

Robert Fish (Senior) – Farmer and Landowner

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Robert Fish (Senior) was a substantially wealthy farmer and land owner in Effingham in the 19th century. Born in Cobham in about 1754 he married when aged nearly 30 and settled at first in Great Bookham, moving in his late 30s to Effingham where he then resided for over half a century until his death. During that period he acquired much property there and also in the Bookhams and in Send. In this article we set out all we know of his family and his property dealings.

Family background

In this article Robert's name is suffixed by 'Senior' to distinguish him from his son Robert (Junior).

Robert (Senior) Fish was baptised at St Andrew's, Cobham on 3 February 1754. The register entry names his parents as Joseph and Jane. Several family trees on *Ancestry* assert that these were the couple Joseph Fish and Jane Woodhatch ('Woodhach') who had married on 11 May 1747 at All Saints, Kingston-upon-Thames.

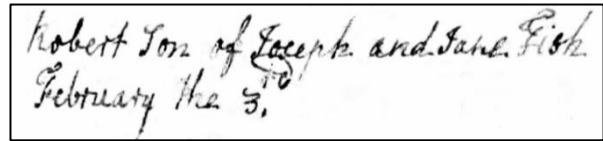


Figure 1 Robert (Senior)'s baptism, 3 February 1754.

A Joseph Fish had been baptised at St Michael's, Betchworth on 9 April 1721 whilst a Jane Woodhatch had been baptised at St Andrew, Cobham on 24 August 1723. These appear to be the best Surrey-born candidates for the 1747 marriage. This Joseph may have previously married at St Andrew, Cobham on 9 May 1742 to a woman named Sarah Coles. A 'Sarah wife of Joseph Fish' was buried at St Andrew, Cobham on 28 February 1745, their daughter Sarah having been buried there four days earlier.

So, the mother Jane of Robert (Senior) may have been his father's second wife. We cannot prove this conclusively at the present time, but if it were true then it would imply that Robert (Senior) had at least two half-siblings (by Sarah) baptised at St Andrew, Cobham:

Elizabeth	on 7 December 1742
Sarah	on 13 February 1744 (buried 24 February 1745)

and at least seven siblings (by Jane) also baptised there:

Ruth	on 24 October 1749 (buried 9 January 1769)
Joseph	on 24 February 1750/51
Jane	on 30 October 1752
<i>(Robert (Senior) was born between Jane and Sarah)</i>	
Sarah	on 22 June 1755
Ann	on 30 July 1758
Hannah	on 21 October 1761
Rebekah	on 11 February 1764 (buried 9 January 1765)

Robert (Senior)'s father Joseph made his Will in 1778, signing it on 5 December. He described himself as a farmer residing in Great Bookham. At the time the Will was drawn up, Robert was about 24, as yet unmarried. In the Will (see Appendix I) Joseph left his estate to Jane subject to her continuing to occupy his farm and carry on the business there, in which case he would 'recommend' Robert (Senior) to live there also and assist her on an annual wage of £10. If she were to choose not to continue farming then his estate was to pass instead to Robert (Senior) who would pay Jane £10 annually and also give £5 to each of Joseph's other surviving children; in the Will these children are listed (in order) as Joseph, Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Ann and Hannah, corresponding very neatly to the baptism and burial details noted above.

Joseph's ownership and occupation of property

There are two main sources which offer insights into the Fish family's diverse dealings in property: Land Tax records and the 1839 Tithe Apportionments. Only the first of these is directly useful in considering Joseph's property, since he certainly died long before 1839.

There is an almost complete fifty-year suite of surviving Land Tax returns for both Bookham and Effingham which begins in 1780 and ends in 1831. The tax had to be paid by the highest-level owner of each property in question – which might not have been the occupier of it – but fortunately all the occupiers and their rents had to be shown. For the Land Tax year called '1780', say, the assessors had normally completed their work and signed their submission by around June 1780; the tax would then have to be collected and paid by 25 March 1781.

We do not know when Joseph died nor when Jane died, nor whether she did choose to continue at the farm in Great Bookham. Land Tax records for different properties in Great Bookham in the sequence surviving from 1780 include 'Joseph' Fish by name up until a final isolated reference to him in 1789. This does not necessarily mean 1789 was the date of Joseph's death – although it does coincide with the year in which his son Robert (Senior) took on a large property in Effingham.

'Joseph' (specifically) is associated with two properties in the Great Bookham record. The first is perhaps the best candidate to be the farm mentioned in the Will. From 1780 (start of the surviving sequence) Joseph Fish together with James Wood occupied a property described as 'houses and land' owned by Thomas Harrison or Harrison. The annual rent began at £23 in 1780 but over the years drifted downwards to £18 15s. Its location was given as 'Bookham Common' and later, 'Lower Common'. In 1787 the occupier's name is given for the first time simply as 'Fish', not 'Joseph Fish'. In 1788, Fish's partner James Wood is mentioned no more: the property was now occupied jointly by Fish and the owner Thomas Harrison. The 1794 record is missing, but in 1795 the occupiers were Fish and Widow Harrison. In 1796, it looks as if this land was split and was being held by others, none of them Fish.

The second property associated with specifically 'Joseph' Fish is first mentioned in the 1787 Land Tax although the name is simply 'Fish'. This was 'Land', later described as 'Land Late Smiths'. It was owned by The Rt Honourable Lady Viscountess Downe (Dawnay family) whose residence was Bookham Grove. Evidently Fish and the Viscountess occupied it jointly from 1787 to 1796 for an annual rent of £5 10s. In all this sequence the name 'Joseph' is given only once, an isolated reference in 1789, and we may wonder how accurate that was.

Robert (Senior)'s ownership and occupation of property

As a preliminary to discussing this it will be useful to present some further details about Robert (Senior)'s family. In the 1780s he took a wife Elizabeth Kemp who has not been identified with certainty, but she may have been the daughter Elizabeth born to parents John and Elizabeth Kemp and baptised at St Nicholas, Guildford on 20 June 1762. She and Robert (Senior) married by Banns on 2 June 1783 at St George the Martyr, Southwark. One of the witnesses was a Joseph Fish who was probably Robert (Senior)'s brother or father. (In the Banns register the signature given for 'Robert Fish' on 29 May 1783 is virtually identical to the signature entered in the record of Robert (Senior)'s proven second marriage in 1827, so we can be reasonably confident that Robert (Senior) was indeed the groom in 1783.)

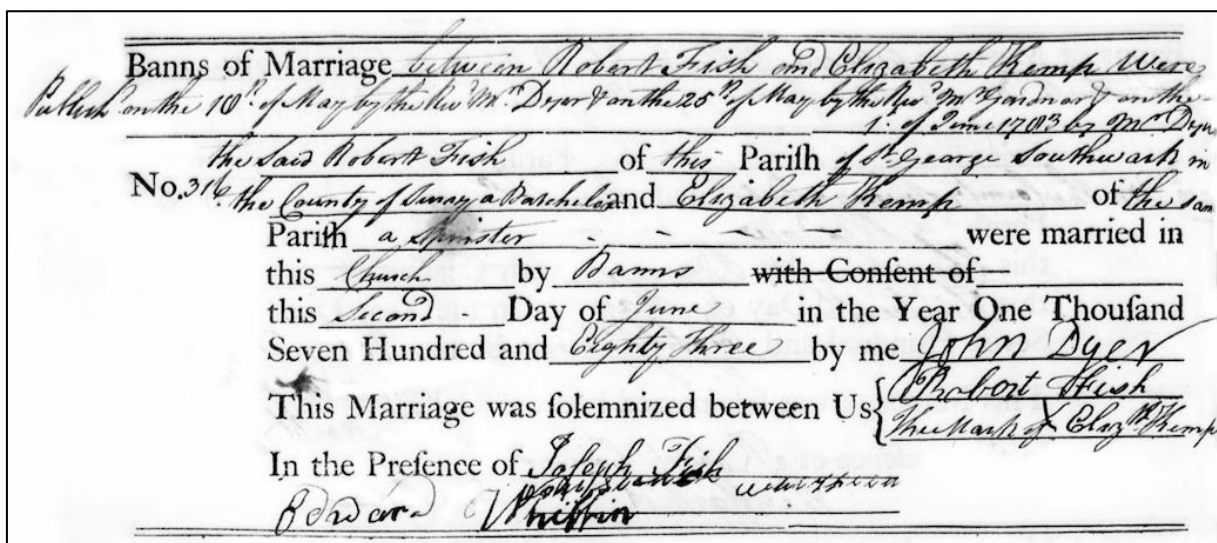


Figure 2 Robert (Senior)'s Banns entry, 29 May 1783.

Robert (Senior) and Elizabeth produced at least four children, the first three of whom were baptised at St Nicolas, Great Bookham.

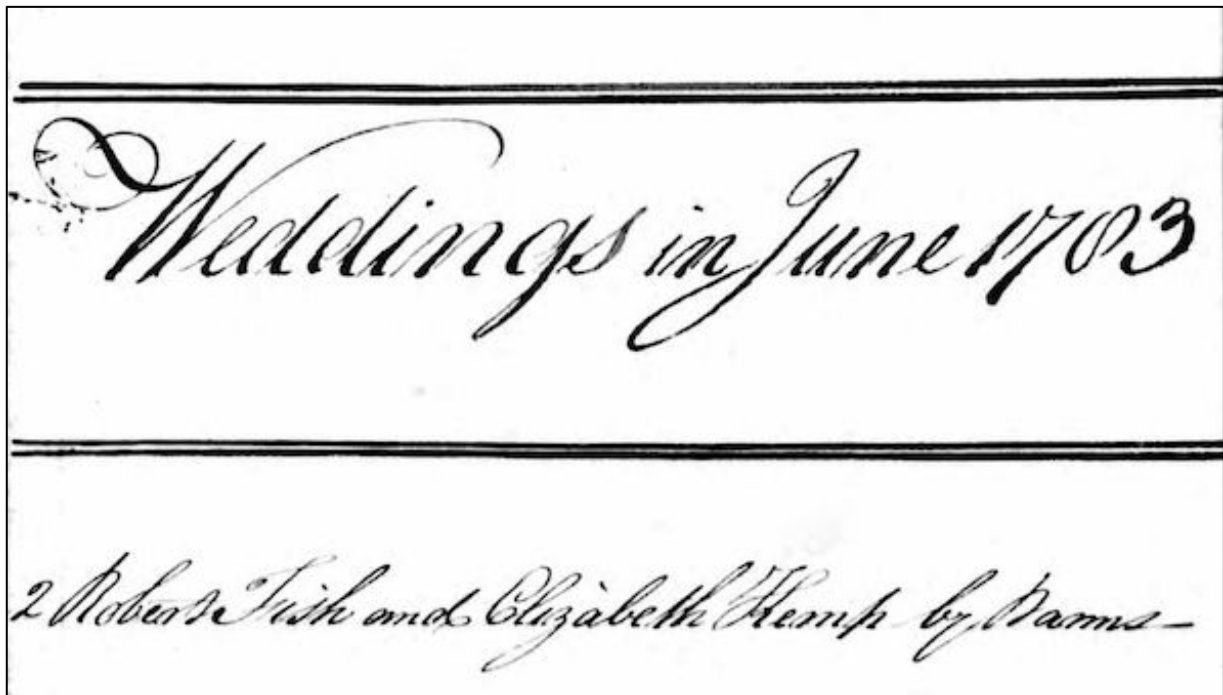


Figure 3 Robert (Senior)'s Marriage entry, 2 June 1783.

