

**A HISTORY OF THE ANCESTORS OF**  
**WILLIAM JOHN AND LYDIA LUCY AINSWORTH**

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## ***Preface to draft***

The purpose of this family history is to gather together all the information that I have been able to find about the ancestors of William John Ainsworth (1855-1947) and Lydia Lucy Ainsworth (nee Willway)(1852-1926) and to present it in what, I hope, is a readable form, for their descendants.'

It is based primarily on research that I carried out in 1964 when I inspected various public records; looked at documents in the possession of family members; and met or corresponded with Lucy Wates, Bernard Wates, Winifred Ainsworth, Margie Ainsworth, Philip Lace, Norman Willway, Brig. Cedric Willway and Irene Willway. Many of the documents are now in my possession. These are referred to in the notes by an archive document number (although in some cases there is no number as at the date of writing this they have not been indexed). They belong to the Wates Family Chattels Trust which is also referred to in the notes. This was created following the death of Lucy Wates to preserve a large number of heirlooms which were in her possession at that time. Items are in the custodianship of members of the Wates family but I have not given the names of the custodians.

There is undoubtedly further research that can be done to fill out the information and in the case of Lucy Hannah Willway; a more detailed account of her life could be constructed from the letters and other documents available.

This history is divided into three sections as there are three main strands about which information is available. These are the Ainsworth line itself, originating in Dorset, the Willway line originating near Bridgewater in Somerset and the Bath family of Lydia's mother, Lucy Hannah Willway (nee Davis).

I have also added a fourth section dealing with that branch of the Willway family to which Margie Ainsworth belonged, as this will be of interest to her descendants. I have dealt briefly with the later history of the Willway laundry business in this part, but my information about it is sketchy and could, I am sure, be researched further.

This edition is intended as a draft and I will take into account the comments and additional information that anyone who reads it cares to contribute. There are some amendments that I wish to make and I propose to incorporate portraits where they are available, together with maps to identify street names and places.

Brian A. Wates  
10/09/05

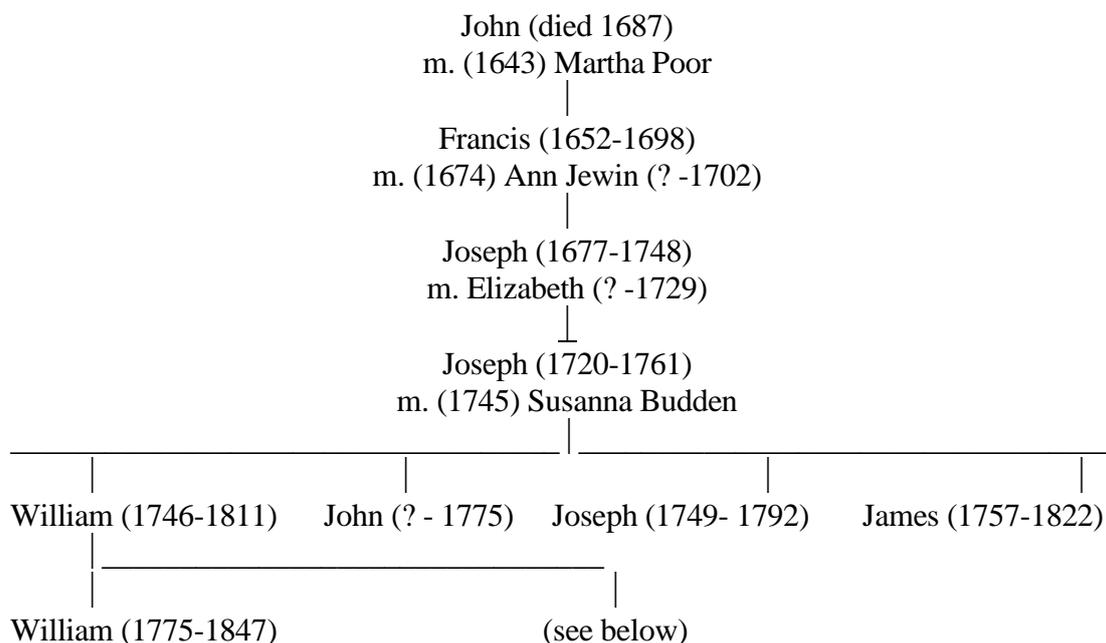
## ***Ainsworth family***

### **Early Answorths at Horton, Dorset**

The earliest records are to be found in the parish registers of the parish of Horton in Dorset. Horton is a village north of Wimborne and about 11 miles from Poole. It is not far from Hampshire and Wiltshire, being about 17 miles south-south-east of Salisbury. It and the neighbouring village of Hinton Martell, where records of the family are also to be found, are still small, rural villages. No doubt the much of the land farmed by the family is still being farmed today.

The parish records go back to 1563 and the earliest record is of the marriage of Daniel Answorth to Agnes Flower in 1606. There is however, no evidence that he was a direct ancestor. This distinction lies with John Answorth who married Martha Poor in 1643. It was not until the end of the 18th century that the spelling 'Ainsworth' began to be used.

We know nothing of these early Ainsworths other than the records of births, marriages and deaths from which a family tree can be constructed. A clear male line can be identified. There may have been males that migrated elsewhere but it seems unlikely that there were many, so it is probable that others with the name of Ainsworth are not related. The direct line is as follows:-



They seem to have been fairly wealthy farmers. The elder Joseph made a will under which he left his widow what was then a substantial income of £400 per year, to be paid out of his copyhold estate at Hinton Martel. His wife Elizabeth had died so he must have remarried. They had a daughter Mary who was left £40 when she was 21 and an annuity of 50 shillings per year if her mother agrees. There is also provision for a daughter Ann. His youngest son Joseph was appointed his executor.

The second Joseph, dying comparatively young at the age of 41, appears not to have made a will and letters of administration to his estate were taken out by his widow Susanna. The value of his estate was £738 including livestock, wheat, oats and barley at Hinton Martell and Horton, two barns and one leasehold house valued at £36.<sup>1</sup>

Susanna must have had a hard time thereafter. Her \*son William was only 15 and her youngest son Henry, was 2. There are records of five other children, John, Joseph, Thomas (who must have died young as there is no other record of him), Susannah and James.

William (b.1746), our ancestor, left home as a young man. We do not know where he went or whom he married but he had a son, also called William, in 1775.<sup>2</sup>

In the meantime his mother Susanna must have died, as in 1775 his brother John died leaving his estate to his brothers Joseph, James and Henry.<sup>3</sup> Henry also died young at the age of 22.

Joseph (b.1749) must have inherited the farm. In that year, he owned land with a value for Land Tax purposes of £1.5.0d and rented land from the Earl of Shaftesbury valued at £12.11.0d.<sup>4</sup> Joseph was an assessor and collector of this tax which is presumably an indication of his standing in the parish. However, he died in 1792 aged 43,<sup>5</sup> his estate being inherited by his brother James.<sup>5</sup> (b. 1757).

Although no longer living at Horton, William owned some land there, possibly inherited from his mother, which was rented to his brother Joseph, and then to his brother James.<sup>5</sup> By 1800 he had set up his son William (b. 1775) as a farmer at Horton.<sup>6\*</sup>

William junior married Wilhelmina but their son died in infancy<sup>7</sup> and Wilhelmina herself died at the age of 38 in 1813.<sup>6</sup> His uncle James died in 1822,<sup>6</sup> aged 65, a bachelor,<sup>8</sup> and William inherited his farm.<sup>5</sup> He died in 1847 at the age of 72<sup>6</sup> and it is not known what became of the farm.

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<sup>1</sup> Letters of administration of Joseph Answorth at Dorset Record Office.

<sup>2</sup> Age given on burial -Hinton Martell parish register.

<sup>3</sup> Probate of John Answorth at Dorset Record Office.

<sup>4</sup> Land Tax assessments at Dorset Record Office.

<sup>5</sup> Hinton Martell parish register.

<sup>6</sup> Land tax assessments and William Answorth's will at Wiltshire Record Office.

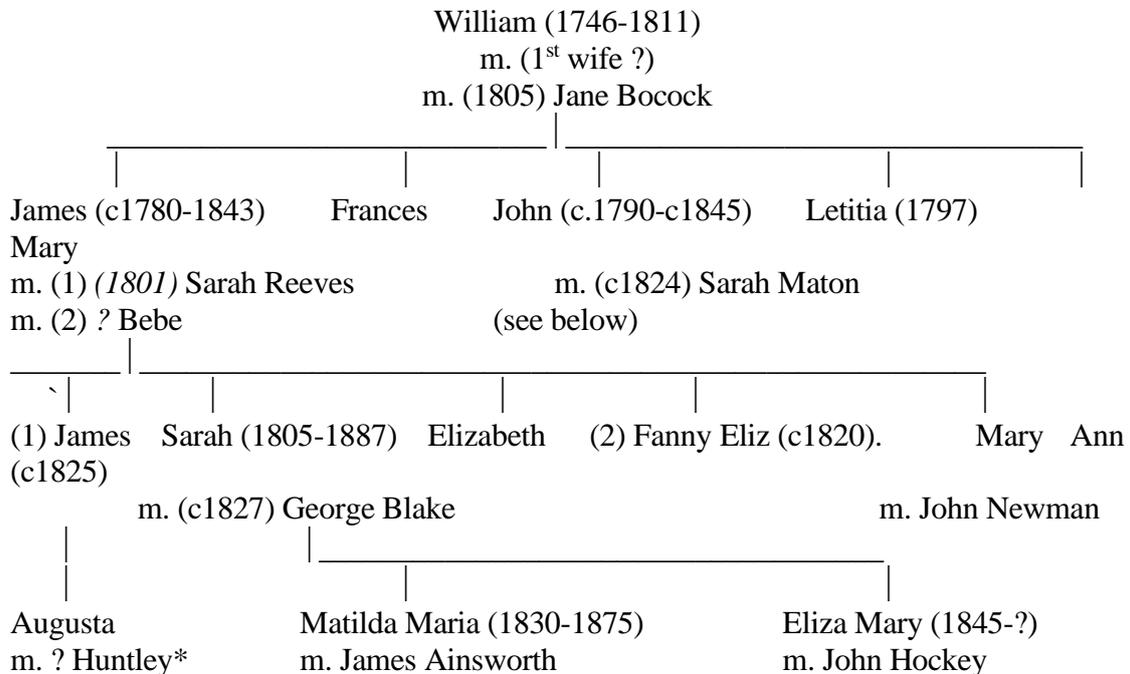
<sup>7</sup> Burial of William Templeman Ainsworth, an infant, in Hinton Martell registers.

