

**The Wider Knapman Family.**  
**An account of all known instances of families**  
**and individuals named Knapman**  
**(or close variants of the name)**  
**from about 1650 to 1850,**  
**and their origins, where known.**

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### **To the reader:**

This document has evolved out of an earlier study that I made of all of the Knapmans that I could find who were alive at the time of the 1841 census, and contains almost all of the information in that earlier document, plus a great deal more.

If you find something here which is of interest, you are welcome to quote from this document, or to make reasonable use of it for your own personal researches, but it would be appreciated if you would acknowledge the source where appropriate.

Please be aware that this is a 'live' document, and is sure to contain mistakes. As and when I find or receive better information I will add to and/or correct it. This raises two points:

- if you find an error or omission, please let me know; and
- if you propose to use the information contained here at some future point, it may be worth checking back with me to see whether the information you propose to use has subsequently been corrected or improved.

Although I do not propose to add further chapters with post-1851 marriages involving Knapman bridegrooms, I have tried to provide a reasonable flavour of 'what happened next' within the current text, which provides at least some details of most of the relevant marriages contracted in England and Wales prior to about 1880.

I would be pleased in future to add further outline information on how families of 21<sup>st</sup> century Knapmans can be traced back to any of the families identified here. So if you find your ancestors, and the Knapman surname survives via their / your family, please let me know.

One other document that can be made available on request covers the descendants of William Knapman of Throwleigh over the period from 1500 to about 1650 (i.e. up to the start of this document). Other than that, I do not have any further information to offer regarding very early Knapman families: whatever else I have is included here.

David Knapman, May 2015

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### **DNA Testing**

In February 2013 I added my Y-DNA to the Devon surname project (see [familytreedna/public/Devon](http://familytreedna/public/Devon) for more information), and would encourage other male Knapmans to consider doing the same. It is not cheap, but for families whose roots cannot be traced back before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century it offers a way of discovering whether your Knapman family really is related to others, provided that someone from those other branches also participates. If you would like some further information to enable you to come to a slightly more informed decision, send me an Email.

# Chapter 1: Introduction

## This document

The main purpose of this document is to provide information on all of the marriages that I have managed to find, either directly or by inference, which involved bridegrooms called Knapman or Napman, and which took place between 1650 and the census of 1851. These marriages can be found, arranged in date order, in Chapters 3 to 9. Chapters 1 and 2 provide an introduction and cover the period before 1650, and in doing so provide background information on several of the families which appear in Chapter 3, and which then thread their various ways through the subsequent chapters.

The year that I have chosen as my starting point (1650) was towards the end of the Civil War: Charles I had been executed in 1649, and Cromwell's final victory was at Worcester in 1651. Coincidentally it also marks the point by which some of the better documented early branches of the Knapman family were dying out (at least as far as the male line, and therefore the surname Knapman, is concerned).

My end point<sup>1</sup> (the 1851 census) represents the point at which modern records become generally more reliable. Apart from the 1851 census returns themselves, which are notably more informative than those from 1841, the system requiring the formal registration of births, marriages and deaths in England had bedded in and become almost universal by 1851 (in contrast to the first few years after 1837, when some baptisms and burials were still not registered, though they may, of course, often be found in parish registers).

The marriages are arranged in a series of chapters, each of which starts with some contextual information regarding the main sources used in the chapter concerned, and a brief reference to some of the main events which shaped the relevant time period.

All references to families use the format 'Family 1699, John & Mary', and each family has a title line in that same format. If the date of the marriage has not (yet) been found, then it would be 'Family c.1699, John & Mary', with the approximate year generally being 12 months before the baptism of the couple's first known child. Within any one year, marriages on known dates are sorted before those on estimated ones. In Chapter 9, where the main source is the official marriage register and the date is not known but the quarter is (e.g. 2Q1845), dates known by quarter are sorted after those where the full date is known.

This document has emerged from an earlier one that I produced which looked at everyone recorded as Knapman or Napman on the 1841 census returns. That document was organised around families, with different generations of each distinct family line being grouped together. The advantage of that approach is that it is easier to follow a single family; the disadvantage is that it can be quite difficult to find the right place when one has to hunt through so many families. Having experimented with a variety of approaches in other 'one-name studies'<sup>2</sup> I have concluded that the layout that I have used here deals better than any other with uncertainty, because where it is unclear whether a particular individual comes from Family A or Family B that can be clearly stated, without having to allocate the individual and his subsequent descendants to one physical tree rather than the other. Indeed if new evidence emerges that disproves an inter-generational link that had been accepted, and 're-allocates' that individual and his descendants to a different ancestor, the changes that are required in order to accommodate that better and newer information are very simple.

## Use of colour

Notwithstanding what is said in the previous paragraph, I have used colour (applied to the **family title lines**) to facilitate the process of tracking the more complex families through the full 200-year period covered.

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<sup>1</sup> In reality I have covered a further 150 or so marriages which took place after the 1851 census, because within Chapters 7, 8 and 9 where a Knapman son did marry later, I have provided such information as I have been able to assemble about these marriages and their offspring. These details are, inevitably, incomplete.