The children baptised at Great Bookham were:

William	on 31 August 1783 (perhaps buried at St Nicolas, Great Bookham on 23 April 1796)
Sarah	on 25 December 1785
Elizabeth	on 2 November 1788

A fourth child was baptised at St Lawrence, Effingham:

Ann	on 18 September 1791
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When Elizabeth married Robert (Senior) on 2 June 1783 she would have done so in an advanced state of pregnancy, given William's date of baptism.

The transition from Great Bookham to Effingham in the above sequence of baptisms is consistent with the fact that Robert (Senior)'s first appearance in the Land Tax records for Effingham was in 1789. As noted earlier, these records end in 1831 but after an eight-year gap the Tithe Apportionment of June 1839 and its Key help fill out the picture further. The following account of Robert (Senior)'s property dealings draws mainly from these two sources whilst occasional other survivals are also drawn in such as Window Tax assessments. By necessity it is a detailed study, but the richness of that detail allows us to picture even if briefly so many of the Effingham lives in which Robert (Senior) was a part. The properties are presented in, as far as possible, the chronological order in which he can be detected as connected with them; the periods in which they were in his ownership overlap, ie are not purely sequential. Except where specifically listed as Little Bookham, Great Bookham or Ripley/Send the properties are all in Effingham.

This is not the place to go into a full-blown account of the changes to land ownership in Effingham caused by the tumultuous presence there of General Oliver De Lancey, but suffice it to say Robert (Senior) was present throughout that whole episode and it did impact him, although seemingly not negatively.

'The Lower Farm and Banckes'
From 1789

In the Land Tax returns Robert (Senior)'s name first occurs in 1789. That year he was occupying Lower Farm and Banks, both of which he did not personally own but were in the hands of Mr Foquet or Focquet. Foquet was a relative of the Urry family and Trustee of the Will of Thomas Urry of Newport in the Isle of Wight, the Lord of the manor of Effingham who had died unmarried in 1776 [*The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1776, Vol 4, p579]. In his Will, proved on 10 June 1777, Urry left his estates to his niece Elizabeth Browne. Elizabeth married Windsor Heneage in Marylebone on 23 September 1761, and they had two daughters Elizabeth and Mary, who became coheirs. Elizabeth married Basil Fitzherbert, Squire of Swynnerton, Staffs at Newport on 26 February 1786, and Mary married William Fitzherbert Brockholes of Cloughton Hall,

Lancs at St George Hanover Square on 20 June 1791. By this route William Brockholes (or actually his wife, Mary) became lord of the manor of Effingham. This pair never lived in the parish, indeed very far away. Mr Foquet's name was probably both better known and much simpler to enter! In 1802 the name Foquet vanishes to be replaced by Robert (Senior)'s true landlord 'Mr Brockols', ie Brockholes.

Both Lower Farm and Banks had previously been held by Mr Alexander Raby. At the first point we can see him (1780 Land Tax), Mr Raby had been holding 'Tanners Land', perhaps since widow Elizabeth Tanner died and was buried at St Lawrence on 4 April 1763. This was an area in the very north of Effingham parish, convenient for Raby who was resident at Cobham Downside. He seems to have been the Alexander Raby born in London in 1747 who married to Ann née Cox at Stafford on 17 September 1771. By 1772 they were in Cobham where they had a daughter baptised at St Andrew's, Cobham Downside followed by further children. He was on the Jury-qualified freeholders and copyholders list for Cobham (Downside) in 1775, 1782, 1797, 1803 and 1805. In the 1780 Land Tax for Little Bookham, he was holding a property from 'Refell' – no first name given – but he was not holding that in 1782. In the 1798 Land Tax, 'Alexander Raby Esquire' was holding land in Stoke D'Abernon.

In 1784, Raby had additionally taken on Banks and Lower Farm, both in the immediate vicinity of Tanners Land. The rent for these two was £100 in 1784, which reduced to £75 10s in 1786. He held these two for only five years or so up until the time he relinquished them to Robert (Senior), still keeping Tanners Land. The last Effingham Land Tax entry for Raby himself was in 1806, and after that his 'Tanners Land' holding was listed as 'late Rabys'. It doesn't necessarily mean that he had died. In 1805 his daughter had died in Wrexham. The parents seem to have moved to Llanelli where in 1824 Alexander's wife died. Alexander himself died in 1835 at Wells in Somerset.

The value of the combined rent for Lower Farm and Banks on which Robert (Senior) would be assessed for tax was £75 per year (where Raby had paid £75 10s). This was the 5th highest assessment in the 1789 Land Tax. From his first appearance in Effingham therefore, Robert (Senior) was in a much higher socio-economic group than most other residents. Above him in financial terms were only the two main manor farms, Mr Wavell at Upper Farm (£150 15s) and the Pifolds at Nyce Farm (Indian Farm) £146 10s, plus William Curry for both 'late Adeys farm' at £90 15s and other 'lands in the Hundred of Effingham and Cophorne' at £77 15s. This gives some context for his wealth and status.

Seven years later in 1795 Robert (Senior) relinquished Banks but kept Lower Farm. His rent assessment dropped to £66 15s. In the following year it dropped slightly again to £65. He was still holding Lower Farm at this rent in the Land Tax Assessment for 1809 but by 1810, it was being held by Mr Marshall.

We cannot be sure that Robert (Senior) was personally occupying Lower Farm during his tenure of it; he may have had a tenant at the farm. However, an indication that he was might be the 1804 Window Tax on 'inhabitants'. 'Robert Fish Farmer' was assessed for 8 windows (£1s 10s), and the same in 1805

He was listed among the jury-qualified freeholders and copyholders in Effingham from 1796 until at least 1823, described throughout as a yeoman. In order to hold this position he was required to possess property having an annual rental value of at least £10; from the figures quoted above we can see that his holdings amply satisfied this.

Great Bookham properties From 1793

As discussed earlier, the Land Tax entries for two Great Bookham properties mentioned Robert (Senior)'s father Joseph by name, but there are other properties which may have been occupied by either Robert (Senior) or his father. From 1793, 'Fish' and Viscountess Downe are shown jointly occupying a further property of hers, 'House and land late Miles', for an annual rent of £7. This is listed until 1796 but the 1797 record is missing. In 1798, it may be that the two properties (Late Smiths and Late Miles) have been combined into one for convenience and the rent set at £10. This however is the last year of the association of any 'Fish' with the Viscountess.

In 1793 'Robert' Fish is first specifically mentioned by name as an owner, of a house rented for £2 annually to Thomas Hill. This year is significant – it marks 'Fish' involvement with four properties in Great

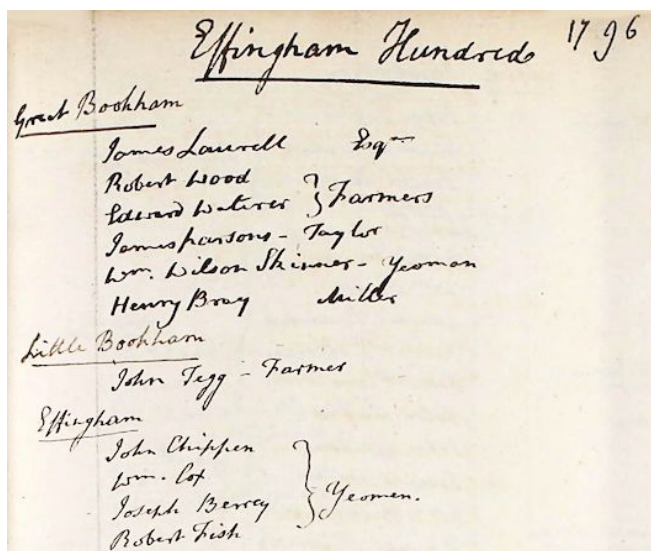


Figure 4 Robert (Senior) jury-qualified in 1796.

Bookham: one owned by Harrison, two by the Viscountess and one by Robert (Senior). From this high point, the involvement drops. The Harrison tenancy ends in 1795. The two Viscountess Downe tenancies end in 1798. That year, too, is significant. In it Robert (Senior) makes an adjustment. He ends ownership of the £2 house and instead is shown owning a more valuable house at £6 annual rent. In 1798 the occupier is Tegg, but from 1799 to the end of the sequence (1830) it is occupied by the Simmons (or Simmonds) family. In 1808 'Simmons' is named as Francis Simmons and in 1829 it is Widow Simmonds; the burial of a Francis Simmonds aged 83 took place on 23 June 1828 at Little Bookham Church. The rent remains unchanged for the thirty or so years. By the market value this was seemingly a good-sized property – certainly not the smallest form of cottage as occupied by agricultural labourers – and it formed a steady investment and income stream for Robert (Senior) who was by then living in Effingham.

After 1830 there is a gap in our knowledge of Robert (Senior)'s holdings in Great Bookham until 1839 when details of his holdings appear in the Tithe apportionment documentation for that parish. These may give us a view of what this substantial holding was. On 21 July 1831 Anne Simmonds was buried at Little Bookham Church aged 84 but seemingly there had been another generation of the family able to take over. In the Tithe apportionment details, Fish was recorded to be holding three adjacent properties, nos 128, 129 and 130, all occupied by 'John Simmonds and others'. These units lay on the east side of Little Bookham Street, the very western edge of Great Bookham parish, in an area which has subsequently been redeveloped. The descriptions are as follows:

- 128 Cottage and garden
- 129 Orchard (meadow)
- 130 House homestead etc.



Figure 5 Plots 128-130 in Great Bookham on the 1842 Tithe Map.

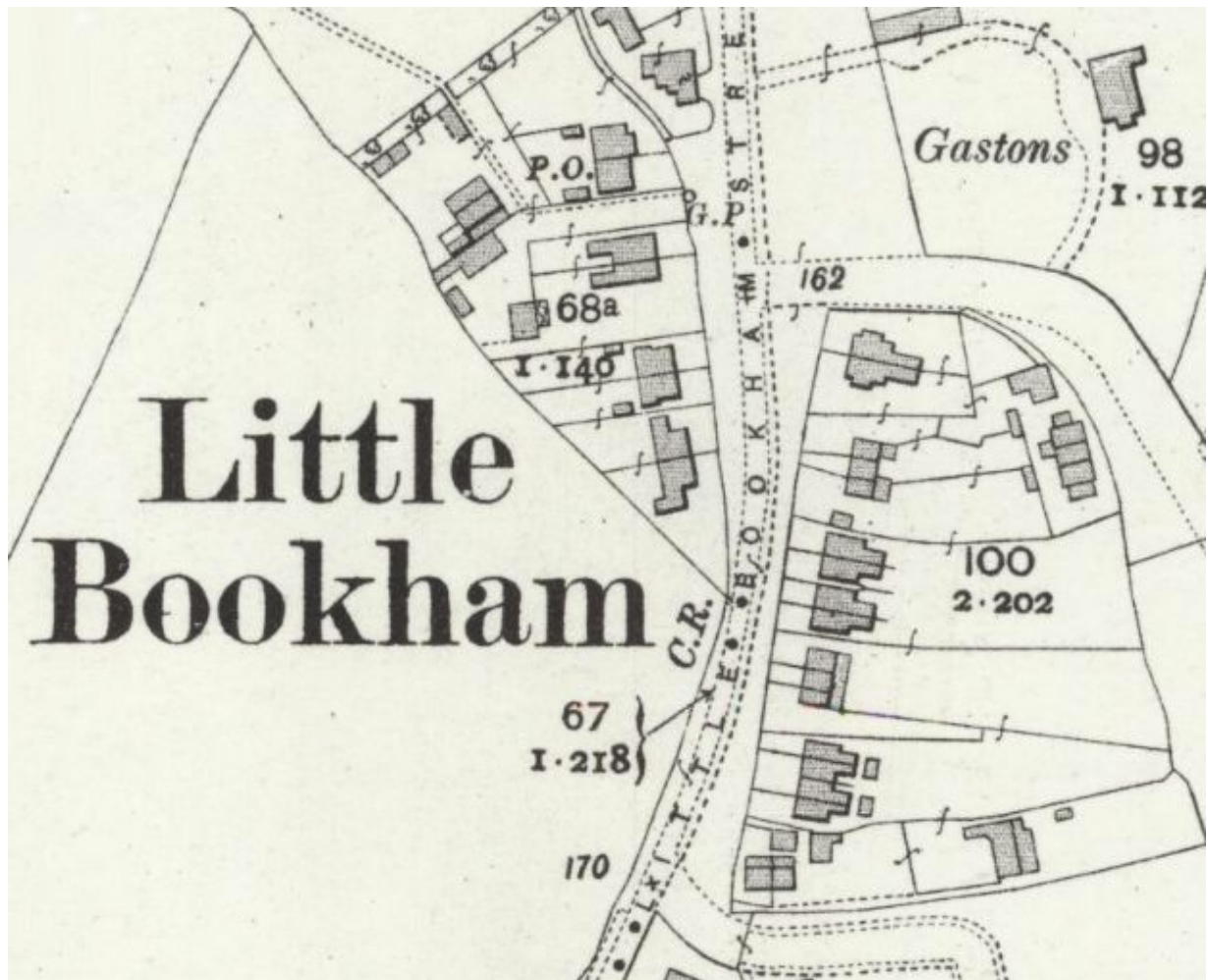


Figure 6 The same area on the 1914 OS Map.