<sup>8</sup> Notes on family with W.J.A.'s papers.

## Salisbury

William senior had a second son James in about 1780<sup>9</sup> and by 1790 had acquired a farm at Clarendon Park, in the parish of Pitton just outside and to the east of Salisbury, leased from the Earl of Bathurst. A third son, John, was born there in about 1790.<sup>9</sup> His first wife having died, he married again in 1805 to Jane Boccock<sup>10</sup> and he died in 1811 aged 65. A story has been passed down that he was the strongest man in the West Country and could mount a ladder or steps into his hay loft, with a hundredweight sack of corn on each shoulder.<sup>11</sup>

By his will William left £300 on trust for his widow Jane, legacies to his daughter Frances and son James and the residue, including some leasehold property at Hinton Martell, to his son John, then aged about 21, and daughter Mary. Frances may have been the Frances Ainsworth who was married in 1808 at Hinton Martell to William Newman of Chalbury, a village near Hinton Martell. (Their son, John Newman married his first cousin, James' daughter Mary Ann<sup>12</sup>).



James (b. 1780) married Sarah Reeves of Laverstock, a village nearer Salisbury, on the 12th Sept 1801 in Salisbury Cathedral.<sup>10</sup> Her father may have been John Reeves, a maltster, who was an executor and trustee of William's will.<sup>13</sup> The will was made in 1810 and John Reeves was then living in the village of Downton, to the south of

<sup>9</sup> Salisbury 1841 census.

<sup>10</sup> Salisbury parish registers published by Phillimore.

<sup>11</sup> Letter from Norman Ainsworth to B.A.W. of 9.9.78 recounting the story given to him by Lyn Ainsworth who had been given it as a boy by W.J.A.

<sup>12</sup> Family history notes with W.J.A.'s papers.

<sup>13</sup> Probate of will at Wiltshire Record Office.

Salisbury. James himself became a maltster.<sup>14</sup> Maybe he was apprenticed to John Reeves and that is how he met his wife. They had three children James, Sarah (b. 22.8.05) (W.J.A.'s grandmother) and Elizabeth.<sup>15</sup>

John, aged 21, and his sister Mary thus inherited the farm at Clarendon in 1811. It is not known what became of Mary. John was the occupier in 1825 when the value of the farm

James' daughter Sarah married George Blake in about 1827. His occupation is not known. On his daughter's birth certificate in 1845 he is described as 'gentleman'. They had five children, only two of whom survived, namely Matilda Maria (W.J.A.'s mother) (b. 6.1.30) and Eliza Mary born in 1845, only two years before George Blake died at the age of 42.<sup>15?</sup> Eliza Mary was to marry John Hockey. At the time of Matilda's birth they were living at Romsey, north of Southampton. In 1845 they were at \*Bemerton, NW of Salisbury.

At the time of the 1841 census James, aged 60, was living in Brown Street, Salisbury, where he owned freehold properties.<sup>16</sup> His first wife Sarah had died and he had married a Miss Bebe<sup>15</sup> but she also must have died, because he was living with his daughters Fanny Eliza aged 20 and Mary Anne aged 15.<sup>145</sup> He died on the 21st April 1843 and was buried at Laverstock.<sup>17</sup> His estate was divided between his five children with Sarah's share to be held in trust for her life and then divided between her children.<sup>18</sup> His son James was then living at Tomson, Dorset (Winterbourne Tomson ?).<sup>16</sup> The Huntley family were descended from him.<sup>19</sup>

In 1851 Sarah Blake was living in Exeter Street, Salisbury with her two daughters. She was described as 'proprietor of houses',<sup>20</sup> no doubt inherited from her husband, whom as previously noted had been described as 'gentleman'.

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<sup>14</sup> 1841 census.

<sup>15</sup> W.J.A.'s family tree.

<sup>16</sup> Electoral registers.

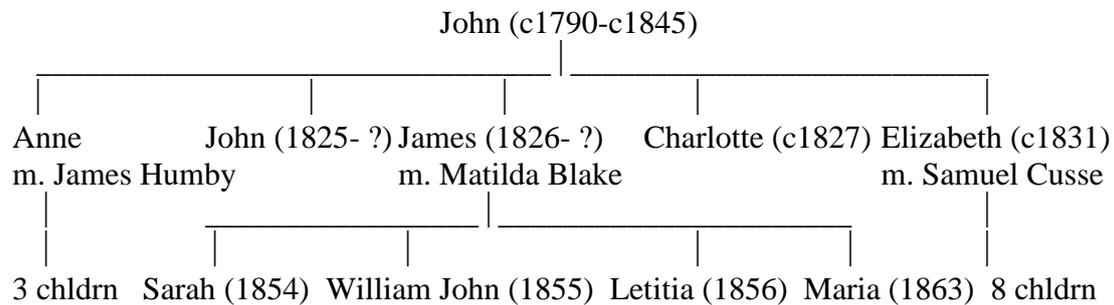
<sup>17</sup> Letter from Annie Huntley to W.J.A.

<sup>18</sup> Will recited in indenture of 5.4.84 between J. Ainsworth and L. L. Ainsworth.

<sup>19</sup> W.J.A.'s family tree.

<sup>20</sup> 1851 census

## James Ainsworth 1826



At Clarendon both John and his wife Sarah died between 1841 and 1851. In 1851 three of their children, John, James and Charlotte were living at a 500 acre farm, (known as \*Queen Manor Farm), with John described as the farmer, employing 7 men, 2 women and 3 boys. They had a servant girl and three labourers lived at the house.<sup>21</sup>

John never married but between in 1852 or 1853, James married his cousin Matilda Blake. James acquired his own farm at Pitton known as Savages Farm, consisting of 420 acres and employing 4 men and 3 boys.<sup>21</sup> Their children were: - Sarah Victoria (24.5.54), William John (18.9.55), Letitia Mary (10.11.56) and Maria Louisa (16.11.62). Maria Louisa died at the age of 12 of measles.<sup>22</sup>

At the time of the 1861 census Sarah Blake was living with the family at Pitton, but her home must still have been in Exeter Street (No.39?). William went to school in The Close and he had his dinners at his grandmother's house. He walked three miles to school and back, every day. The house was just opposite the wall of the cathedral grounds and it was subsequently pulled down. It was a rendezvous for all the district farmers on market and fair days.<sup>22</sup>

In about 1865 (the date is not known) disaster struck the family when the farm burnt down. In W.J.A.'s words: - "I think I might have been partly responsible for it. We were playing in the barn and piled up a lot of inflammatory material. someone must have set it alight. The barn caught fire, then the other barns, then the house and another house and all our furniture. We moved to Clarendon Farm and what was left of our belongings we carried there."<sup>22</sup>

It then seems to have been a story of spiralling misfortunes. They presumably moved in with brother John but he was a 'terrible' drinker and died of it. James must have taken over the farm but could not make it pay because of the pests which were destroying his crops. It was illegal to cull them and one day he was caught shooting rabbits and other game. Lord Bathurst accordingly gave him notice to quit. W.J.A. recalls: - "I remember her reading it and weeping. She saw her home again taken from her."<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> 1851 census.

<sup>22</sup> Reminiscences of W.J.A. in 1941, taken down by his daughter Lucy Wates.

They moved south to Lyminster and had a dairy-farm there with 40 cows for a short time but James was not cut out for a dairy farmer. He was a heavy drinker and his misfortunes made him worse. They moved to a small house in Christchurch and those were 'thin times'. Matilda struggled on heroically and Sarah Blake came from Salisbury to live with them and help.<sup>22</sup>

They then moved back nearer Salisbury to Wylde, about 8 miles to the north-west, where Matilda died on the 30th May 1875<sup>18</sup> when William was 19. James married again in Wilton and died there when he was quite elderly.<sup>22</sup> In 1884, presumably to help with his finances, he had sold Matilda's reversion in her grandfather James's estate, which he inherited on her intestacy, to her daughter-in-law Lydia Ainsworth in return for an annuity.