<sup>2</sup> I use the term 'one-name studies' loosely. I have not registered any of them (the others covering the surnames Trick, Webber, Stote and Blandy with varying degrees of geographical focus), but that is in effect what they are.

By no means every family has a colour allocated to it. In particular those that only last a generation or two from the point where they first appear, whether as a consequence of not having children, or by being 'daughtered out', do not have colours.

Separately, I have used yellow and blue highlighting, generally **within family trees** but occasionally in the accompanying text, to indicate those individuals who can be found on the 1841 census (primarily as indexed and transcribed by ancestry.co.uk). Yellow means that the individual can be found, while blue means that although they cannot be found on the census returns, later evidence can be found which proves that they were alive in 1841.

## The origins of the name Knapman

As a child I was told that the name Knapman was associated with flint knapping (which involved the making of arrow and spear points, and subsequently the supply of strikers for flintlock firearms and the production of building materials). Knapping was an important activity in flint bearing locations, such as Brandon in Suffolk, and some parts of Norfolk and Sussex. However, the 1841 census shows that almost 88% of the 471 Knapmans (or close variants of the name) in Great Britain at that time were living in Devon, while there were no Knapmans in Suffolk or Sussex, and just one family group in Norfolk, who had brought the name from Devon. At that time there were also 112 persons called Knapper in Britain, 91 of them in Staffordshire; 1,051 called Knapp (over half of them in Middlesex, Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Hampshire); and 564 called Napper (two thirds of them in Sussex, Somerset and Middlesex). If anyone took their name from knapping, these seem to me to be stronger candidates.

If the name does not come from flint knapping, the most likely derivation seems to be the term knap which is widely used in Devon to signify a hill, or the crest of a hill, and which has its origins in the Old English word *cnæpp* meaning top, and possibly the Old Norse word *knapp* meaning knob. This conclusion is endorsed by 'Patronymica Britannica'<sup>3</sup>, which describes Knapman as meaning "a dweller upon a knap or hill". However, this begs the question of why the name is not more widely distributed.

## The principal sources

In late 2006 I was given a copy of a very substantial Knapman family tree going back to William Knapman of Throwleigh which had been drawn up by John Knapman of Plymouth in 1988. This tree is referred to in some messages on Knapman-related internet genealogy websites, and is likely to be familiar to many family historians with an interest in the Knapman name. I subsequently received from John Knapman a more detailed, and updated, edition of that tree, and extensive supporting information. I cannot overstate the debt that I owe to his researches and his very generous approach to sharing the fruits of his labours.

The early parts of John Knapman's tree can be confirmed by reference to page 518 of Volume II of 'The Visitations of Devon comprising the Herald's Visitations of 1531, 1564 and 1620, with additions by Lt Col J L Vivian'<sup>4</sup>. An equivalent publication on the Herald's Cornish visitations can easily be found on the internet. An alternative source document is 'Devonshire Pedigrees, recorded in the Herald's Visitation of 1620' produced in 1859-61 by John Tuckett.

All of the Herald's information about the Knapman family of Throwleigh came from the visitation of 1620, suggesting that the family came to sufficient prominence to be awarded arms at some point between 1564 and 1620. As far as the period from 1500 to 1650 is concerned, the existence in the National Archives of wills for James Knapman the elder of Drewsteignton (died in 1593), his older brother Alexander (died in 1618), Alexander's oldest son William (died in 1634) and James' grandson James (died in 1644) provide valuable supplementary information. There is also an 'inquisition post mortem' (a precursor of the process of proving a will) in the National Archives for the original William Knapman, which confirms that he died in 1563. It identifies a long string of large landholdings totalling well over 1,000 acres in the parishes of Throwleigh, Gidleigh, South Tawton, Okehampton, Mortonhampstead and Drewsteignton.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Patronymica Britannica: A dictionary of the family names of the United Kingdom, by Mark Anthony Lowes, 1860, accessible on-line via Google Books.

<sup>4</sup> This book was published by Henry S Eland of Exeter in 1895, and one copy is held in the British Library's Harleian collection. I refer to this book later as Vivian (1895). The Tuckett volume referred to later in the same paragraph is also held in the British Library.

The medievalgenealogy.org.uk website explains that 'inquisitions post mortem' were held following the death of a direct tenant of the crown, to establish what lands were held, and who should succeed to them. However and whenever he obtained his land, this confirms that by the time he died the first William was a man of considerable substance.

Unfortunately many more Devon wills, including about 40 which would have been of direct interest to me, were destroyed by fire in Exeter in 1942 (during a World War II bombing raid). However, various lists (or 'calendars') of the lost wills still exist<sup>5</sup>, from which names, dates and parish links can be drawn. There has also been an extremely helpful project, accessible via the Devon pages of the genuki.org.uk website (referred to hereafter more simply as the genuki website), to consolidate information on all known Devon wills, and where to find those that survive. I have also drawn widely on parish records, both directly via the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC, formerly the Devon Records Office, or DRO), and via transcriptions (including those of the Devon & Cornwall Record Society, which are also in the DHC) and the records which can be found on the internet which I refer to by their old name, of the International Genealogical Index (IGI).

