crook
1781	02 April	<i>Married</i> ; Elizabeth Guy, Corsham, Wiltshire	Thomas, batchelor of Heddington
1782	18 December	<i>Burial</i> of Elizabeth at Corsham	
1796	21 July	<i>Will</i> of Robert Crook (cousin of Thomas) appoints Thomas and his brother, Walter, as Trustees of his will - both Gentlemen of Heddington	
1797	29 August	<i>Will</i> of Samuel Pocock - his "most respected friend" Mr Thomas Crook of Kellaways	
1798	01/02 July	<i>Lease/Release</i> for "a settlement made on my marriage with my present wife (Ann Rendall, Spinster) All and Singular the Messuage or Dwellinghouse	

situate at Kellaways in the said county of Wilts. wherein I lately resided together with the several Closes Pieces and Parcels of Land thereunto belonging situate lying and being within the several Parishes of Kellaways aforesaid and Bremhill in the said county of Wilts. and now in the occupation of my brother Walter Crook." from Thomas Crook's will dated 24 Jan 1822

- 1798 02 July *Married* Ann Rendall, Shalbourne Wiltshire. Thomas of Tytherton Kellaways
- 1818 July Register of Freeholders of Wiltshire, for electing a Knight of the Shire. NOTES: Freeholder in Tytherton Kellaways. Place of abode: Chippenham.
- 1822 24 January *Will*: Thomas Crook of Chippenham Proved 16 July 1824
- 1823 20 Sept. *Burial* Thomas Crook at Tytherton Lucas - of Chippenham
- 1825 16 August *Burial* Ann Crook (nee Rendall - Thomas's 2nd wife) at Tytherton Lucas - Ann of Chippenham

### Thomas Crook

- 1750 20 April *Baptised* Chippenham, Wiltshire. Parents: Thomas and Elizabeth (nee Eddols) Crook
- 1787 03 July *Married* Mary Susannah Bayliffe at Corsham, Wilts. Thomas of Tytherton Lucas
- 1818 July Register of Freeholders of Wiltshire, for electing a Knight of the Shire. NOTES: Freeholder in Tytherton Lucas. Place of abode: Tytherton Lucas.
- 1821 23 Aug *Will* of Thomas Crook of Tytherton, Wiltshire, Esquire. Proved 07 Mar 1822
- 1821 30 Nov *Burial* of Thomas Crook at Tytherton Lucas

From the dates above, the Thomas Crook who was Baptised in Bromham on 15 April 1746, was a Gentleman of Heddington according to his cousin, Robert's, will in 1796. Then Samuel Pocock's will dated 29 August 1797 has Thomas "of Kellaways". Assuming that the sale of Kellaways House and Farm to Thomas Crook was prior to August 1797, then it would seem most likely that this is the Thomas Crook who purchased it according to Nigel Pocock's monograph.

Concerning the possibility of the name being 'Thomas Coke'. Reference# 31 of Nigel Pocock's monograph says that a Mary Hales married Thomas Coke (1674-1727). There is, however, a later Thomas William Coke (1752-1842) [later the Earl of Leicester], who was interested in a William Smith who did irrigation work for Thomas Crook at Kellaways in 1800. (reference page 23 of 200 Years of British Hydrogeology by J. D. Mather). This book can be read as an e-book. It seems possible that it is this Thomas Coke who has been linked to the sale of Kellaways House and Farm.

The National Archives and Wiltshire Record Office web sites have been searched in an endeavour to see if there is a Deed available for the sale of Kellaways House and Farm, but with no success. Also searched, was the 'National Newspaper Archive', again with no success.

Unless a Deed were to be found it doesn't seem that it will be possible to get any closer to actually knowing whether this Thomas Crook was the owner.