Grandmother Blake was clearly a very strong support in William's early life. In addition to helping as already mentioned she arranged for William to go to school 'near the Minster' and when he left school at an early age arranged for him to be apprenticed to a grocer in Reading.<sup>22</sup> She died on the 30th July 1887 at the age of 81 and was buried at Overton, Nr. Basingstoke.<sup>23</sup>

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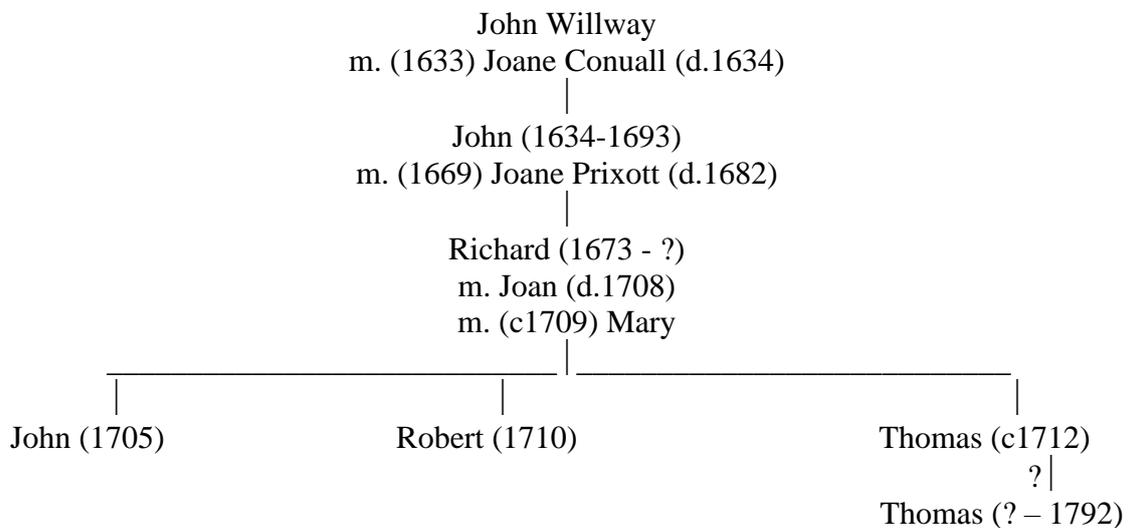
<sup>23</sup> Memorial.

## ***Willway family***

### **Early Willways at Puriton, Somerset**

The earliest records are to be found in the parish registers of Puriton, a village just north of Bridgewater in Somerset. It can be seen now when you are driving south on the M5, situated on the left just before junction 23.

The first record is of the marriage on the 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1566 of John Willway and Elnor Edmington, but the earliest record to which we can trace the line back is that of the marriage of John Willwaie (various spellings were used) to Joane Conuall on the 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1633. They had a son John who was baptized on the 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 1634 but Joane died in childbirth.



John married Joane Prixott in 1669 and they had four sons. John, born in 1670 who died in 1704, Richard, our ancestor, born on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1673 and two others who died as children. There may also have been a daughter Mary, as there is a record of a marriage to George Dribble in 1718.

We know nothing else about them with the exception of Richard, because of a lease that survived.<sup>24</sup> From the parish records we know he had a wife Joan, who died in 1708 and by whom he had a son John born in 1705. He then married Mary, by whom he had a son Robert in 1710. The aforementioned lease was of about 30 acres of farmland, although Richard is described in it as a weaver, mainly in Downend (now on the other side of the motorway to Puriton) but with one meadow in the parish of Bawdrip to the East. The lease was for a period of 99 years or the lives of Richard and his three sons John, Robert and Thomas. So we know that there was a son Thomas born in 1711 or 1712.

The parish records are sporadic thereafter and cease in 1750. There are no more Willways recorded. There is now a gap in our knowledge filled only by a pewter

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<sup>24</sup> In possession of M. I. Ainsworth 1964.

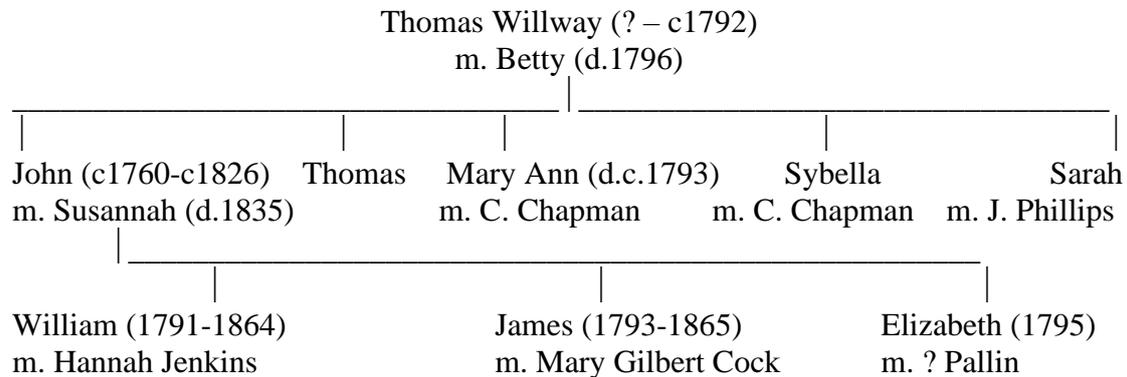
plate, which was retained in the family,<sup>25</sup> gifted in 1769 by John Willway to his nephew Thomas of Bridgewater. John is probably the John born in 1705 and Thomas would be the son of Robert or Thomas. In view of the tendency to name the eldest son after the father, I have assumed he was the son of Thomas. Robert may also have become a weaver as there is reference to Robert Willway in a book on the Guild of Weavers.<sup>27a</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> In possession of Brig. A. C. C. Willway 1964.

<sup>27a</sup> See note 33.

## Bristol



Perhaps Thomas senior had moved to Bridgewater from Puriton and Thomas junior was born there. He married Betty and had five children John, Thomas, Sybella, Sarah and Mary Ann.<sup>26</sup> In 1781 or shortly thereafter, Betty inherited a cottage in the parish of St George in Bristol from a friend.<sup>27</sup> We do not know whether the family had already moved to Bristol or whether this inheritance was the reason for their doing so. Betty died in 1796. Thomas had died prior to 1793 when Betty made her last will. In addition to the property she had inherited, which she was not occupying, she owned two other adjacent properties in 1793, one of which she occupied, situated near the church on the Marshfield in the parish of St. George. These appear to be additional properties because by her will she left the one she occupied to her daughter Sibylla and the other to her son-in-law James Phillips, whereas the inherited property was inherited by all the children.<sup>28</sup> This would either indicate that Thomas was successful in whatever he did on coming to Bristol or there was more inherited wealth. Betty signed her will with a cross so presumably she was illiterate.

The traditional story is told as follows, in a history from about 1960 of the Guarantee Laundries and Cleaners Group, which had taken over Willways Ltd in 1956:-  
“Willways itself was founded on a protest. Young James Willway, a farmer’s son from Bridgewater, came up from the green pastures of Somerset to work in Bristol, and was shocked by the grime and dirt which abounded in the city, slowly awakening to industrialisation. So he opened a dyeworks and cleaners – and never looked back. Shops were set up at varying periods in College St, Denmark St and Christmas St, at the foot of Christmas Steps. This shop, of course, still remains, and to this day is a retail branch of James Willway’s old laundry.”<sup>29</sup>

This story is not accurate and the following is what it has been possible to glean from the records. It was not James Willway who came from Bridgewater, but Thomas. James came later and there is no evidence that Thomas founded the dyeworks. He probably was a farmer’s son. There is an undated letter written by Mercy Willway (Lydia Ainsworth’s sister), in about 1880, in which she recounts that she and her brothers went to Bristol to the office of Mr. Coates (?) in Broad Street to sign a

<sup>26</sup> Assignment of 1798 in possession of M. I. Ainsworth in 1964.

<sup>27</sup> See footnote 28.

<sup>28</sup> Copy will of Betty Willway in possession of Lyn Ainsworth in 1964.

<sup>29</sup> Pamphlet No.46 of Histories of Bristol Companies.

document. Perhaps he was the family solicitor. She recounts that she saw the will of their great-grandmother dated 1808 and found that “our great-grandfather Thomas Willway was a yeoman about 100 years ago.” This was an error in that Thomas was their great-great-grandfather.

Thomas’ sons John and Thomas were both cordwainers (shoemakers). John married Susannah and they had three children, William (b.1791), James (b.1793) and Elizabeth (b.1795). In 1798 he purchased a lease of a small cottage and garden on White Hill in the parish of St George for the price of £14. Thomas had a son Thomas Millsom born before 1793.

Of Thomas and Betty’s daughters, Mary Ann married Charles Chapman but died young before 1793, Sybella then married Charles Chapman between 1793 and 1798 and Sarah married James Phillips before 1793. In 1798 James Phillips bought out the shares of the other members of the family in the inherited cottage for £42, Charles Chapman receiving the shares of both his wives. James Phillips was a ship’s carpenter.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> See notes 28 and 30 for information in this paragraph.

### **John Willway (c1760-c1826) and the dyeworks.**

Charles Chapman was a silk dyer. Did John give up shoemaking and join him? The earliest record found in a trade directory is that in 1805 of John Willway, dyer and calenderer (a person who operates a calender machine to dress, glaze and finish cloth by hot-pressing with rollers), at 27 College Street. There was no record in 1800 but no directories between the two dates. He appears in all directories after that but moving to 6 Denmark Street in 1812, at which address the firm remained for many years. From 1829, adverts show the firm as having been founded in 1797.<sup>31</sup>

John and Susannah's sons William and James were brought into the business. In 1814 there is the firm of J. and W. Willway, silk, cotton, linen and woollen dyers in Lower Castle Street, so John had probably set up a second business with William. In 1818 William's name appears alone so John had presumably handed it over to him. By 1821 the business at 6 Denmark Street was called John Willway and Son so James had joined him. In 1826 the entry appears as S. Willway & Son. John had probably died and his position been taken by Susannah. Susannah died in 1835. James acted as the administrator of the estate which was valued at £618,<sup>32</sup> equivalent to about £43,000 in 2002.

In the meantime William had continued in business on his own at 5 Lower Castle Street. The two branches of the Willway family continued in the separate businesses. James is the grandfather of Lydia Ainsworth so this narrative will continue with that branch. However, William is the grandfather of Margaret Irene Willway who married Lydia's son Reginald and is therefore the ancestor of part of the family. The history of his family will be covered later.

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<sup>31</sup> Information on early directories from letters written by G. Dermott Harding to Theophilus Willway in 1909 - archive doc.

<sup>32</sup> Estate account - archive doc.

