

Mary Butlin, 17, Heol Wernlas, Cardiff, CF14 1RY
21st May '03

Dear Nick

Had one day out yesterday so now can concentrate on this package for you.

I've asked the Cornish researcher to get a copy (if possible or transcription) of the marriage entry for Richard – Mary at Mevagissey.

Keith saved John P's Will so he could print it for me and has done another one (enclosed) for you. I'll photocopy Thomas P's if you'd like it. Could also try to copy photo of John b 1820 (both enclosed anyway).

Although I use the computer I don't make use of a family history programme. Before a computer came into my life I'd put so much of my research down on paper that I find it's easier if I stick to that method hence the 'conventional' tree (enclosed) and I quite enjoy drawing them up anyway! Much of the information given me by the researcher cross-checked with what I'd gleaned by working backwards through birth, marriage & death certificates. I played a few lucky hunches which helped too.

Thomas b. 1811 I first discovered in Thomas P's Will. He was a Customs Officer in Liverpool (married and daughter born there, 1881 Census.)

At present I have a researcher trying to find when he returned to Plymouth where he died in 1894.

Eleanor Clarinda b. 1819 (married Thomas RICHARDSON and son born London) was back in Plymouth in 1881 Census as Stoke Damerel Workhouse Matron. Researcher checking earlier Census to find when she returned, was widowed.

Her Will mentioned her granddaughters in Canada and I found the family in 1880/1 Census there (an LDS site).

The girls were born in Canada, but Adelaide was English, have yet to search for marriage of Thomas John RICHARDSON who was a journalist. His father was a postal worker. (Eleanor Clarinda's death certificate)

Naturally John's (b. 1820) twig is that about which I know most. Have researched a lot into the HOLTUM's, who were from Canterbury (we have nice trips there – good Thai restaurant in Herne Bay!)

The name of BEDFORD of Gilbert Bedford THOMAS b. 1878 comes from way back in the HOLTUM line. You're not the only one to have a prolific cleric – the original GB's father was one – 15 he produced.

John THOMAS (1820) went north like his brother Thomas THOMAS – it seems he may have gone to Scotland but then to Durham where he trained and entered the Church. (Trying to sort this out at present.) Eventually he ended up in London where he was a vicar over 40 yrs; not very prolific at nearly 60 and virtually a generation difference you'll notice.

There's a memorial window to his two deceased children in his church. Grandpa went to a boarding school in Margate – you'd have seen my plea for help if you belonged to Kent FHS – maybe you belonged as you've Chatham connections?

There's a nice little twist I haven't shown – after Elizabeth Mary died the vicar married Mabel's sister which caused gossip among the parishioners. Not as interesting as the smuggling stories you could pass down from Eliza!

Mary