A John Simmonds, child of a Francis and Ann Simmonds, was baptised at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, on 5 January 1800 (the same year that Simmonds are first found occupying Robert Fish's property after the departure of Tegg). A John Simmonds married Sarah Anne Hicks at St Nicolas Church, Bookham, on 8 February 1823. Curiously in view of the above, in 1828 a different marriage took place between a John Simmonds, bachelor, and Mary Ann Hicks (spinster or widow not specified), at Womersley. It seems possible that one of these may be the John Simmonds in the Tithe Award who had taken over occupation from 'Widow Simmonds', but it has not been possible to verify that conclusively. Details of 'his' whereabouts after 1839 have not been found.

In 1868 when Robert (Junior) was trying to divest himself of all his ties in order to emigrate [SHC Refs: K99/2/1785/1-70 and K99/2/1798/1-31] he had to sell six cottages that he owned in Bookham. Plausibly they were related to these units; it seems perhaps more likely that they were an inheritance from Robert (Senior) than that Robert (Junior), a medical student then doctor living in London, had bothered himself with the local property market, although we cannot know for sure. They were described as '6 ... cottages with garden land in Great Bookham occupied by Messrs Boswell, Batey, Coningsbee, David Longhurst, John Amey and Widow Chippen'.

The Church Street smithy
From 1796

Robert (Senior)'s entry into the Effingham property market as a landowner on his own account first took place in 1796. According to the Land Tax in that year he became the owner of a 'house and shop' which was occupied by sitting tenant Edward Farnham at a rent of £5. This was the forge in the village centre (Church Street), and Farnham was a blacksmith. Why Robert (Senior) thought this was a worthwhile investment is not clear, but one can suppose that a farmer would regularly need access to a smithy for repairing tools, making nails, shoeing horses and so on. Edward Farnham was well established there. He had been baptised at St Lawrence, Effingham on 20 October 1762. As a blacksmith he married Anne Stening or Stenning of Little Bookham in 1788 and they went on to have five daughters. Before Robert

(Senior) became involved, Farnham had been renting the forge from Mr Thomas Tickner since 1791, for £4 10s. A Thomas Tickner was buried at Great Bookham on 16 May 1795 which was presumably why the site was available to be purchased by Robert (Senior) in 1796.

In 1801 Edward Farnham left, in order to become a tenant of De Lancey at the Dog Kennel Green smithy. Following him at Church Street, Robert (Senior) had a sequence of tenants: Henry Hubbard (1801-05), Henry Haslet or Haslett (1806-13), William Hollis (1814-23) and finally the Stovell father and son from 1824 onwards.

The Hubbards had an established history of owning land in Effingham. The Window Tax assessments for Henry Hubbard, blacksmith, in 1804 and 1805 record 6 windows at his house. Henry may have been the Henry Hubbard who married Susannah Burch at Rottingdean in 1799. While at Church Street Henry and Susannah had three daughters baptised at St Lawrence, Ruth in 1801, Harriet in 1803 and Susannah in 1805. It is not known why Henry left, but it may have been to set up on his own in Abinger. In the 1806 Land Tax a Henry Hubbard features as owner of his own property valued at £2 per year. In the 1841 Census he was resident as a blacksmith in Abinger. By now he was living with the Harris family of his married daughter Harriet, his wife Susannah having died in 1832. He died at Abinger aged 72 in 1849 and was buried, appropriately enough, in Abinger Hammer. The cause of his death was certified as 'dropsy two months' and the informant was Harriet, present at the death.

Following Henry Hubbard, as of 1806 Robert (Senior)'s next tenants at the smithy were all part of the same extended family in a curious daisy-chain sequence of relationships. The first was Henry Haslett who was married to an Elizabeth. However Elizabeth aged 28 and baby Henry were both buried in 1807. Henry married again to Mary Ariss of Fetcham and more children were born, but then Henry himself was buried aged 38 in 1813. The following year Mary his widow married again to William Hollis who from 1814 was Robert (Senior)'s next tenant at the forge. William is noted as 'blacksmith' in the baptism record of their first child, Henry William who was baptised at St Lawrence in 1814. Another son, George, was born and died in 1819 – as then did Mary. In 1822 William married again to Sarah Strudwick, and they had a daughter Elizabeth who was baptised 1823. The Hollises left the forge around then and their whereabouts after that are not currently known.

In 1824 the forge was occupied by Thomas Stovell (I) (1782-1862), not knowingly connected to the Hollises. The Stovell family were to remain there for many decades. Thomas (I) himself moved away from Effingham at some point after 1829, but the forge was taken over by his eldest son Thomas Stovell (II) (1807-1887) who remained occupier there until his death. By then the forge had long since left Robert (Senior)'s portfolio. When the Land Tax sequence of records ends in 1831 Robert (Senior) was still owner, but by the time of the 1839 Tithe Apportionment he had relinquished it and the new owner was William Poulter.

Wilsons

From 1802

The next property we can identify in connection with Robert (Senior) is first associated with him in the Land Tax for 1802: he was renting a property called 'Wilsons' for £3, from the above-mentioned Mr Brockholes. In 1809 it was rendered as 'Late Wilsons'. So who was 'Mr Wilson'? John Wilson died in Effingham in 1779, and his widow Mary in 1781. Widow Wilson is shown in the Land Tax for 1780, seemingly owning the property in her own right, which was assessed for £4. In 1781 after Mary's death George Monk was occupying 'Late Wilsons', and it retained this name for the next 50 or so years.

By 1783 however the property had been acquired by the Brockholes family and was being handled 'in Trust' by Mr Foquet, the occupier being Woodman Wavell. Wavell died in 1798 but the property continued to be held by his widow Jane. The last year in which she held it was 1801. As we have seen, in 1802 it was taken over by Robert (Senior) who kept it for some 8 years. In 1810 it was being held by Mr Marshall, who had also that year just taken over Lower Farm from Robert (Senior). When Marshall gave up Lower Farm to Mr Jonathan Watmough, the latter also took over Wilsons and Late Rabys (he also took over pretty much everything within the manor of Effingham across the whole parish). Possibly this indicates that 'Wilsons' was somewhere in the north of the parish convenient for Lower Farm but this can only be conjectural.

House in Little Bookham

1802-1831 at least

From 1802, the Little Bookham Land Tax records show Robert (Senior) owning and renting out a house there, rentable value £1 10s. He took it over after the death of Mr Rumsey, at which time it was being

occupied by John Patience. In 1805 the occupant became John Lucas and remained thus until the sequence of records ends.

A map dated 1803 labelled as the sale by De Lancey of property in Effingham to Thomas Fuller includes the name 'Mr Fish' just across Effingham's eastern parish boundary in Little Bookham, but what this signified is currently unknown.

*Lands in Little Bookham or Effingham
?unknown date of acquisition by Robert (Senior)*

Robert (Senior) was evidently connected to certain freehold lands in Little Bookham or Effingham within the 'Little Bookham Estate' offered for sale by auction in 1907 by Henry Court Willock-Pollen to Charles Edward Lambert of Effingham House. Numerous bundles of deeds, correspondence and other documents pertaining to this sale are held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: K56/2/8] and one of these bundles concerns the above-mentioned lands and, in particular, 'Lots 13 and 15'. These Lots are described in the brochure (having a map) produced for the auction – staged in London on 24 May 1907 – which is also held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: 209/16/2]. The bundle includes, without explanation, an original Will of Robert (Senior), but there appears to be no mention of him in the bundle's other documents. Possibly, the legal documentation prepared at the time of the sale had included an abstract of title that would have shown the lands in question, or some part of them, having once been in the possession of Robert (Senior) or his heirs, with his Will being adduced as supporting evidence. Incidentally, this Will, dated 24 April 1841, was not his final one – the date of that was 29 September 1843. The brochure shows Lot 13 as a large expanse of land (184 acres with a keeper's double cottage) including Thornet Wood and Oaken Wood in the northern part of Effingham parish. Lot 15 was another large piece of land (204 acres with no buildings) in the southern parts of both Effingham and Little Bookham parishes.

*Richard Lee's cottage
1804*

The 1804 Window Tax assessment covers residency for the period 5 April 1804 to 6 April 1805 and it was signed as complete on 2 June 1804. It includes the entry for 'Robert Fish, farmer', but below that another: 'Ditto [ie payable by 'Robert Fish'] for Rich^d Lee', a property with six windows.

No. 4, Annual Taxes.

An Affidavit made upon the several Inhabitants of
from the 5th April, 1804, to the 6th April, 1805.

the Parish of Effingham in the

Observations.	Description of Inhabitants.		Houses and Windows.		Duty.	Male Servants.							Duty.	Four Wheel Carriages.				Duty.
	Names.	Profession, Trade, &c, and, if Inmate, to whom.	Windows.	Duty.		Lif No 1.	Lif No 2.	Lif No 3.	Lif No 4.	Lif No 5.	Lif No 6.	Lif No 7.		Private Use.	Public Use.	Public Use.	Public Use.	

Rich Robert Farmer 8 140 -

Solter Rich 6 - 6

Figure 7 Robert (Senior)'s charge for Window Tax for the year ending 6 April 1805.

The St Lawrence Parish Register reveals that baby Thomas son of Richard and Mary Lee must have been born around that very time: he was baptised on 24 June 1804. Another child of theirs, Mary, was baptised on 6 August 1809. They do not seem to have been part of the family of Lees which had been in Effingham since antiquity. Richard had been born in Woking in about 1774 and Mary née Harwood was originally born in East Horsley. They had married at Byfleet in 1799. Richard would have been about 30 at the time he was in Robert (Senior)'s cottage, but why or how long he had been there, and where the cottage was, both remain a mystery for now. The Lees do not feature in the 1805 Window tax, nor are they visible in the Land Tax. Evidently at some stage they moved on. By 1841 they were living at Cobham Downside. The 1851 Census records Richard and Mary Lee, now 77 and 70 respectively, still at Cobham Downside. Richard is recorded as a former labourer born in Woking, but a note also says 'Parish ?pay'. In 1861 they were still there aged 86 and 81. Richard was buried aged 91 at St Andrew's, Cobham on 7 March 1866, his address given as 'Old Well', Downside. Their child Thomas did survive, grow up and marry. In 1841 he and his wife were at Mickleham 'poor houses' with 3 children but by 1851 things were better. Thomas was still at Mickleham, now a gardener, with his wife and 5 children and 3 lodgers.