### **William Cock (1751-1843)**

In 1822 James married Mary Gilbert Cock, aged 20, a daughter of William Cock, at Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church. Detailed information of his family is available from a family bible.<sup>33</sup> William was a cabinetmaker living in Kingsdown, Bristol. He was apprenticed to Mr. Nichols and then became his partner.<sup>34</sup> By his first wife Betty he had eleven children between 1774 and 1792. In 1794 he sailed to New York with his wife. It is not known which, if any, of the children went with them. The purpose of the trip was to find a supply of mahogany and he may also have gone to the Leeward Islands.<sup>35</sup> Unfortunately, Betty died on the voyage in June.

While in New York he married Sarah Nichols in Dec 1795 at a Baptist ceremony and their first child was born at Cliff Street, New York in Sept 1796 and baptized at John Street Chapel. They had returned to Kingsdown, Bristol by June 1798 where the second child was born. Tradition has it that while in New York William made a portable writing desk for George Washington's aide-de-camp General Gage. It had a secret drawer for secret dispatches to England.<sup>36</sup> He also made a sideboard for George Washington.<sup>37</sup> (Washington was President from 1789 to 1797).

Tradition also has it that Sarah Nichols was descended from the Gilbert family of Antigua. This was a leading family in Antigua and the pedigree well documented but it has not been possible to find the link.<sup>38</sup> A copy of the family bible has a note describing her as 'Seymour widow'.<sup>39</sup> Her history is in some way reflected in the second names of her children. Her first son Alexander had the name Nichols, the second son George and first daughter Mary (our ancestor), the name Gilbert and the fourth son John, the name Seymour.

Versions of the story that have been recorded are as follows:-

Miss Sarah Gilbert married first Alexander Nichols, who died in New York, and then Mr. Cock.<sup>40</sup>

A note was made by Winifred Ainsworth on a letter dated 1869 to Lydia from her grandmother, Mary Willway, probably recording verbal information given by Lydia. Grandma Willway is described as the daughter of Mr. Cock and Mrs. Simpson (widow), daughter of Mr. Gilbert of Antigua:- "Mrs. Gilbert (mother of Mrs. Simpson

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<sup>33</sup> Archives - doc 982. The bible had been in the possession of Norman Herbert Willway. It was inherited by his widow who died in 1981.

Philip Lace was the executor and rescued the bible. In 1983 he tore out the pages with the family information and gave them to me.

<sup>34</sup> Passed down verbal information given to me by Philip Lace 1964.

<sup>35</sup> From Philip Lace as above.

<sup>36</sup> Mercy Willway as recorded in writing by Irene Willway and seen by me 1964.

<sup>37</sup> Photo in archives doc 430, and Mercy Willway as above.

<sup>38</sup> I carried out extensive research at Cambridge University library but unfortunately my notes were lost. Bernard Wates also did some research and the family tree he produced is in my possession.

<sup>39</sup> Archive doc.

<sup>40</sup> Philip Lace's letter to me 5.8.73.

and buried in Antigua Cathedral) used to get her slaves round her on Sundays and give them a bible lesson. She did not approve of slavery.”

Irene Willway recorded information given by Mercy Willway: - ‘Mr. Gilbert of Antigua had daughter Mary, who married Mr. Seymour and lived in USA. Mr. Seymour died and Mr Cock married Mary. Came to England and named daughter Mary Gilbert Cock.’

These family records and others on the backs of photos all refer to William Cock as Josiah and Sarah as Mary. The latter error may have arisen because of Mary Gilbert Cock being named after her mother and it was assumed that this applied to the Mary as well as the Gilbert.<sup>41</sup> (It seems to have been common practice to give a daughter the mother’s maiden name as second name. There are a number of examples in the family).

One of his sons by his first marriage is believed to have been a ship’s captain under Nelson.<sup>42</sup> There is a record of a Capt. Henry Cock in the Bristol directories living at Hotwells between 1823 and 1847 and there was a son Henry born in 1779.

William and Sarah had six children in all between 1796 and 1807 but the second daughter Sarah died after one week.

William Cock was clearly a successful and wealthy craftsman. Passed down in the family are a mahogany dining table,<sup>43</sup> a mahogany sideboard,<sup>44</sup> a writing desk<sup>45</sup> and a clock<sup>46</sup>. There is a portrait of him at the age of 90 which was in the possession of Philip Lace, who gave it to the Bristol Art Gallery where it is now. There was also a tallboy believed to have been made by him which was also given to the Bristol Art Gallery by Philip Lace, but they have ascertained that it was made before 1750 and therefore could not have been his.

His business premises were in Hillgrove Street. He appears in the Bristol directories there in 1791 and 1792 as cabinet maker. In 1818 he is described as a clock-case maker with premises also in Bush Street. From 1821 to 1838 he is described as clock-case maker, cabinet maker and camp-writing-desk inventor and manufacturer, the address being Cock’s Building, Hillgrove St. There are no entries in 1841 or 1844. But there is a deed, made by William Cock, dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 1842 relating to the

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<sup>41</sup> Suggestion made by Philip Lace in letter to me of 5.8.73.

<sup>42</sup> See narrative on photo archives doc 430 and Mercy Willway as above stating merely that he served under Nelson.

<sup>43</sup> Wates family chattels trust.

<sup>44</sup> This was at 8 Walcot Terrace in the ownership of William J. Willway until the fire of 1907 when he partly restored it and took it his home at Sion Place, Bathurst Hill. He then sold it to his sister Lydia and so it came to Pollard Ash and Rowhill Grange. It is now with John Ainsworth.

<sup>45</sup> In the possession of Mary Ainsworth.

<sup>46</sup> Formerly in the possession of Lyn Ainsworth [now presumably Mary] and possibly the clock in a mahogany case left by Mary Gilbert Willway to Lucy Hannah Willway by her will. (archives doc 421)

property granting a right of way and referring to two wells on the property which states that the buildings were begun in 1782.<sup>47</sup>

Sarah died in 1738 and William in 1843 at the age of nearly 92. He must have given up work some years before that despite the reference to the business in the directories. What happened to the business? His son Josiah (b. 1799) was in business as a watch and clock maker in Bridewell Lane and then in Upper Arcade between 1822 and 1826 and his son George Gilbert Cock (b. 1798), was in business at 3 Lower Montague Road in 1826 and 1829 and at 'Sea Horse', Upper Maudlin Street as a cabinet maker in 1835. He then appears once more in 1848 at 2 Hillgrove St so perhaps he took it over.

William was very fit and the following is inscribed (probably by Lydia), on the back of a photo of a portrait of him taken by Theophilus, Lydia's brother<sup>48</sup>: -  
'Grandmamma Willway's Father, Josiah (incorrect) Cock, lived to be 94 (incorrect) and when over 80 walked from Bristol to Bridgewater and at 90 walked from Bristol to Bath. Great-Grandfather was an early riser. He got up regularly at 4 o'clock. He was one of the best cabinet makers in Bristol, and made the 8-day clock'.

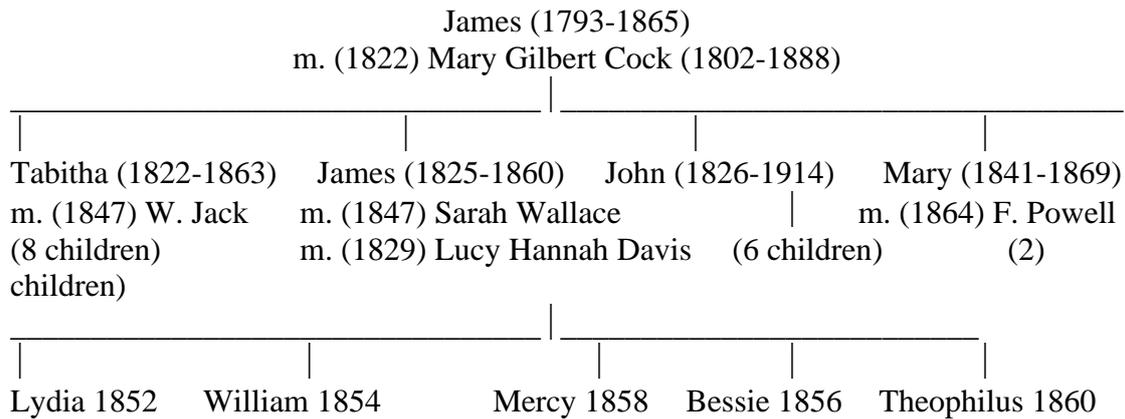
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<sup>47</sup> In possession of Lucy Wates 1964.

<sup>48</sup> Archive doc 430.

## James (1793-1865) and Mary (1802-1888) Willway

James and Mary had four children between 1822 and 1828, the youngest dying before her second birthday as a result of an accident. The eldest was Tabitha, then Lydia's grandfather, James William Cock Willway, born on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1825 and a second son, John Sweet Willway.



The following notes were made about Mary on her letter of 1869 already referred to (Mary had written on the letter "Mind you burn this"): "Grandma Willway hated school and persuaded her mother to let her stay away. 'Foolish woman! I have regretted it all my life. Fancy listening to a child like that!' Thus her lack of education – and her request to 'burn this'. She was a clever woman. When her husband followed her advice in his investments he was successful – they saved £8000 – 'It might have been £16,000 if he had listened to me.' When he did not he lost money". A birthday letter to Lydia of 1873 also said, "I hope you will burn this letter if not I shall not write you another."<sup>49</sup> As this letter was preserved and there are no others, perhaps she carried out her threat!

In this connection we know that he invested in railway companies as there have survived copies of or notes of requests for shares in 1845. The maximum was for 75 shares at £25 each.<sup>50</sup>

They were clearly well off and sent their sons away to a private boarding school. This was initially at Sommer Hill House, St. Georges, in Kingswood, Bristol. James wrote to them there on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1838 on the death of their grandmother Sarah Cock: - "Tell Mr. Stone please to let you come home as your grandmother is no more. She died at 1 o'clock this morning....Your mother and grandfather bear it as well as possible."<sup>51</sup> They then went to Mr. Neal's Academy, Sion House, St. Saviours, Jersey.<sup>52</sup> This was the beginning of the Jersey connection, as mentioned later.

<sup>49</sup> Archive doc 125.

<sup>50</sup> Archive doc.

<sup>51</sup> Letter lost while in my possession 1964.

<sup>52</sup> Letter from Mary Willway in 1841 also lost and James W. C. Willway's diary.

A late child was born in 1841 when Mary was 39 and named Mary Elizabeth. James junior, (aged 16) wrote in his diary that on arriving in Southampton on his return from Jersey: - "asked for a letter at the toll keepers and was never more surprised when upon opening it found there was an addition to our family."

They lived at Durdham Down, Bristol. In 1845 the address was Down Cottage<sup>53</sup> and at the date of James' death in 1865 it was Heathfield House.<sup>54</sup> However James junr in his diary in 1841 refers to going to see his mother "on the Down," so the premises in Denmark Street were presumably also a home, as is born out by the 1841 census which merely records Tabitha as living there with a servant. James junr was in Jersey at the time of the census on the 7<sup>th</sup> June as he recorded in his diary. But in 1851 the whole family including John is recorded as living at 7 Denmark St. Also living with them was James' sister Elizabeth Pallin, then widowed.

James carried on the dyeworks business in Denmark Street, initially in partnership with his mother and after her death in 1835, on his own. In 1842 there are two entries in the directory; one is in his name only at 6 Denmark Street and one as Willway & Son at 7 Denmark Street. Presumably he had brought his son James into the business but that did not last, as will be seen later.

His son, John Sweet Willway did not come into the business. He became a gas fitter and in 1853 was in business on his own as a gas fitter and gas stove and cooking apparatus manufacturer at 29 St. Augustine's Parade. He carried on a very successful business there, being succeeded by his son Alfred Bush Willway. There are a number of registered patents in both their names. He dabbled in other matters - patented a combined doormat and scraper, and a bottle rack; sold penny farthing bicycles;<sup>55</sup> sold sewing machines;<sup>56</sup> and invested in property.<sup>57</sup> In 1867 Lydia wrote to her mother describing his house as 'rather grand with 8 rooms downstairs and 6 upstairs, only wanting a carriage and pair to complete it'.

Tabitha married William Jack in 1845. He was the son of the pastor of the Castle Green Baptist Chapel. She was called the Belle of Bristol because of her beauty. She had violet eyes and golden hair.<sup>36</sup> Sadly she died in 1863 when the youngest of her eight children was only one year old.

With James' illness and death in 1865 Mary took over the running of the business. Tabitha's husband, William Jack, helped and from 1867 went into partnership with her and the business is described as Willway & Jack with additional premises at 51 Park Street from 1872. In 1883 it was at 7 Denmark Street and Royal Arcade, Whiteladies Gate, Redland. The business was continued by Tabitha's daughter Lilian and eventually taken over by the other Willway business (see below). John Sweet Willway's daughter Nellie remembers visiting the dye works in about 1876 at the age

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<sup>53</sup> Railway company share application mentioned above and 1844 directory.

<sup>54</sup> James Willway memorial card archives doc 98.

<sup>55</sup> Letter from Philip Lace to me 5.9.73.

<sup>56</sup> Morris' 1872 directory.

<sup>57</sup> Letter from Philip Lace to me 28.8.64.

of 11 and being appalled at the conditions under which her cousin Lilian, then 16, was working.<sup>58</sup>

In directories of 1870 and 1872 Mary's address is given as 1 Miles Cottages, Durdham Down. In 1885 when she made her will her address was 1 Royal Colonnade, Park Street and at the date of her death she was living at 1 Camden Terrace, Cotham Road South.

She died on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1888 aged 86 having outlived all her children except John Sweet Willway. Under her will of 1885 she appointed her son and Matthew Weir as her executors. After provision for her daughter Mary's daughters mentioned below, and legacies to all the grandchildren and daughters-in-law, she left the residue to her son. Presumably the Jack family must have already acquired the business as there is no mention of it.<sup>59</sup>

Under his will dated 1862, James had left 6 Denmark Street to their daughter Mary, (b.1841) with the remainder to any children she might have. At that time she was unmarried. She married Frederick Powell in 1864 and they had two daughters, Minnie and Lydia, but Mary died in Jan 1868. By her will of 1885, their grandmother left them a warehouse in Mark Street near to 6 Denmark Street and also each a rent charge on properties on Durdham Down.

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<sup>58</sup> Information given to Bernard Wates by Philip Lace as recorded in a letter to Irene Willway seen by me in 1964.

<sup>59</sup> Sealed copy of will - archives doc 421.

## James William Cock Willway (1825-1860)

James kept a diary as already mentioned. Entries have survived from December 1840 to June 1841 and April 1845 to June 1846, together with notes of some important events.<sup>60</sup> The early entries were made when he was at school in Jersey and he records his return home in June 1840 and the birth of his sister Mary. The later entries refer to his courtship of Sarah Wallace and that of Tab's (his sister Tabitha), by William Jack. Sarah must have lived in London. He went to London in June 1846 apparently to find work. He wrote "Don't like going to work at London although I like going to see Sarah". In August he wrote "I hope I shall soon be in business now and able to marry Sarah".

In the meantime he was clearly working at his father's dyeworks at 7 Denmark Street. In an advertising article published in 1857<sup>61</sup> he refers to having 15 or 16 years experience, so he must have started work upon returning from school in 1841 at the age of 16. As previously mentioned the business at 7 Denmark Street was under the name James Willway and son in 1842. However, presumably it was considered that he needed to have his own business in order to be independent before marrying, as someone, (not James) has recorded in the diary that he took possession of 8 Walcot Terrace on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1847. This was the property in Bath that was to be the family home for many years and where he started up a dyeworks business (although it is shown as 32 Walcot Terrace in the 1851 census).

He was a very religious man and became a Baptist lay preacher. He records that on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1845, he wrote to Castle Green Chapel asking to join and on the 25<sup>th</sup> was admitted to membership. On the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1846 he records that he preached his first sermon.

There are records showing that he married Sarah Wallace on the 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1847 (which makes sense as it was just after he moved to Bath) at Finsbury Chapel in London; a child Emma Wallace Willway was born on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1848 and Sarah died on the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1849 at 8 Walcot Terrace. We have no details as to the circumstances of her death and no information about her has been passed down within the family. Lydia's mother, Lucy Hannah, never spoke of her and it was a matter to be kept quiet. She was jealous that James should have loved someone else before her.<sup>62</sup> The period of the diary relating to the marriage to Sarah has been cut out and destroyed, presumably by Lucy.

However, this information does not fit with letters that he wrote to Lucy Hannah Davis in 1847, (the earliest of which was on the 18<sup>th</sup> June shortly before Lucy's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday) in which he declares his love for her.<sup>63</sup> Possibly these letters were from an earlier admirer whose handwriting and initials were very similar.

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<sup>60</sup> Archive doc.

<sup>61</sup> Bath Rambler Aug 1857 - see below.

<sup>62</sup> Lucy Wates to me 1964.

<sup>63</sup> Archive doc 114.

There are two versions of the story of how he met Lucy. Irene Willway records Mercy Willway as follows; -

“She came to ask permission to use the pony carriage to drive a friend to Bristol (a young lady at Miss Titley’s, the tailoress where she worked). She was 17, pretty and vivacious – her apprenticeship would have been up in Nov. J. Willway fell in love at first sight in May. Married in Nov.”

If this all occurred in 1849 it fits with Sarah having died in January. The other version is that James went to Lucy’s father to have his pony trap repaired and took Lucy for a ride in it. James’ connection with Lucy’s father may have been through religion, as he was also a lay preacher and they were near neighbours. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1849, the diary merely records that the marriage to Lucy Hannah Davis was to be on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov and that Lucy was to be baptised on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. He then records the baptism on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov and marriage on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov at Providence Chapel, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.

On 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1852 the diary states that on his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday ‘a daughter born to Lucy at 2.00 a.m’. This was Lydia.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1853 he records: “Health not good.” There is then a sentence describing a cough which is scratched out, followed by “Wife and Lydia in good health”. This illness would have been the tuberculosis from which he eventually died.

His business, which was started in 1847, employed a man and two apprentices in 1851 and one maid was employed in the house.<sup>64</sup> He advertised the business with an article in the ‘Bath Rambler’ in August 1857<sup>65</sup> under the heading ‘Tyrian Dye House’.<sup>66</sup> He stated he was able to give his personal attention to the dyeing, cleaning and finishing of damasks, velvets, shawls, silks and satins, and described the superiority of modern dyeing.

Children were born during these years, William James (Willie) in 1854, Elizabeth Mary (Bessie) in 1856, Mercy in 1858 and Theophilus (Theo) in Feb 1860. Presumably the tuberculosis had been getting worse as in 1854 he stayed in Jersey for a time, possibly for health reasons.<sup>67</sup> There he made the acquaintance of Mr and Mrs Le Feuvre, (Mrs Le Feuvre being the sister of his former teacher Mr Neal<sup>68</sup>). The friendship between the two families lasted for nearly a century.

It seems that the family did not live at 8 Walcot Terrace at this period but lived elsewhere in Bath, including some time at a cottage at Coombe Down<sup>69</sup> where Theophilus was born.<sup>70</sup>

In March 1860<sup>71</sup> Lucy’s sister Sarah married Ezra Goulter (the Goulter family are mentioned again later) and they had decided to immigrate to Australia. They sailed

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<sup>64</sup> 1851 census.

<sup>65</sup> Copy made in 1931 in possession of Winifred Ainsworth at Pollard Ash seen and copied by me 1964.

<sup>66</sup> See also printed adverts archive doc 93 and 364.

<sup>67</sup> Refers to this in letter from Australia. Archive doc 91.