Great and Little Lee Woods
1806

In 1806 Robert (Senior) was shown renting 'Woods' from Mr Brockholes, for £28. These were 'the underwoods in Effingham called Great and Little Lee Woods'. In 1776 a 30-year lease of these had been agreed between Wavell Woodman and Sir Thomas Urry the then Lord of the Manor. Having run its course in 1806, the lease had been relinquished by Wavell's widow to the current lord of the manor, Mr Brockholes. Woods were a very valuable commodity and these were in the vicinity of Lower Farm not inconveniently sited, but Robert (Senior) held this property for only one year. In 1807 they were let to Alderman Harvey Coombe of Cobham. He kept them until 1811, gave them up but then rented them again in 1821-22.

Robert (Senior)'s house – The Street?
1810

The last year in which Lower Farm and Wilsons were let to Robert (Senior) was 1809. In the following year 1810 he is shown both owning and occupying a 'house and garden' of rentable value £3 per year. This one is significant, because in the whole list of properties associated with his name, it is the only *residence* where he is ever listed as both owner *and* occupier. It does seem possible that it is the (one) property listed against his name in a quit rental document for the years 1817-21 drawn up for the manor of Effingham [SHC Ref: G58/29/1]. In this, the property is described as 'Messuage and one Acre & an Half of Land'. A quit rental was an agreement by which a tenant of the manor paid a money payment in lieu of services owed to the lord of the manor; for the five years, Robert (Senior) was to pay 11s 3d.

The entry for this property in the Land Tax returns remains the same year after year. The relinquishing of Lower Farm and Wilsons and the move to a house in The Street might be construed to show Robert (Senior), now a widower aged about 56 without a male heir, retiring from active farming and cutting massively the rent he had been paying out in order to live in the future off his property rental incomes. At this point he was still responsible for his two as yet unmarried daughters, Sarah then aged about 25 and Elizabeth about 22. Sarah would marry in 1812 and Elizabeth in 1817 (and they would both predecease their father). Apart from the fact of her birth, nothing is known of his third daughter, Ann.

Robert (Senior) was seemingly still at that dwelling in 1831 – but which was it? In 1839, the Tithe Apportionment identifies him as now both owner and occupier of *three* properties on the west side of The Street, nos 362, 363 and 366 on the Tithe Map. It was quite possibly one of these that he acquired in 1810, but currently there seems to be no way of confirming this one way or the other. It also seems impossible at present to know when he acquired the other two plots. As well as these, he owned but was not occupying two cottages in the same run. These properties as identified by the Tithe Map are as follows:

- No 362, described as a 'House shed and garden'. This site is today occupied by Westmead and Owlscot; in other words it was divided after 1842.
- No 363 is also described as a 'House, shed and garden'.
- Between 363 and 366 were 364 and 365, two small cottages also both owned by Robert (Senior) but not occupied by him. Number 364 was occupied by William Crockford and 365 was owned by Edward Prier. It seems likely these two were demolished or at least reconfigured, but seemingly not until after 1854. The curtilage of 364 was expanded, and, combined with 363 it became today's Vine Cottage. 365 became associated with Rose Cottage as a coach house. In the 1841 Census one of these was still being occupied by William Crockford and his wife Mary. William was buried aged 55 at St Lawrence on 20 November 1859, although by then he was 'of Effingham Common' where he seems to have been in the 1851 Census. Edward Prier seems, unhelpfully for our purposes, to have been in Effingham only transiently. He is mentioned in the Tithe Apportionment, but not in the 1841 or any other Census for Effingham.
- 366 was the plot of what is today known as Rose Cottage (originally Rose Villa; today much altered since from its original appearance). Judging by the Tithe Map and the later OS 25" map of 1854, of all these plots, Rose Villa was the most generously sized and set in a pleasant plot with a good-sized west-facing garden. By the time of the 1851 Census, Robert (Senior)'s widow Elizabeth was no longer living in Effingham and this property may have been rented out but if so, who was occupying it cannot be convincingly established from the entries as currently understood – very few property names are given. In 1856 Robert Junior arranged for the sale of all the furniture on the premises of Rose Villa, seemingly with a view to renting it out.



Figure 8 Robert (Senior)'s properties in plots 362-366 on the 1842 Tithe Map.

A candidate for the property first acquired in 1810 is a dwelling that had up till then been listed in the Land Tax returns as 'Miss Butcher's house'. One reason for thinking this is that it was of the right rent value, £3; another is that Miss Butcher had seemingly left the village since 1809. Arthur Butcher and his wife Sarah had been resident in the village in the early 1780s. Their daughters Edith died in 1778, Elizabeth in 1779, and a second Edith in August 1782 followed by Sarah the mother in November 1782. Arthur himself died in 1785, leaving surviving children Sarah, Ann and John (presumably born before arrival in Effingham; at least these three were not baptised here). It seems that Arthur's mother, their grandmother Mrs Ann Butcher, then came to Effingham to look after the orphans. Ann was the widow of Philip Butcher 'late of Dorking' according to her Will (signed 15 May 1789). By 1787 she was renting a house from Mrs Skeet. From 1802 after Mrs Skeet's death she was holding it from De Lancey. Mrs Butcher died aged 84 and was buried at Effingham on 7 February 1803, having left her property to her surviving grandchildren Sarah, Ann and John. 'Miss Butcher' then held the property from 1803 to 1809. What subsequently happened to these young Butcher people is not known.

Note – a Mr William Butcher is shown in the Effingham Land Tax records as the owner of a messuage and land, or house and land, from 1780 to 1816, in other words contemporary with the above. During that time Mr Butcher rented the property out to a series of individuals: to John Skeet senior; then from 1790 to Mrs Skeet; from 1792 to John Stevenson, a carpenter; from 1795 to Mr Leater (? – partially crossed out)], and from 1796 to Thomas Layton. Thomas Layton was a shopkeeper / grocer and a prominent person in the village (it was he who actually wrote up the Land Tax records for many years; his handwriting is distinctive). Perhaps therefore this property had some commercial function as a shop. Where Mr William Butcher lived, the dates of his life and whether or not he had any connection with Arthur Butcher's family are all unknown.

Church Street Cottages
From 1812

The Skeet(e)s had been a prominent family in Effingham for many years. When John Skeet or Skeete Junior 'from Godalming' (to distinguish him from John Skeet 'from Dorking') died in 1783 his widow Sarah was left both owning and occupying properties in her own name for nearly two decades. She died and was buried at Effingham on 17 January 1801. The Land Tax shows that five properties then changed ownership in 1802, the year after her death. All of them were scooped up at that point by De Lancey.

One of Mrs Skeet's properties was described as 'Tenements', the assessed rent of which was £6. These seem to have been the two north-facing Church Cottages of today, plus the four (not five as now) south-facing ones. As stated the first purchaser was General De Lancey, but the property was to change hands again in the upheaval after his financial disgrace. In 1809 the group was being occupied by 'Batty and others' who had seemingly taken on the ownership. Thomas Batty or Battey was a cordwainer (cobbler) and also the church's parish clerk.

In the 1812 assessment, the new proprietor is shown as Robert (Senior), Batty and others still being the occupants. The rent standing at £6 had not been changed, but in 1814 it dropped to £4 and it is possible the two north-facing ones were excluded for a while, before returning to the fold in 1819 (see below).

In 1839, the names of the occupants of the four south-facing cottages were:

- 255 (today's No 5 Church Cottages) – Naldrett
- 256 (today's No 1) – Whittington; the name Thomas Whittington had first appeared in 1823.
- 253a (today's No 2) – William Davis
- 257 (today's No 4) – Mary Cooke

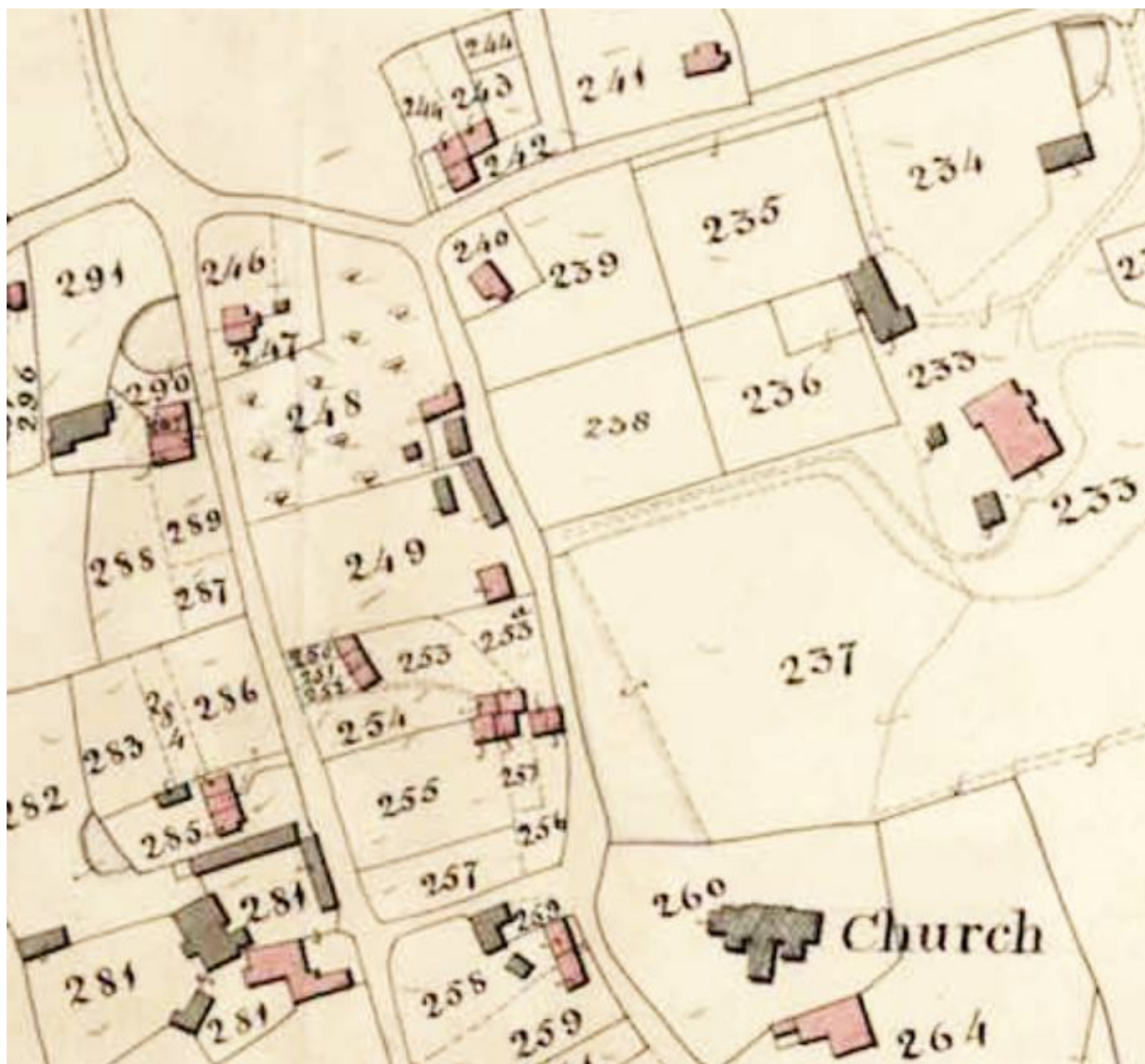


Figure 9 Robert (Senior)'s properties in plots 250-257 on the 1842 Tithe Map.