<sup>68</sup> Letter from James to Lucy of May 1854. Archive doc 419.

<sup>69</sup> See letters from J. W. C. Willway from Australia Archive doc 91.

<sup>70</sup> 1861 census.

<sup>71</sup> Letter from Sarah Goulter of 29.3.69. archive doc 99kh.

from Liverpool on about the 8<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by James. James' letters from the ship before departure and several letters from Australia have survived,<sup>72</sup> from which some information about this can be gleaned. It seems that he had contemplated emigration before, but his father was opposed. It was probably hoped that the climate would be better for his health and if he were to recover the family would come out to join him. There is even a suggestion that Lucy's father should come out. There may have been an intention to go on to New Zealand. However, James wrote from Melbourne that conditions in the city were bad and advised them against coming, as the Maori War had just broken out in New Zealand.

They arrived in Melbourne early in Sept. He was too ill to work and seems to have separated from the Goulters. He was cared for by members of the Baptist church, with two of whom he lodged. His condition was very bad early in October and later that month he was advised to leave Melbourne, the climate of which was not good for him. His intention was to go to Moreton Bay, Brisbane. He was put on board a ship for Sydney as the first stage of the journey but died on the 8<sup>th</sup> November just before the ship arrived. For some unknown reason it was thought that he was Jewish, so he was put into the hands of the Synagogue in Sydney and buried in the Jewish cemetery. It was the secretary of the synagogue who wrote to his father in England to inform him of the death; his wife's address not being amongst his papers.<sup>73</sup>

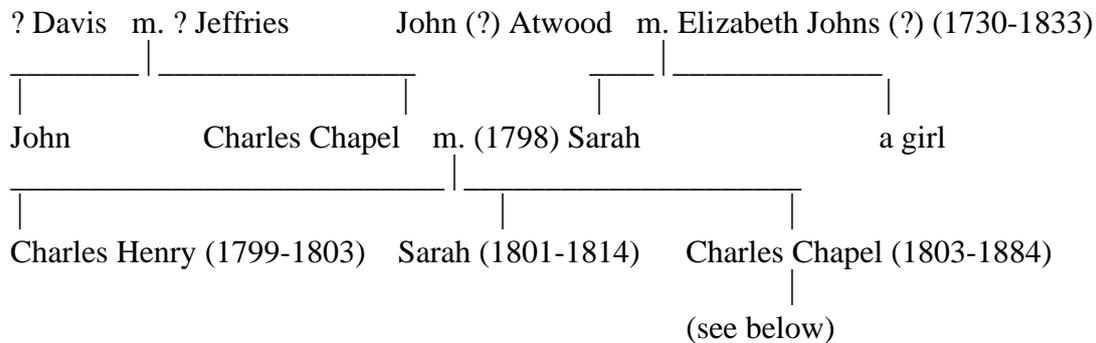
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<sup>72</sup> Archive doc 91.

<sup>73</sup> Original letter Archive doc 97.

## Davis family

### Bath ancestors



As the name is common it is difficult to trace the origins of the family from the public records. The earliest definite record that we have is the marriage on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1798 of Charles Chapel Davis to Sarah Atwood, followed by the births of their children Charles Henry in April 1799, Sarah in May 1801 and Charles Chapel in 1803.<sup>74</sup> There being two ancestors with the name Charles Chapel Davis has led to confusion. They are referred to here as CCDI and CCDII. CCDII is referred to later as CCD when there can be no confusion.

One of the witnesses to the marriage was John Attwood, who may have been Sarah's father. There is a marriage of John Attwood to Elizabeth Johns in 1771 so these may have been Sarah's parents.<sup>75</sup> The other witness was Mary Jefferies and the belief has been passed down in the family that CCDI's mother was a Jefferies.<sup>82<sup>76</sup></sup>

Sarah Atwood's mother is believed to have lived to be 102 and her date of birth is given as either 1730<sup>77</sup> or 1739.<sup>78</sup> A portrait survives.<sup>77</sup> Sarah was known as Pretty Polly Atwood or Pretty Sally Atwood.<sup>79</sup>

Fortunately we have the autobiography of CCDII in which<sup>80</sup> he records his knowledge of his ancestors and I cannot do better than to quote it, the italics being inserted by me, and then to add a few other stories. He was a deeply religious man and religion clearly dominated his life so that the autobiography has an overwhelming emphasis on his religious side.

“Of my immediate ancestry with respect to their position I cannot say they were noble nor ignoble as they neither sprang from the lowest grade nor did they drop down from the aristocratic element, for my father, grandfather and great-grandfather were ‘Sons of Crispin’ (boot and shoe makers). My father [*CCDI*] commenced and carried on a

<sup>74</sup> Walcot Parish Register.

<sup>75</sup> Ditto.

<sup>76</sup> CCD also refers to Uncle Jefferies in his autobiography.

<sup>77</sup> Portrait inscribed by Mercy Willway Wates Family Chattels Trust.

<sup>78</sup> Family tree prepared in about 1910 but muddled with Sarah Atwood herself (source of tree not identified)

<sup>79</sup> Letter from Sarah Goulter - archive doc 1284.

<sup>80</sup> Archive doc 121.

promising business in Kingsmead St till consumption disabled him. He removed to Ballance St. where he died in March 1803 in the 35<sup>th</sup><sup>81</sup> year of his age, leaving a son and daughter. My mother (*Sarah nee Atwood*) gave birth to me the following Aug 15<sup>th</sup> according to the family record in the Bible. In addition to these trying circumstances my mother had a very aged mother (*possibly Elizabeth nee Johns*) to care for who eventually lived to be at least 102 years old. My brother (*Charles Henry*) died soon after my father but my sister (*Sarah*), 2 years older than myself, lived to be 13 years and I then was left alone to my mother. She was an honest industrious hard working woman and by the business of laundress to which she applied herself she paid her way and maintained these dependent on her, so that I never wanted a meal of food and was always well clothed and had the rudiments of education.”

“I have often thought of God being to my mother and me the ‘husband of the widow and father of the fatherless’. Glad should I be if I could state that among my mother’s excellencies was ‘the fear of the Lord’ but this I cannot, - she knew him not, and consequently she could neither value nor care for her own soul or mine as could be wished, but I am not without hope that she was called in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> hour, from what preceded and attended her death.”

“I know very little of the relatives on my mother’s side, but her father was an intemperate man and left his home and wife. Where he went was never discovered. His daughter, my mother’s sister, believed he emigrated and she expected he would some day return with wealth, and this her folly by the prediction of some fortune teller whom she consulted was encouraged. I scarce need say she died disappointed. My mother’s mother had a stroke of paralysis in her 50<sup>th</sup> year (*it is interesting that she yet lived to be over 100*) which entirely for a time deprived her of speech and which was only very partially restored, so that it would have been very difficult to obtain of her information respecting her family.”

“My father’s father and mother were good Christian people, were members of Argyle Independent Church for many years.....both living to be over 80 years. My grandfather was a man of 6ft and lion like in his youth, deeming it unmanly not to resent an insult, the result of his father’s principles and training as well as his natural disposition. My father’s brother John was also a truly Christian man. He was a member of the Baptist Church at Somerset St under the pastorate of Mr. Porter. He was a very intellectual and intelligent man and I believe a self-taught Hebrew scholar, as I have heard that Mr. Porter used to consult him on Hebrew. He gave out the hymns till ill-health prevented him.”

“From what I can learn I am led to think my father was an intellectual and intelligent man. He had a great thirst for knowledge. Shoe-making was not in that day brought to that pitch of taste and fashion as it is now, so that a journeyman might take his kit (all the tools he required save his lapstone) and carry it with him. ...Being almost sure of work everywhere he took a delight in travelling.....His mother, who was very fond of him, regretted his roving disposition and often begged him to come home. He spent considerable time in London and would there endeavour to get into the company of superiors, would attend debating and discussion societies to gain knowledge.....”\*\*

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<sup>81</sup> Somerset Street Baptist church registers record the burial of Charles Davis, shoemaker on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar 1803 aged 37.

There is a story that his father, before marrying Sarah Atwood, ran away with a ward in Chancery who was an heiress.<sup>82</sup> They were both underage so her money was taken away. They used to see each other through windows of opposite houses.<sup>83</sup>

Sarah Goulter remembers her grandmother, Sarah Davis (nee Atwood) telling her about a wealthy uncle (Not clear whether this was on the Davis or Atwood side) who she thought had a large pastry cook's business. There was a story that he once ate so many cheese cakes that he could not bear the sight of them for long after. Her grandmother remembered the silver buckles on his shoes, long black silk stockings and frilled shirt.<sup>84</sup>

The family lived in the parish of Widcombe.<sup>85</sup>

Of his brother Charles Henry, CCD writes he "was evidently a quick child, for he could read an ordinary chapter in the bible at 4 years of age. Something affected his mind and produced a dullness and this damped the hopes of his father and he used to call him 'stupid' but the poor little fellow's death proved the dullness was the result of illness."

His sister Sarah "was a sprightly and vivid child of retentive memory, as proved by one of her holiday lessons being the 119 Psalm which she learnt and repeated perfectly. A lady having heard her repeat one of 'Dr. Watt's hymns for children' promised her two pence each for all she would learn. She learnt every hymn the book contained and went to recite them. The lady heard a few of them and closed the book and gave her a shilling to the great disappointment and discouragement of the child who had reckoned how many shillings she should have. The samplers also worked by her, one at 6 and the other at 8 years, show her handiwork and prove her a somewhat clever child." The samplers are still in the family.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Reginald Ainsworth's family tree.

<sup>83</sup> Mercy Willway as recorded by Irene Willway - note 40? But she refers the story to Charles Chapel Davis and says that he married her.

<sup>84</sup> Letters from Sarah Goulter to Theophilus Willway 29.10.1912 and 11.6.12 - archive docs.