It is interesting that Robert (Senior) had accepted Mary Cooke and possibly an illegitimate baby as a tenant. This is presumed to have been by at least 1835 when the baby was baptised here. Mary had returned to Effingham from Dorking after her earlier shocking experience of being sold into marriage in 1815. Her story, and how her occupation of this cottage came to be important for the first formation of a Methodist church in Effingham, can be read in the article *Effingham Methodist Church* by David Putland and Angela Putland [*Studies in the History of Effingham*, Volume 1, Article 6, Effingham Local History Group (ELHG), 2023].

In 1826 there was a return to the earlier group assessment where Batty and others jointly paid £6 but were not individually named. In 1831, the last year of the Land Tax sequence, the details were still the same except that the occupier was 'Late Batty and others'.

From 1819

In 1819, the names of five new cottagers join Robert (Senior)'s existing list of four: John Bilby, William Rackstraw, Robert Moore, David Tidy and William Greathurst. They were each paying £1 a year.

The name 'Bilby' suggests that Robert (Senior) had taken on the two north-facing cottages, since this is a name found there in 1839 (plot no 253). In 1839 the names of the occupiers of the two north-facing cottages were:

253 Thomas Bilby
254 John Dyer

1, 2, 3 The Steps

?From 1819

From 1821 in the Land Tax, one of Robert (Senior)'s cottages was being held by Charles Ottaway. In the 1839 Apportionment, the three cottages known today as 'The Steps' were in Robert (Senior)'s ownership including one inhabited by an Ottaway:

250 (today's No 1 The Steps) Charles Ottaway
251 (today's No 2) John Danty [Dainty]
252 (today's No 3) William Chandler

Land

From 1817

In 1817 Robert (Senior) is shown both owning and occupying for the first time a piece of land the rentable value of which was £1. It is really not clear where this parcel of land had emerged from. There appears to be no earlier record of it being owned by anyone else. One possibility, although lacking in conviction, is that Robert (Senior) had split it off from the house and garden he had been renting since 1810. The rent for that had been £3 up to 1813, but in that year it dropped to £2 10s.

In 1819 he rented the piece of land out to Francis Tyrrell, who kept it until 1824. Francis's story is an interesting one, related in *Bulletin 15: The Tyrrell of Tyrrells?* From 1795 to 1816 Francis rented a cottage from a Mr James Hubbard and subsequently a Mr Duglass. In 1817 he managed to purchase the property, and from that year until around 1841 he managed to hang onto it. All indications point to this being the house at Effingham Common still known as Tyrrells. However the family was unable to hang on to it: by the 1839 Tithe Award it was in other hands and worryingly, in August 1841 a Francis Tyrrell of his age was tried for larceny in the Surrey Crown Court, but found not guilty.

Whether the small piece of land Robert (Senior) had rented to Francis was already back in his own hands in 1825 is not quite clear from how the record was written, but in 1826 Robert (Senior) rented it to Sir Thomas Hussey Apreece. At that stage Apreece was just another Effingham resident occupying today's Grove House; he was not yet lord of the manor of Effingham. By 1827 Apreece had bought the plot from him.

Slaters Oak

From 1821

In 1821 Robert (Senior) is first shown renting to John Martin a 'house and land' for £3 10s.

Slaters Oak is an ancient property, known records of which date back to at least 1678 and it is thought to have been Elizabethan in origin. It was part of the manor of Effingham East Court. In 1777 it was rented to James Burgess (I), 'husbandman', in other words someone who bred animals rather than a farmer of arable land. He may also have made bricks. James would have been Robert (Senior)'s immediate neighbour when the latter took on Lower Farm and Banks in 1789, and they would have known each other

for many years. Robert (Senior) would have been aware of the unfolding tragedy over the inheritance of Slaters Oak.

James (I) had married his wife Elizabeth in 1761. In 1764 they had a son, James (II). James (II) married, also to an Elizabeth; they had a son John and a daughter Sarah. Unfortunately James (II) died in 1807, followed in January 1810 by his son, John. This meant that the male line of the Burgesses had failed. In October 1810 James (I) wrote his Will. His sole executrix was his eldest surviving daughter Ann (born 1767; in 1791 she had married a Chertsey carter, John Martin). His instruction to Ann was to sell the property for the benefit of all his surviving children: Ann herself, her sisters Mary and Sarah, and also Sarah his granddaughter.

James (I) died in 1819. In the 1820 Land Tax the property is still recorded as being his, presumably while the estate was sorted out. By 1821 it had been sold – and purchased by Robert (Senior). However it was ‘occupied’ by John Martin, presumably Ann’s husband. Ann herself would have been about 60 at that time. The implication is that Robert (Senior) made it possible for Ann Martin née Burgess to stay in her family home. The Effingham East Court manor roll recorded Robert (Senior)’s new position vis-à-vis the property in 1821, when Ann as executrix surrendered it to him – but as we have seen, at the same time he became her landlord.

It is not currently known what subsequently happened to the Burgess/Martin family. An Ann Martin aged 77 and living at Cobham Tilt – presumably the almshouses – was buried at St Andrews, Cobham, in 1839; this may have been her. An elderly John Martin had been buried at Worplesdon in 1833 and another at Mitcham, either of which might have been her husband, and if so, the reason for Ann as a widow to have to vacate the property. An unresolved part of this family history is the presence in Effingham of a John Martin, bachelor, who married spinster Rebecca Dowdy in Effingham in April 1833.

In 1834 it seems Robert (Senior) wished to divest himself of the property. Possibly this resulted from the death of John, and Ann Martin’s departure from the property. Conceivably there was no further need for Fish to take an interest in it. The fact of the transfer had to be recorded by the manorial court. We are told by Monica Mercy O’Connor [*The History of Effingham in Surrey*, 1973] that Robert (Senior) transferred it to Thomas Tilley ‘of Effingham Lower Common, horse-dealer’ for £395.

Robert (Senior)’s second marriage was to an Elizabeth Martin, but from what can be discerned at the moment there is no connection with these Effingham Martins.

Houses on The Street

?Date of acquisition by Robert (Senior)

As described above, the 1842 Tithe Map shows Robert (Senior) owning a run of houses going southwards down the west side of The Street. Frustratingly it seems that these must have joined his portfolio after 1831 and hence after the end of the Land Tax records available to us. The consequence is that unfortunately little can be deduced about them – except that effectively, he owned a very large section of The Street.

This however gives rise to an interesting question about the age of those particular houses, and whether he demolished older buildings to rebuild, or built some new houses for the first time. Experts who have dated the buildings on the basis of their appearance and construction have not produced any very definitive decisions:

- Vine Cottage has been dated as both mid 18th century and late 18th century.
- Percival Cottage (formerly Owlscot) and Rose Cottage have both been dated as early to mid-19th century.
- The Coachhouse has been dated as ‘c.1840’.

In the same vein, we might also wonder whether he had a hand in building or re-building elsewhere. For instance:

- Today’s Nos 3 and 4 Church Cottages have been dated to late 18th century.
- The Steps have been dated to mid-19th century.

If so, it would make the impact of his presence in Effingham even bigger than his just owning a variety of properties.

*Houses in Send and Ripley**?Date of acquisition by Robert (Senior)*

The Tithe Apportionment documents for Send and Ripley reveal that Robert (Senior) was also holding land in that parish. He is named as the owner of seven properties as listed here by the property number and grouped to aid meaning:

97	House and garden occupied by Mrs Salmon
1081	Garden occupied by George Woods
1083	House and garden occupied by George Woods
1082	'Knight'
1090	House and garden occupied by Knight
1089	Meadow
1094	Paddock occupied by Daws.

The last named, Robert Daws, was also a significant landholder in Send and Ripley. This name is listed in connection with 157 properties. Robert Daws was also the son-in-law of Robert (Senior), married to the latter's daughter Sarah in 1812. On the marriage certificate Daws was listed as a farmer and brick burner, and the Tithe Apportionment shows some of his Ripley properties grouped around 'Brick Kiln Cottage'. This was just located south of today's Portsmouth Road, very close to the Jovial Sailor public house – the major road between Portsmouth and London before the current section of the A3 was built to bypass central Ripley. More details of the family of Sarah and Robert are given in the section on Robert (Senior)'s death and his Will, below.



Figure 10 Robert (Senior)'s and Robert Daws' properties on the 1843 Tithe Map for Send and Ripley.

There remains a slight conundrum about the listing of 'Robert Daws' in the tithe documentation. The National Archives entry gives the date of the Tithe map as 1843, and the final apportionment was 'confirmed' on 8 June 1844. Robert Daws had however been buried on 4 November 1836, and Sarah was buried on 19 March 1841 – in other words, both were dead before the tithe award was completed. Further understanding of this may in due course come to light.

Another property in Send was purchased by Robert (Senior) in October 1840. Details of the transaction are contained in documents held at the Surrey History Centre [SHC Ref: 1826/1]. They consist chiefly of two indentures. One of these, dated 8 October 1840, is a deed of sale involving four parties: William Atkins, a gentleman of Send, and his wife Mercy; James Moore Wilkins, a bargemaster of

Guildford; George Coleman, a yeoman of Effingham; and Robert (Senior). By this deed Atkins sold a 'messuage, land and hereditaments' in Send to Robert (Senior) for £400, of which £200 was payable directly to Atkins and £200 payable directly to Wilkins. The latter payment was made in order to satisfy early termination conditions for a lease on the property that Atkins had granted to Wilkins 'on or about' 26 October 1839. The deed also required Mercy Atkins to relinquish her interest (through dower rights) in the property. Further, it established that after the sale Atkins and Coleman would have usage of some parts of the property. The other indenture, dated 7 October 1840, was an agreement that after the next day's sale, Robert (Senior) would lease some part of the property to Atkins for a term of one year. This indenture describes the location of that part by reference to the plot numbers and owner/occupiers of adjoining or nearby parcels of land as recorded by the Tithe Commissioners. These plot numbers (389, 391, 1026 and 1027) are disjoint from those recorded as belonging to Robert (Senior) in the Send and Ripley Tithe Apportionment. As noted earlier, this Apportionment had been formally confirmed on 8 June 1844, about 9 months *after* the death of Robert (Senior). That he (as opposed to his executors/trustees) is shown as still owning properties in 1844 suggests that notice of his death had not reached those engaged in finalising the Apportionment. However this may be, the fact that the property he had purchased on 8 October 1840 is not included with the others in the Apportionment perhaps indicates that he had already sold it before his death.

Robert (Senior)'s second marriage

In April 1796 seemingly Robert (Senior)'s only son William died aged nearly 13. Then in 1798 his wife Elizabeth died; she was buried at St Nicolas, Great Bookham on 19 June. He was left with motherless girls Sarah and Elizabeth aged 12 and 9 assuming Ann had not survived. He would remain a widower, without a direct male heir, for nearly thirty years although in 1813 and 1821 after her marriage his daughter Sarah gave birth to surviving sons and for some time these were effectively his 'heirs apparent'. However, on 11 July 1827 he remarried at Christ Church, Southwark to a young spinster Elizabeth Martin which must have impacted on Sarah's hopes for her sons, and we may wonder what prompted him to do so. The register describes him as 'of Effingham in this County Widower' and her as 'of this [ie Southwark] Parish Spinster'.