<sup>85</sup> Somerset St register on the death of Sarah.

<sup>86</sup> Wates Family Chattels trust.

## Charles Chapel Davis II

Of all of the eight grandparents of William and Lydia Ainsworth, Charles Davis is the one about whom we know the most, because we have his autobiography in addition to other records.

He writes about himself as a boy, remarking that his slowness formed such a contrast to his sister's vivacity that it procured him the title of 'The old man', but he records that he worked hard at school. He was not allowed to 'beat the streets' as his mother used to call it, but often was sent to bed early where he and his sister used to lie and sing Dr. Watts' hymns.

After various jobs from age of 13 with a grocer, pastry cook and draper, in 1818 at the age of 15 he was indentured to Abel Vivian, a brightsmith, (metalworker with tin or polished ironwork) for an apprenticeship of seven years, for which his mother had to pay £6, (equivalent to about £400 in 2002<sup>87</sup>). Mr. Vivian's premises were at 5 Wine Street. Charles seems to have had some sort of religious conversion at about the age of 19 as he records that he 'walked in church fellowship for about three years' before the expiry of his apprenticeship in 1825. Prior to his 'conversion' he had met Lucy Haines Garlick when he went to the house in which she was a maid, to carry out some repair.<sup>88</sup> Before marrying her he needed work and probably insisted that she be baptised, which was done by Mr. Porter at Somerset St in 1826.<sup>89</sup>

Although he does not mention it, his father, (as well as his uncle John<sup>90</sup>) would also seem to have been a member of the Somerset Street Baptist church, as his burial is recorded there. This was the commencement of the family's connection with that church and its successor in Manvers St, which continued almost without interruption until the death of Irene Willway in the 1970s. The register of births and deaths kept by the church from 1784 to 1837, recorded many births and burials of the children of an Edmund Davis by two wives, between 1786 and 1814. He is described as a shoemaker so he may have been related; possibly another brother of Charles or a cousin, and it may be relevant that CCD named his son Charles Edmund.

Lucy Garlick was the daughter of a barge owner in Wootton Bassett, just west of Swindon. The story is that she ran away from home because her father was too strict, came to Bath and took a position as a maid with Mrs. Sims of the Pepperbox (Montebello), Bathwick Hill.<sup>91</sup> She was born in October 1801 and grew up to be small and pretty. Her father was John and her mother Hannah.<sup>92</sup> Her mother's maiden name may have been Haines. We know nothing else about the family, but her father's brother was a coach builder in London and believed to be rich. One Christmas he sent

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<sup>87</sup> Articles of apprenticeship Archive doc 108.

<sup>88</sup> Winifred Ainsworth recorded by me 1964.

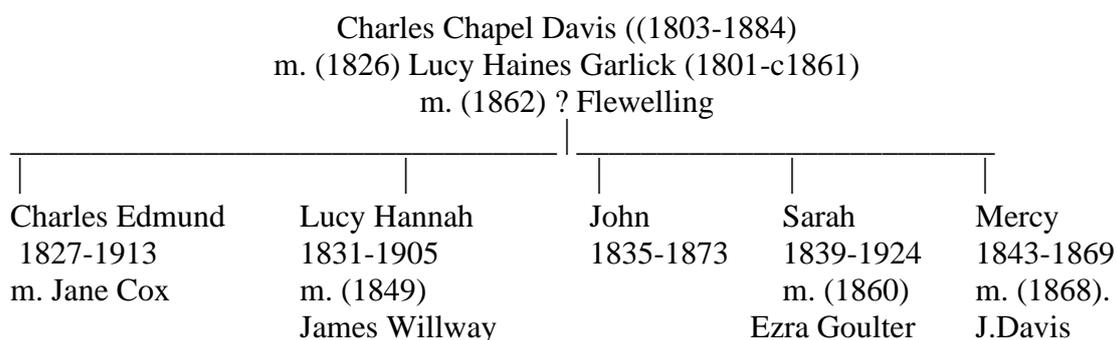
<sup>89</sup> Charles Chapel Davis autobiography.

<sup>90</sup> The church register records the death of a son of John Davis in 1810.

<sup>91</sup> Mercy Willway as recorded by Irene Willway and Reginald Ainsworth's tree.

<sup>92</sup> Parish register from Mormon records on internet.

a model of the Lord Mayor's coach for Lucy's children. She always thought that he was the Lord Mayor and that he must have left a great deal of money.<sup>84</sup>



Upon completing his apprenticeship CCD obtained work in Cheltenham and was employed as a foreman over five men. His intention had been to spend 6 months there and then to travel to London and Brighton before returning to Bath to marry and settle down, but there was a general economic crisis and he was not sure of getting work, so he married in Bath on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1826. The marriage was not witnessed by any family member. The couple settled at 10 Fairview Crescent, Cheltenham where their son Charles Edmund was born in February 1827. He was in Cheltenham for about two and a half years, so would have returned to Bath in 1828 or 1829.

The autobiography mainly relates to his religious experiences, church affairs and politics. He records that he preached his first sermon at Dunkerton in December 1832. He preached regularly every week, walking to places around Bath including Twerton, Acton Turville, and Luckington (a 32 mile walk).

Lucy Hannah records that he signed the temperance pledge in about 1835 and was teetotal thereafter. His friends had warned him that his health would suffer, but he found that he felt fitter and was better able to take his long preaching walks. She attributed his long life to his abstinence. He also enjoyed puddings and pastry very much after abstaining whereas he had not cared for them before.<sup>93</sup>

On the return to Bath he set up in business on his own at 3 Kingsmead Street. His Uncle Jefferies lived in the street and he found the premises when going to visit him. Lucy Hannah was born here on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1831.<sup>94</sup> By 1836 when their son John was born, they had moved to 21 Thomas Street. Sarah was born there in 1839.<sup>95</sup> The last child, Mercy, was born in 1843. In 1842 the business address is 26 Walcot St and in 1848, 12 Walcot St. 21 Thomas St may have been retained as the family home, as in 1851 their son Charles Edmund, (who had joined his father in the business) had married in around 1846, had two children and was living there.<sup>96</sup> The parents were then living at 12 Walcot St with the children Sarah and Mercy, (described as Mary in the census return) and CCD's mother Sarah was living with them. Charles Edmund Davis moved from 21 Thomas St sometime between 1858 and 1861.<sup>97</sup>

<sup>93</sup> Archive doc 157.

<sup>94</sup> Bath directory and Somerset Street register.

<sup>95</sup> Birth certificate.

<sup>96</sup> Census.

<sup>97</sup> Bath directories and 1861 census.

The large portrait of his mother would have been done about this time.<sup>98</sup> It was painted by a young artist called James Hardy who would have been 19 in 1851. His father was a Baptist preacher who used to accompany CCD on his preaching journeys and the son asked permission to paint his mother, as she had such a 'fine old lady's face'.<sup>99</sup> She died in about 1853.

John is not listed in the 1851 census. In the 1861 census, then aged 25, he is described as unable to follow any employment and dumb. Perhaps he was being looked after elsewhere in 1851. He died in 1873. He probably had some congenital abnormality, or else a severe illness in childhood.

Lucy Hannah had been to school in Acton Turville, a village about 10 miles north of Bath. She got to know the Goulter family who were farmers and used to entertain her father when he preached there. Sarah became friendly with the daughter Mary and then married Ezra in 1860 as already recorded.<sup>36</sup> He was 14 years older and had already been to Australia in 1849.<sup>100</sup> They immigrated to Australia immediately after the marriage with James Willway and CCD accompanied them to Liverpool to see them off. They had many children and descendants in Australia and Sarah lived to be 85, corresponding with the family in England until not long before her death.

A younger Goulter son, Alfred (born about 1843<sup>101</sup>) wanted to marry Mercy but said nothing and went to Australia. When he came back Mercy was engaged to the Rev John Davis, the pastor at Somerset Street from 1866 until the move to Manvers Street in 1872. They were married on 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 1868, but Mercy had TB and died in March of the following year.<sup>36</sup>

CCD was described in the directories as a brightsmith and bellhanger, with gas fitter added in 1852. In about 1855 he went into partnership with his son<sup>102</sup> and by 1858 they were described as gas engineers and general smiths. An advertisement in the directory for 1862 states that they were 'manufacturers of gas cooking apparatus for 11 years'. They also made gas heating stoves. At that time they had a virtual monopoly of gas cookers in Bath. Modern gas cookers emerged following the Great Exhibition in 1851. The 1857 Bath Rambler<sup>61</sup> includes an advertisement proclaiming that 'another year of extensive patronage proves the growing reputation which Davis and Son Gas Cooking Apparatus is attaining'. In 1854 CCD registered a patent for a portable blow-pipe apparatus and a patent was registered by Charles Edmund Davis in 1864. The 1851 census records him as employing 5 men and boys, and the 1861 census, 7 men and 6 boys.

A story is told of how CCD had invented a gas stove. In about 1840 his son Charles Edmund came home from school one day and smelled some cooking. He went downstairs and saw that his father had made a rough oven in the bottom of which he had a gas burner and in which he was cooking some cakes. He watched for some time,

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<sup>98</sup> Wates Family Chattels trust.

<sup>99</sup> Letter from Sarah Goulter to Theophilus 11.5.1912 - archive doc 1284.

<sup>100</sup> Charles Edmund Davis recorded his saying farewell to his mother in his book of poems. Archive doc 954.

<sup>101</sup> 1851 census.

<sup>102</sup> Autobiography page 92.

saw that the cakes were cooked perfectly and then he ran all the way up to Beacon Hill, where his mother had gone out to tea, to tell her how beautifully his father had been cooking by gas. However, CCD did not take it further at that time.<sup>103</sup>

He used gas at some stage to create an illuminated sign for 'Davis & Son'. This was preserved in the Camden Works Museum, Morford St, Bath,<sup>104</sup> (now the Museum of Bath at Work, Julian Road).