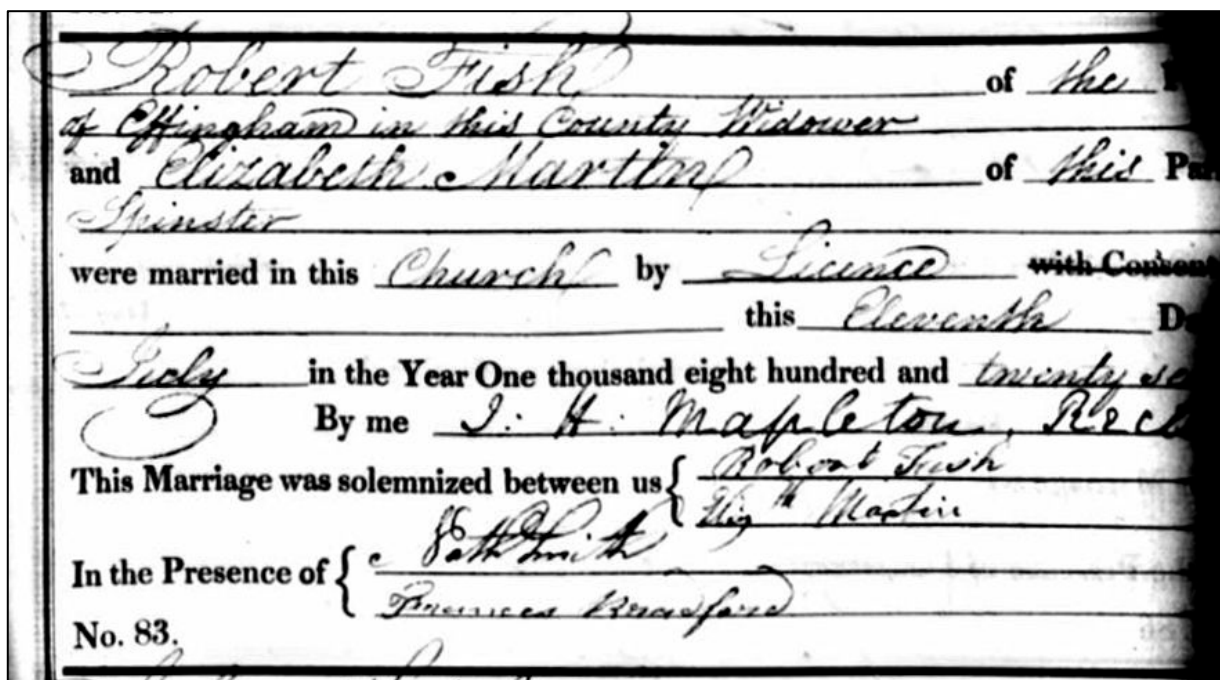


Figure 11 Robert (Senior)'s marriage to Elizabeth Martin in 1827.

Elizabeth Martin was a West Country woman, one of the many children born to Solomon Martin and his wife Elizabeth (née) Salter. These two had married at St Petroc, Bodmin in Cornwall on 3 April 1791, the register describing both as 'of this parish'; the witnesses were Ann Clemence and Mary Salter [<https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database>].

Solomon and Elizabeth had several children baptised at St Petroc:

Jenepher	on 12 August 1792
Edward Salter *	on 18 August 1793 (died 10 January 1799)
John	on 11 March 1795
Elizabeth	on 12 March 1797 (who would marry Robert Fish (Senior) in 1827)
Edward *	on 17 July 1803 (died 27 January 1806)

and at least two others baptised in Devon:

Sally *	on 31 May 1801? at Totnes (died 12 May 1801?)
Mary Ann *	on 31 May 1801 at Totnes also (died 28 April 1816)
Richard Raymond *	on 17 March 1805 at St Andrew, Plymouth (died 2 April 1830)

Solomon died in 1830 and was buried at St Petroc. His gravestone, now moved to a position beside the churchyard wall, is still in fine condition and bears this inscription, which includes the names of the five deceased children marked * above:

Sacred to the memory of Solomon Martin late of this Borough who died on the 18th day of October 1830 in the 77th year of his age. Also of five of his children, viz Edward Salter Martin, who departed this life on the 10th day of January 1799, aged 5 years and 6 months. Sally Martin, who died on the 12th day of May 1801, aged 14 months. Edward Martin, who died on the 27th day of January 1806, aged 2 years and eight months. Mary Ann Martin, who exchanged this transitory life for immortality on the 28th day of April 1816, aged 16 years and 10 months and Richard Raymond Martin, who departed this life on the 2nd day of April 1830, aged 25 years.



Figure 12 Solomon Martin's gravestone in St Petroc churchyard.

There is a question mark over the daughter Sally whose baptism date is recorded in both *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch* as 31 May 1801, identical to that for her sister Mary Ann. But this date is later than her date of death as recorded (very clearly) on Solomon's gravestone. It may be that the latter was in error and that Sally died in 1802 rather than 1801.

We do not know why Solomon's daughter Elizabeth was in Southwark at the time she married Robert (Senior). Perhaps she had travelled from the West Country to the London area to take up an employed position. When they married she would have been aged about 30 and he about 73. He may have thought that were he to marry in full glare of Effingham's residents at St Lawrence church there would have been too much muttering about the huge age gap. Still, he had married his first wife in Southwark too.

Despite his age Robert (Senior) was clearly still in full manly working order since not long after marrying he and Elizabeth produced two children, baptised at St Lawrence as follows:

Mary Anne on 7 June 1829
Robert (Junior) on 22 May 1831

The 1841 Census finds Robert (Senior) and Elizabeth living in Effingham together with their daughter Mary Anne. Their son Robert (Junior) was meanwhile in Leatherhead residing with two other boys of school age at Willow Cottage, Kingston Road in the household of a young married schoolmaster Emanuel Marter; perhaps his parents had decided that this was the best place in the local area to have him educated. The census schedule does not identify where Robert (Senior) was living nor even assist attempts to infer it, but it may have been in The Street where he shown as residing in the Tithe Apportionment schedule for Effingham drawn up two years earlier. The occupation field of his census entry reads simply 'Ind' (having independent means of living).

Robert (Senior)'s death

He signed his Will (see Appendix II) on 29 September 1843 and died a little over seven months later, aged 90, on 30 April 1844. His death certificate [GRO Ref: Dorking 4 82, 1844 (Q2)] gives his occupation as 'Gentleman' and the cause of death as 'Decay of Nature'; the informant was his wife Elizabeth, present at the death.

He was buried at St Lawrence on 8 May 1844, as noted in the Obituary section of the June 1844 volume of *The Gentleman's Magazine*:

April 30. At Effingham, aged 90, Robert Fish, esq. He was borne to his last resting place by his tenantry.

His large flat gravestone, larger than most of the others, survives in the churchyard to this day:

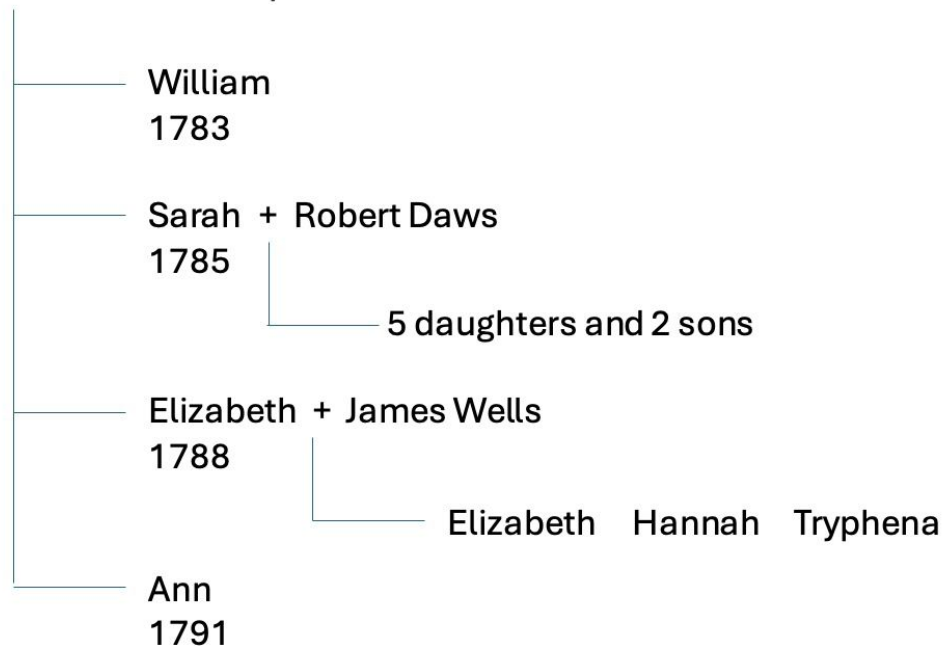
Figure 13 Robert (Senior)'s obituary.



Figure 14 Robert (Senior)'s grave at St Lawrence.

The Will of 1843 was not substantially different for that made earlier in April 1841. The latter (to which George Coleman was a witness) had had a Codicil added in 30 June 1841 altering the bequest to his wife and also appointing his friend William Tucker as joint Executor with Elizabeth. The final Will, having no Codicil, assimilated these earlier changes as well as slightly adjusting arrangements for his grandchildren. Its provisions were straightforward, albeit raising a few questions, but to understand them properly requires some account of his progeny, in particular of his known daughters from his first marriage, Sarah, Elizabeth and Ann. Figure 15 presents a simplified family tree intended to clarify the discussion that follows.

Robert (Senior) + Elizabeth Kemp



Robert (Senior) + Elizabeth Martin

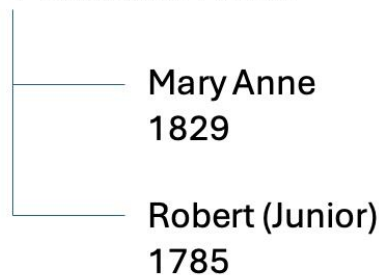


Figure 15 Robert (Senior)'s children and grandchildren by his two marriages.

Of Ann we can discover nothing other than her baptism; she is not mentioned in the Will.

Sarah married in Effingham at St Lawrence on 24 July 1812 to Robert Daws, a resident of Ripley-and-Send parish. He was a farmer and brick burner, the latter detail consistent with his abode being given as Brick Kiln Cottage in Ripley-and-Send when some of his children were baptised. The witnesses were Robert and Elizabeth Fish, possibly Sarah's father and her still-unmarried sister.

Sarah and Robert Daws produced at least seven children, their births at Brick Kiln House, Ripley all certified as non-conformist [*Ancestry*: Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1936]:

Robert (Junior)	on 13 July 1813
Mary	on 31 December 1814
Sarah	on 10 October 1816
Elizabeth	on 23 September 1819
William	on 15 June 1821

Jane on 30 March 1823
Ann on 18 July 1827 (born 3 September 1826)

By the time Robert (Senior)'s Will was drawn up in 1843 his above seven grandchildren had become orphans: their father Robert Daws had died aged '51' at Send and been buried there on 4 November 1836, and their mother Sarah had died aged '55' at Send and been buried there on 19 March 1841. Robert Daws' Will had been made on 15 October 1836, only about three weeks before his burial. Although a long drawn-out document, its essence was to leave everything to Sarah unless she predeceased him in which case various provisions would come into effect for their children. In the event Sarah outlived him by less than five years. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: Guildford Union 4 136, 1841 (Q1)] states that she died aged '55' on 20 March 1841 from 'diseased liver'; the informant was Jane Hamilton, present at the death.

Robert (Senior)'s Will begins by bequeathing £1,500 to be shared equally by his above five grand-daughters (in other words £300 apiece) and £500 of 3% consolidated bank annuities to his above grandson Robert (Junior) Daws. The 1841 census lists Robert (Junior) Daws as aged '25', a farmer, at the 'kilns'. Nothing was left to the other grandson, William, who was still alive and in 1851 was living in Greenwich, married, and a member of the Metropolitan Police. This bequest of £1,500 was to be 'charged to' (ie paid from) a debt of £1,600 owed to Robert (Senior) and that had evidently been secured by his deceased daughter Sarah for the benefit of her unmarried daughters.

The Will continues by leaving £600 of 3% consolidated bank annuities to his Executors on trust to be shared equally between two further grand-daughters born to his daughter Elizabeth (deceased). As noted earlier, this daughter Elizabeth by his first wife had been baptised at Great Bookham on 2 November 1788. She married at Wotton to James Wells, a yeoman of Potnalls (an ancient manor in Virginia Water), on 21 October 1817. They produced at least three children, all baptized at the West Street Independent Chapel in Dorking:

Elizabeth on 25 June 1820
Hannah on 12 May 1824
Tryphena on 12 April 1825 (buried at Wotton on 26 July 1825)

The first two of these – Elizabeth and Hannah – were the two further grand-daughters to whom the £600 annuities had been left in trust. Their mother Elizabeth had already died by the time Robert (Senior) made his Will. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: Dorking 4 63, 1838 (Q2)] states that she died aged '49' in Dorking on 11 May 1838, the cause being 'inflammation' [sic]; the informant was her husband James Wells. The 1841 Census finds the two girls Elizabeth and Hannah living with James in South Street, Dorking and occupied as dressmakers. Robert (Senior) further left to them the £100 remaining from the above-mentioned debt of £1,600 owed to him.

Other than these various provisions for, altogether, eight grand-children, the Will left all his remaining estate to his wife Elizabeth; this would have included many properties. It left nothing to his son William baptised in 1783 but William may have died in 1796. It also left nothing to his two youngest children Mary Anne and Robert (Junior) aged about 14 and 12 respectively at the time of the Will; he may have felt that their financial welfare would be assured by the significant assets he had left to his wife (their mother). Alternatively, a marriage settlement drawn up before he and Elizabeth married may have covered the position of future children.

Elizabeth (née Martin)'s second marriage

After Robert (Senior)'s death in 1844 his widow Elizabeth evidently remained in Effingham until at least the spring of 1847, as on 6 April that year she remarried at St Lawrence church to a widowed farmer John Johnson. Their marriage certificate [GRO Ref: Dorking 4 103, 1847 (Q2)] gives their abode as Effingham and names John's father as George Johnson, also a farmer.

The background of John Johnson remained a puzzle for ELHG for many years, particularly because he did not appear with Elizabeth in her subsequent census returns, which describe her as married rather than widowed, suggesting that they may have separated; and because he did not appear in those returns there appeared to be no way of ascertaining his birth details.

However, it now seems that the puzzle may have a plausible solution, derived from recent consideration of one of the witnesses to Elizabeth's and John's marriage. There were three witnesses: the Fish family's 'good friend' William Tucker, John Martin and – in particular – William Topham Martin.

William Topham Martin had been baptised at Nunburnholme, Yorkshire on 30 July 1818 to parents Henry Martin (a farmer) and Elizabeth (née Brigham) who had married by banns at Nunburnholme

(her parish) on 17 November 1817; their entry in the marriage register describes Henry as a farmer's son of Middleton on the Wolds (about ten miles from Nunburnholme) and her as a farmer's daughter, recording also that they had married with the consent of their parents. The 1841 Census finds William Topham at rounded age '20' living at Middleton as head of household together with his mother Elizabeth at rounded age '45' – presumed widowed – and seven of his siblings; he was occupied as a farmer. On 17 May 1842 he married at Kingston upon Hull, about 14 miles south-west of Middleton, to Anne (née) Johnson [GRO Ref: Kingston on Hull 22 235, 1842 (Q2)]. She had been baptised at St Mary and St Nicholas in Beverley, about half-way between Middleton and Kingston upon Hull, on 4 February 1814, being one of the children of George Johnson and Ruth (née Slater) who had married in that same church on 8 October 1804. The significance of all this is that Anne had an older brother John baptised there on 4 February 1809 and it seems reasonable to infer that it was he who married Robert Fish's widow Elizabeth in 1847. If so, when William Topham witnessed that latter marriage he did so as the groom's brother-in-law.

As noted above, John Johnson had been a widower when he married Elizabeth. He had first married Elizabeth (née) Stephenson on 12 June 1833 at Lund near Beverley; she had been baptised at Lund on 2 April 1809. The 1841 Census evidently finds John at rounded age '30' as a farmer in the household of his parents, together with several of his siblings, at Kilnwick, about 2 miles from Lund; he may have been just visiting his parents for the census night as was a common practice. Meanwhile his wife may have been the Elizabeth Johnson with rounded age '25' living in Lund with a child Joseph Johnson aged '2'. Five years later she died. Her death certificate [GRO Ref: Beverley 23 2 1846 (Q3)] describes her as 'wife of John Johnson farmer' and states that she died at St Mary, Beverley on 11 July 1846 aged '37' (but probably rather older), giving the cause as consumption. The informant was not her husband John but instead a farmer of Lund named Thomas Moate, 'in attendance, Beverley'. John's apparent absence at this time might suggest that he had separated from her. She was buried at All Saints, Lund and her name inscribed on the headstone of her sister Mary which survives in excellent condition to this day. We do not know what became of the child Joseph.

Elizabeth (née Martin)'s last years

By the time of the 1851 Census Robert (Senior)'s remarried widow Elizabeth (née Martin) Johnson was no longer in Effingham. Instead she was living at 10, Grove Terrace, Marylebone with her son Robert (Junior) Fish, now a medical student. Her census entry describes her as an annuitant and lodging-house keeper, aged 52 and married with birthplace Bodmin, Cornwall.

In March 1856 a large amount of furniture and other items at Rose Cottage (at that time called Rose Villa) in The Street, Effingham, was put up for auction on the premises at the instruction of Robert (Junior), with a view to it then being 'let with immediate possession' [*The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette etc.*, 18 March 1856]. The house was one of several in that part of The Street that Elizabeth had inherited from Robert (Senior). She may have been retaining it as a country residence while living primarily in London and perhaps now no longer felt the need to use it.

The 1861 Census again finds her in London with Robert (Junior) – now a qualified surgeon – at 'Effingham House' in Marquess (or 'Marquis') Road, Islington. She was here described as a visitor and fundholder, aged 64 and married with birthplace Bodmin, Cornwall.

It is not known what had become of her husband John Johnson. There is no clear candidate for him in any of the censuses after 1841, nor any clear candidate for his eventual death.

During 1868 Robert (Junior), on her behalf, sold off all her property, not without considerable difficulty and compromise. In November of that year he, his wife and children together with Elizabeth departed from England, setting sail for New Zealand where they arrived in February 1869. They soon settled in the town of Geraldine, Elizabeth retaining her Johnson surname. She seems not to have survived long after this major change in her circumstances, as she evidently died in Geraldine in the last quarter of 1871 aged about 74.

There remain several matters concerning Elizabeth's family that remain unresolved and are discussed in Appendix III.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1-4, 11, 16: from *Ancestry*

Figures 5, 7-10: courtesy of the Surrey History Centre

Figure 6: National Library of Scotland, Ordnance Survey Maps

Figure 12: from findagrave.com

Figure 13: from babel.hathitrust.org

Figures 14, 15: supplied by Christopher John Hogger

Figure 17: from www.gov.uk/search-will-probate

APPENDIX I

Will of Joseph Fish made on 5 December 1778

In the name of God Amen I Joseph Fish of the Parish of
Great Bookham in the County of Surrey ^{Town} do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and
form following that is to say I give and Bequeath unto my Loving Wife Jane All my
Goods Chattels and personal Estate of what Nature or kind soever the same now is or shall be at
at the time of my Decease To hold unto my said Wife Jane for and during the term
of her Natural Life in manner and form following That is to say it is my Will
and desire that my said Wife shall continue and Occupy the Farm I now live in for and
During the Term of her Natural Life and I recommend my son Robert to live with and
Assist his Mother at the Yearly Wages of Ten Pounds a year but in Case my said Wife
shall rather chuse to Acquit and leave the Farming Business then and in that case and from
that time I give and Bequeath unto my Son Robert Fish All my Goods Chattels
Stock on the Farm and all my personal Estate unto my said Son Robert forever but subject
to the following payments out of my personal Estate unto my said Wife Jane the sum of Ten
Pounds yearly and every year for and during the Term of her Natural Life by two Equal half
yearly payments And from and after her decease I Will and direct my said Son Robert
to pay out of the said Stock and personal Estate unto my Son Joseph Fish my Daughters
Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Ann, and Hannah, the sum of Five Pounds a piece of lawful money
to each Child within Twelve Months after my said Wifes decease and I do hereby constitute
and appoint my said wife Jane wholly sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby
revokes make void and declare as former and other Wills by me at any time heretofore made
and do declare this to be my last Will In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand
& Seal this 5th Day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and
Seventy Eight

Joseph Fish

Sign'd Seal'd publish'd and declared
by the said Joseph Fish as and for his
last Will and Testament in presence of
us who have hereunto subscribed our
names as witnesses at witness
our hands

Henry Cawton Junr
Henry Cawton Senr

Figure 16 Will of Joseph Fish, 1778.

*Will of Joseph Fish made on 5 December 1778 – Transcript***In the name of God Amen**

I Joseph Fish of the Parish of Great Bookham in the County of Surrey Farmer do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following

that is to say I give and Bequeath unto my Loving Wife Jane All my Goods, Chattels and personal Estate of what Nature or kind soever the same now is or shall be at the time of my Decease

To hold unto my said wife Jane for and during the Term of her Natural Life in manner and form following

that is to say it is my Will and desire that my said Wife shall continue and occupy the Farm I now live in for and During the Term of her Natural Life and I recommend my son Robert to live with and Assist his Mother at the Yearly Wages of Ten pounds a Year

but in Case my said Wife shall rather chuse [sic] to Acquit and leave the Farming Business then and in that case and from that time I give and Bequeath unto my son Robert Fish All my Goods, Chattels Stock on the Farm and all my personal Estate unto my son Robert for ever but subject to the following payments out of my personal Estate

unto my said Wife Jane the sum of Ten Pounds yearly and every year for and during the Term of her Natural Life by two equal half yearly payments

And from and after her decease I will and direct my said son Robert to pay out of the said Stock and personal Estate unto my son Joseph Fish my Daughters Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, Ann and Hannah the sum of Five pounds apiece of lawful money to Each Child within Twelve Months next and after my said Wife's decease

and I do hereby Constitute and appoint my said Wife Jane whole & sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby revoke make void and disanul all former and other Wills by me at any time heretofore made

and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this Fifth Day of December in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight

Joseph Fish

Signed Sealed Publishd and declared
by the said Joseph Fish as and for his
last Will and Testament in presence of
us who have hereunto subscribed our
names hereto as Witnesses as Witness our Hand