At some stage CCD must have fallen out with the Somerset Street chapel as he became a member of the Providence Chapel, which was where Lucy Hannah married James Willway in 1849. In about 1860 he was dismissed from the membership of that chapel. His wife then attended Somerset Street and he sometimes preached there, but felt he could not join. He believed that this break contributed to his wife's death which occurred in 1861 or 1862. He wrote: - "We spent thirty-five years together in wedded union and a more affectionate, kind and self-sacrificing wife and tender mother never I believe appeared in human form. I have many times felt unworthy of her, and I learnt her value more after I had lost her."

He records how he then set about finding another wife and decided to approach Miss Flewelling of Castle Combe, who was a member of the little church of Particular and Strict Baptists. An exchange of letters took place and they were married by Mr. Wassell, the Somerset Street pastor, but at the chapel at Corsham between Bath and Chippenham on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1862. She was referred to by the family as Mrs. Davis.

A sales brochure of about 1873 gives the address of the business as 12 and 26 Walcot Street and Back Street Quay. It also indicates that it was awarded a prize medal for cooking and heating by gas in 1870 at the Workmen's International Exhibition. In about that year he and his wife moved from 12 Walcot Street to 7 Larkhall Place. Until then the partnership had paid him rent of £20 (presumably per annum). This was increased to £30 when he left. As an addendum to the autobiography written in December 1881, he records how he has been depressed by a dispute with his son upon realising that the additional £10 rent had never been paid. His son did not make a success of the business which did not continue long after his death in 1884, although it was still listed in 1889.

Lucy Hannah records that his intellect was clear until he died at the age of 80.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> Article in Bath and Wilts Chronicle in 1925 reporting interview with Charles Edmunds son Edwin Alfred Davis.

<sup>104</sup> Bath and West Evening Chronicle 23.4.1982.

<sup>105</sup> Archive doc 157.

## Lucy Hannah Willway (nee Davis) (1831-1905)

As has already been recorded, she was born at 3 Kingsmead Street on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1831. Her marriage at the age of 18 in 1849 and the births of her children have been recounted under the section on her husband William J. C. Willway. (See page 19 for the family tree).

She was educated at a boarding school in Chippenham run by Mr. and Mrs. Brinkworth, where she was in 1843, and then at Acton Turville where she remained until shortly before her marriage.

Following her husband's departure for Australia and subsequent death in 1860, Lucy was left with the five children to bring up and the business to run. In addition, her mother died during the following year. It must have been a struggle and no doubt she received support from her father. He had lent her husband money on his departure and the latter wrote to Lucy from Liverpool urging her to repay his father-in-law from the business. Later, her father gave away her daughter Bessie at her wedding.

Not only did she succeed in carrying on the business but for a time she had a second branch at 2 Pulteney Bridge<sup>106</sup> and subsequently at 14 Northumberland Place.<sup>107</sup> In 1872 the business is described as a dyeing and bleaching works. The William Cock sideboard and table previously mentioned were at 8 Walcot Terrace and used in connection with the business.<sup>108</sup>

Bessie married James Baillie, the pastor of the Manvers Street chapel, in 1880 (thus following the example of her aunt Mercy). Before marrying William Ainsworth, Lydia had had a love affair with a Frenchman called Emile, whom she had met in Jersey in about 1774. They broke up because of differences over religion but she was disappointed afterwards for having done so. Mercy had had smallpox and her face was disfigured as a result. This may have contributed to her never marrying. Neither did Theophilus, who became a photographer. They both continued to live with their mother and Mercy always slept with her.<sup>109</sup>

Lucy retired from the business in about 1890, but it continued to be run by Willie under his mother's eye. He adopted his grandfather's very strict religious ideas but did not inherit his business ability.<sup>110</sup> Upon retiring from the business Lucy moved with Mercy and Theophilus to Shirley Villa, Beechen Cliff, where she died in 1905. The residential accommodation at 8 Walcot Terrace was let out. The business was eventually taken over by the Bristol firm which still had a branch at 8 Walcot Terrace in 1963.<sup>111</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> Directories - Morris's 1872 and Kelly's 1875 and 1883.

<sup>107</sup> Kelly's directory 1889.

<sup>108</sup> My memory of L.W.W. saying she remembers the table being used for the clothes and her grandmother getting money from the sideboard. I don't know whether this memory is correct and have no written record.

<sup>109</sup> Winifred Ainsworth to me 1964 including rest of this paragraph.

<sup>110</sup> L.W.W. to me 1964.

<sup>111</sup> Directory.

## ***William Willway's branch and Willway's (est.1727) Ltd***

As previously mentioned, John Willway set up his son William (1791-1864), at the age of 23, in business with a dyeworks in Lower Castle Street in 1814. The firm there was described as J & W Willway until 1818 when it was just William Willway. In 1820 he acquired the business of the late John Davies at 15 Christmas Street. The subsequent claim to have been established since 1740 presumably relates to Mr. Davies' business. In 1856 the directory entry claims that the firm was established in 1727, although the advertisement still states 1740. It was the 1727 that was always used thereafter but there is no information as to how it originated. He remained in business on his own at this address quite separate from his father's, and subsequently his brother's, business in Denmark St. Both firms in adverts made a point that they were not associated with any other firm in Bristol so there seems to have been some rivalry between them.<sup>112</sup>

In 1815 or 1816 he married Hannah Jenkins, born 1795. She may have belonged to another family of dyers as there is record of an Edward Jenkins at 61 Old Market Road from 1805 to 1820 and of a Thomas Jenkins at 45 Merchant Street from 1814. Her mother was Elizabeth whose maiden name was Norton. The Nortons also seem to have been dyers, there being a James Norton at Old Market Street in 1787 and a Peter Norton at various addresses from 1787 to 1815.<sup>113</sup>

William was a freeman of the City of Bristol.<sup>114</sup>

William and Hannah had ten children, between 1816 and 1839, the youngest, Henry Phillips being born when Hannah was 44. Of these six or seven lived to adulthood. Their eldest son John (1818-1888) came into the business, setting up on his own at the age of 24 at 27 Redcliffe Hill. The second son Charles William, born 1821, was living at home at the time of the 1841 census and was described as a boot maker's apprentice. Nothing else is known of him but there was an E. W. Willway (maybe I transcribed it incorrectly), a boot and shoemaker at 29 Christmas Street in 1847.<sup>115</sup> The third son William Henry, born 1823, became an accountant and was in practice at various addresses in Bristol from 1853 to 1860 when he immigrated to New Zealand. At the time of the 1851 census, William and Hannah were living at 15 Christmas Street with their then unmarried daughter Martha, aged 22, and the late child Henry, aged 12.

William would seem to have retired in 1863, shortly before his death in 1864, his business being merged with his son's who carried on under the name of William & John (or W & J) Willway from both addresses, 15 Christmas St and Redcliffe Hill. Hannah died in 1859.

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<sup>112</sup> 1831 directory in possession of Norman Willway 1964.

<sup>113</sup> All this information from letter from G. Dermott Harding to Theophilus Willway 1909 seen by me at Pollard Ash 1964.

<sup>114</sup> See admission of son Henry as a burgess in possession of M. I. Ainsworth 1964.

<sup>115</sup> Directory.

Henry Phillips Willway was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1839. His second name Phillips probably comes from his father's first cousin, Captain John Willway Phillips, who was known as Uncle Henry. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1866, Henry William married Elizabeth Ann Olive (b. 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 1842) and initially they lived at Highfield Cottage, Arley Hill.<sup>116</sup> He went into partnership with his brother John, opening a new branch of the business at 15 Park Street. According to the family bible,<sup>117</sup> they lived there from 1867 and the 1870 directory shows the business as Henry & John Willway & Co, with the three branches at 15 Christmas Street, 11 Redcliffe Hill and 15 Park Street. The firm continued thereafter at those addresses under the name Willway & Co, although 11 Redcliffe Hill became 71 Redcliffe Hill and 15 Park Street became 59 Park Street, possibly due to postal address changes.

John appears to have retired from the business by 1875, having handed over his share to his son John Bartley Willway, (1847-1929) known as Bartley. Bartley had moved into the Redcliffe Hill premises and John lived first at 113 Ashley Road and then at 137 Ashley Road, (a postal address change?).

Henry and Elizabeth had seven children, five of whom lived to adulthood. In 1879 they moved to Waterloo Street, Weston-super-Mare, where Henry set up a branch of the business and it was there that Margaret Irene ('Margie') was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 1882. At some time after 1889 he left the family business, moved to Swindon and either bought or managed an ironmongers business there. William and Lydia Ainsworth were in Swindon, which led to the friendship between Margie and Lucy and Reginald Ainsworth. Because both Henry and Margie were 'late' children of their parents, the generations had become out of step.

Bartley Willway carried on the business but he was not a good tradesman and it declined. All the Willway businesses eventually came together and became solely a laundry, which was situated at premises originally belonging to John Sweet Willway, on the Dundridge House Estate in the parish of St. George's.<sup>118</sup> Presumably the various sites where the dyeworks had been became the retail outlets of the business. John Sweet Willway himself was never part of it, but when the business was in difficulties his son Herbert Willway, who was a good businessman, became involved. It was incorporated as Willway's (Est. 1727) Ltd. From him the management passed to his son Norman Willway, until it was taken over in 1956 by the Guaranteed Laundries Group.<sup>119</sup> In 1963 there were still branches at 15 Christmas Street and 8 Walcot Terrace.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Post office directory.

<sup>117</sup> In possession of M. I. Ainsworth 1964.

<sup>118</sup> Letter from Philip Lacey 28.8.64.

<sup>119</sup> Norman Willway 1964 and Histories of Bristol Companies No.46.

<sup>120</sup> Post office directory.