Henry Crawter Junr
Henry Crawter Elder

APPENDIX II

Will of Robert (Senior) Fish made on 29 September 1843

217
378

Robert
Fish
10

This is the last Will and Testament

of me *Robert Fish* of Effingham in the County of Surrey Gentleman a
first I direct all my debts funeral expenses and testamentary charges to be
paid as soon as conveniently can be after my decease I give and bequeath
unto my five granddaughters namely Sarah Elizabeth Anne and Ann (the
daughters of my late daughter Sarah Daw) and Mary now deceased the
principal sum of one thousand five hundred pounds sterling part of a
sum of one thousand six hundred pounds due to me or any and secured by
the bond of my said late daughter to hold the said principal sum of
one thousand five hundred pounds to my said five granddaughters in a
equal shares as tenants in common and to their respective executors ad-
ministrators and assigns but so not bequeath to them the remaining
principal nor the interest which may be due on the said bond at the ex-
piry of my decease also I give and bequeath unto my grandson Robert
Daw son of my said late daughter Sarah Daw the sum of five hun-
dred pounds per cent consolidated about annuities to
be paid or transferred to him by my executor and executor hereinafter
named within twelve calendar months next after my decease for his
own absolute use and nevertheless I hereby charge the said sum of five
hundred pounds with the payment of any sum or sums of money
which may be due and owing to me from the said Robert Daw at the
time of my decease and I direct my executor and executor hereinafter
named to retain and apply the same accordingly and I bequeath unto a
my dear wife Elizabeth first and my good friend William Turner of Lee-
wood in the Parish of St. Botolph's Church in the County of Essex
my said executor administrators and assigns the sum of six hundred
pounds per cent consolidated about annuities upon the said
consolidated debt is to pay upon trust that the my said wife and the said
William Turner and the survivor of them or the executor administrators
or assigns of them survivor do and shall stand possessed of and interest
in the said trust money and the other funds and securities in or upon
which the same shall be invested and the dividends interest and annual
produce thereof upon the trusts following (that is to say) viz to one or
more or equal shall part thereof due first for my granddaughters
Elizabeth Wells daughter of my late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased
her executors administrators and assigns absolutely and as to the other
money or equal shall part of the said trust money stock funds and se-
curities and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof viz first
for my granddaughter Hannah Wells another daughter of my said
late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased her executors administrators and
assigns absolutely and I bequeath to the said Elizabeth Wells and to
her assigns the principal sum of one hundred pounds the residue of
the said sum of one thousand six hundred pounds secured as aforesaid
and by the bond of my said late daughter Sarah Daw deceased to hold
to the said Elizabeth Wells and Hannah Wells absolutely as tenants
in common and not as joint tenants provided always and I direct that it
shall be lawful for my said wife and the said William Turner their ex-
ecutors administrators or assigns out of the said trust money and pro-
duce to reimburse themselves respectively all their expenses as they or
either of them shall be put unto in the execution of the trusts of this my
will and that each of them shall not be answerable or accountable for any ex-
traneous or involuntary losses which may happen to my said trust money and pro-
duce and I give devise and bequeath unto my said wife Elizabeth all
and every my real and personal estate hereditaments and real estate
whatsoever and whatsoever (including copyholds) and also all the
Rest Residue and Remainder of my goods chattels rights debts money
securities for money personal estate and effects whatsoever and where-
soever to hold the same according to the value and usage thereof respec-
tively unto my said wife Elizabeth her executors administrators and
assigns for her and their own absolute use and appoint my said wife
and the said William Turner her executor and executor of this my will
trust and testament to pay the said sum of six hundred pounds on the
first day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty three - *Robt Fish* - signed
ordained and acknowledged by the said Robert Fish the testator as and
for his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the
same time and who in his presence at his request and in the presence
of each other have signed subscribed our names as witnesses attesting
the same - *By Marshall Goddard Esq. J. C. Clerk* - *Marle Smallpiece Esq. J. C. Clerk*

Dropped at London 17th May 1844 before the respectable James
Robert Pease Esq. of Law and Esquire by the Oaths of Elizabeth
first widow the testator and William Turner the executor to William Edmon-
dson granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

Figure 17 Final Will of Robert (Senior) Fish, 1843.

*Will of Robert (Senior) Fish made on 29 September 1843 – Transcript***This is the last Will and Testament**

of me Robert Fish of Effingham in the County of Surrey Gentleman

First I direct all my debts funeral expenses and testamentary charges to be paid as soon as conveniently can be after my decease

I give and bequeath unto my five granddaughters Mary Sarah Elizabeth Jane and Ann (the daughters of my late daughter Sarah Daws widow now deceased) the principal sum of one thousand five hundred pounds sterling part of a sum of one thousand six hundred pounds due to me on and secured by the Bond of my said late daughter to hold the said principal sum of one thousand five hundred pounds to my said five granddaughters in equal shares as tenants in common and to their respective executors administrators and assigns but I do not bequeath to them the remaining principal sum nor the interest which may be due on the said Bond at the time of my decease

also I give and bequeath unto my grandson Robert Daws son of my said late daughter Sarah Daws the sum of five hundred pounds three pounds per cent [sic – three per cent] consolidated Bank annuities to be paid or transferred to him by my executrix and executor hereinafter named within twelve calendar months next after my decease for his own absolute use

But nevertheless I hereby charge the said legacy of five hundred pounds stock with the payment of any sum or sums of money which may be due and owing to me from the said Robert Daws at the time of my decease and I direct my executrix and executor hereinafter named to retain and apply the same accordingly

And I bequeath unto my dear wife Elizabeth Fish and my good friend William Tucker of Loxwood in the Parish of Wisborough Green in the County of Sussex Gentleman their executors administrators and assigns the sum of six hundred pounds three per cent consolidated Bank annuities upon the trusts following that is to say upon trust that she my said wife and the said William Tucker and the survivor of them or the executors administrators or assigns of such survivor do and shall stand possessed of and interested in the said trust money and the stocks funds and securities in or upon which the same shall be invested and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof upon the trusts following (that is to say) as to one moiety or equal half part of the said trust money stocks funds and securities and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof In trust for my granddaughter Elizabeth Wells (daughter of my late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased) her executors administrators and assigns absolutely

And as to the other moiety or equal half part of the said trust money stocks funds and securities and the dividends interest and annual produce thereof In trust for my granddaughter Hannah Wells (another daughter of my said late daughter Elizabeth Wells deceased) her executors administrators and assigns absolutely

and I bequeath to the said Elizabeth Wells and Hannah Wells the principal sum of one hundred pounds the residue of the said sum of one thousand six hundred pounds secured as aforesaid by the Bond [noted] of my said late daughter Sarah Daws deceased to hold to the said Elizabeth Wells and Hannah Wells absolutely as tenants in common and not as joint tenants provided always and I direct that it shall be lawful for my said wife and the said William Tucker their executors administrators or assigns out of the said trust moneys and premises to reimburse themselves respectively all such expenses as they or either of them shall be put unto in execution of the trusts of this my will and that they shall not be answerable or accountable for any involuntary losses which may happen to my said trust moneys and premises

and I devise and bequeath unto my said wife Elizabeth All and every my messuages lands tenements hereditaments and real estate whatsoever and wheresoever (including copyholds)

And also all the Rest Residue and Remainder of my goods chattels rights credits moneys securities for money personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever to hold the same according to the nature and tenure therefore respectively unto my said wife Elizabeth her heirs executors administrators and assigns for her and their own absolute use

And I appoint my said wife and the said William Tucker Executrix and Executor of this my will as witness whereof I the said Robert Fish the testator have to this my last will and testament set my hand this twenty ninth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty three

Robt Fish ... Signed ...

declared and acknowledged by the said Robert Fish the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time and who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses attesting the same

Hy Marshall Godalming Surrey Solr. [Solicitor]
Mark Smallpeice [sic] Dorking Surrey Solr.

Proved at London 17th May 1844 before the worshipful James Parker Deane Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the Oaths of Elizabeth Fish widow the relict and William Tucker the Executors to whom Admon [Administration] was granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

APPENDIX III

Unresolved matters

Elizabeth Martin and William Topham Martin

We showed earlier that the witnessing by William of Elizabeth's marriage in 1847 to John Johnson could be explained by William apparently being John's brother-in-law. However, was William also related to Elizabeth, given their common surname Martin?

William's father Henry had been baptised at Middleton on the Wolds on 16 September 1781 to parents William (Senior) and Ann (née Walkington) who had married there on 24 September 1775. We might surmise that William (Senior) had been born around the 1750s but we cannot confidently identify a baptism for him in Yorkshire in that period.

Elizabeth's father Solomon had, according to his gravestone, been born in about 1753. The only candidate we can find for his baptism in Cornwall in that period is a 'Sollaman Marten' baptised at St Stithians (and, from other evidence, born about 7 miles from there at Wendron) on 13 June 1754 to parents Tobias and Jane; the origins of Tobias are unknown to us.

So William Topham had at least two earlier generations of Martins behind him in Yorkshire whilst Elizabeth had at least one, and probably two, earlier generations of Martins behind her in Cornwall. There does not seem to be much prospect of relating them in a close manner and it may be that their sharing of the Martin surname was entirely coincidental.

Elizabeth Martin and John Johnson

Despite repeated efforts over the years we have been unable to discover what became of the marriage of these two after 1847. Had they separated or had his absences from her in the 1851 and 1861 Censuses been merely temporary?

The 1851 Census finds a John Johnson aged '39' with birthplace Beverley visiting a widowed farmer Hester Pearl (farming 160 acres with 4 employed labourers) at Helwell Farm (now a Grade II listed farmhouse) in Kenton, Devon and described as a 'Gentleman' and unmarried. The 1861 Census finds a John Johnson aged '46' with birthplace Beverley lodging with the family of an agricultural labourer Charles Tarrant in Micheldever, Hampshire and described as a farm bailiff and widowed; Micheldever is just 7 miles from Overton where William Topham Martin was farming in the 1850s until his emigration in 1857 to Canada (where he died almost immediately after disembarking). Whether either of these two Johnsons was Elizabeth's separated husband we cannot say. The 1871 Census seems to offer no John Johnson born at Beverley in the right period.

When Elizabeth with Robert (Junior) and his wife and children arrived in New Zealand, there was no Mr Johnson accompanying them, according to the list of arrivals. If he were still living, she had apparently left him behind.

Another John Johnson from Yorkshire in Effingham

During our research into Elizabeth's husband a significant curiosity emerged. The 1851 Census finds a John Johnson, a farmer born in Yorkshire in about 1810, residing at Effingham Hill Farm. The schedule describes him as aged '41' with birthplace Ryehill in Yorkshire, married and with six children and four servants. He was farming 150 acres and employing two 'indoors labourers'. His youngest two children Sarah and John were baptised at St Lawrence on 31 March 1848 and 29 March 1850, respectively, the register naming their mother as Hannah. Also at St Lawrence on 29 March 1850 a child Eliza Johnson was baptised having parents Henry – a farmer living on Effingham Common – and Ann.

This John Johnson of Effingham Hill seems to have been baptised on 28 March 1810 at Skeckling with Burstwick, about one mile from Ryehill, his father named in the register as Timothy Johnson. Timothy, baptised on 22 July 1781 at Pontefract to parents Thomas and Mary, had married on 10 June 1802 at Cherry Burton, Yorkshire to Mary Coxworth.

John had married in Yorkshire in 1841 to Hannah (née) Goundrill [GRO Ref: Patrington 23 129, 1841 (Q4)]. At the time of the 1841 Census both had been living in Ryehill. Their marriage seems not to have lasted, as by the time of the 1861 Census Hannah – described as a housekeeper – and her six children by John were living in Ryehill with her unmarried brother George Goundrill, a farmer of 208 acres; the schedule describes her as married, not widowed. The 1871 Census finds Hannah – now described as widowed – living as a housekeeper to her unmarried son Timothy, a farmer of 7 acres, in Thorngumbald, of which parish Ryehill forms a part. She died aged '74' in 1887 [GRO Ref: Patrington 9d 205, 1887 (Q3)]. What had become of her husband John we do not know.

Was it merely another coincidence that when widow Elizabeth (née Martin) Fish married in 1847 in Effingham to a widowed Yorkshire-born farmer John Johnson there was already a married Yorkshire-born farmer John Johnson living in Effingham? The two men were born at about the same time and only 14 miles apart.

As for Henry and Ann Johnson of Effingham Common, nothing more is currently known of them. Was it yet a further coincidence that they had a child baptised at St Lawrence on the same day as was a child of John and Hannah?

The three matters discussed in this Appendix must remain unresolved for the time being.