One thing that is very striking about the records in the National Archives (and elsewhere, other than some parish registers), is that the spelling of the name Knapman, unlike many others, is remarkably consistent. Although there are several instances of Napman in parish records, the most obvious exception to this general rule that I have found is a single reference from the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century to a 'John Cnappeman' from west Devon (of whom more later, in Chapter 2, which also considers all other early references to Knapmans that I have found).

Another vital source of information is the collection of papers linked to lawsuits which can be consulted at the National Archives at Kew. These are mainly of relevance to the Knapmans of Throwleigh.

As well as sporadic lawsuits and land deals (which can only be expected to turn up evidence of relatively well-off individuals) there is a sequence of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century sources<sup>6</sup> which provide evidence not unlike that from censuses, in that they set out to record everyone who was deemed liable to pay taxes to the Crown, or to fight if England was invaded. The tax assessments also indicate the relative wealth of all of the named individuals. Because the originals are not perfectly preserved, even the most complete are not fully comprehensive, so absence of evidence cannot be deemed to provide evidence of absence.

In date order, these start with the 'Devon Lay Subsidy Rolls' for 1524-27 and 1543-45. Both show William Knapman of Throwleigh to have been the richest Knapman in Devon when they were compiled, despite his relative youth in 1524. The next source is the 'Devon muster roll for 1569', the purpose of which was to list all those aged over 16 who could be called on to fight the Spanish if necessary, as well as those who would be expected to provide cash and equipment. Because the Stannary Parliament was responsible for such matters, there are no returns for 25 tin-producing parishes, including Throwleigh, Drewsteignton, Gidleigh and Chagford.

The next five sources are all tax-related lists, albeit incomplete. They cover tax assessments drawn up in 1581, 1642 and 1647, and then (the most complete of the four) the '1660 Poll Tax Roll', and finally the '1674 Hearth Tax Returns'. By 1660, by far the main concentration of tax-paying Knapmans was in Throwleigh, Chagford and South Tawton. Unfortunately the '1674 Hearth Tax Returns' do not cover Throwleigh, Drewsteignton, Gidleigh, Chagford or South Tawton, but they do reveal Knapmans elsewhere in Devon, as discussed in Chapter 2. There is a quite separate, and apparently complete, transcription of the 1671/72 Hearth Tax returns for Exeter which can be seen in the DHC. This does not show any Knapmans living in Exeter at that time.

## **The family of William Knapman of Throwleigh**

In a separate document (which can be made available on request) I have traced as much as I can of the full family of William Knapman of Throwleigh, including two substantial branches which dominate the documentary record over the period from 1500 to 1650, but which both died out

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<sup>5</sup> The one that I have used can be found in full on the internet, and is entitled 'Calendars of Wills and Administrations relating to the counties of Devon and Cornwall, proved in the Court of the Principal Registry of the Bishop of Exeter, 1559-1799, and of Devon only, proved in the Court of the Archdeaconry of Exeter, 1540-1799'. It was edited by Edward Alexander Fry and published in 1908 by William Brendon & Son Ltd for the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature, and Art. The 'Devon Wills Project', the results of which are accessible via genuki.org.uk, the UK and Ireland Genealogy website.

<sup>6</sup> For all of the information in this section I have relied on transcripts, most of them produced by T L Stoate, which are published on CD by thebookshop.org.uk in Paignton.

before or shortly after the Civil War. Very basic details of these branches of the family can be found in family trees which are included at the end of Chapter 2 (together with one other branch of the wider Knapman family which can be traced back before 1650). Those trees also show the origins of, and linkages between, several of the families which are set out in Chapter 3.

### **A word of warning**

An article entitled 'The Ancient Family of Wyke of North Wyke, Co Devon' by The Reverend W Wykes-Finch, MA, JP<sup>7</sup>) which explores the history and internal struggles of the Wykes family, into which the Knapmans married, and with whom they did business, provides the following words of warning regarding family history, which seem to me to be highly relevant, and well worth quoting.

*"Probably in nothing do men more slip, or allow preconceived ideas to dominate their conclusions, than in the writing of family history. Too often a pleasing assumption speedily becomes a boasted fact: the imagination is feasted with indulgence, and sentimental adornment imposes on the unwary and sometimes 'deceives the very elect'. A single-minded devotion to the investigation of truth gradually falls into abeyance; the desire to convert the pride of fiction into unassailable fact grows apace, and the result becomes worse than misleading". In other words, caveat lector!*

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<sup>7</sup> This paper was read at Sidmouth in July 1903 and printed in TDA Vol.35, pp.360-425.

## Chapter 2: Knapmans from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Centuries

### Earliest sightings (prior to the 1524-27 Lay Subsidy Rolls)

The very earliest reference to any Knapman that I have found<sup>8</sup> concerns a Thomas Knapman, who on 1 July 1421 sat in Okehampton as a juror at the inquisition post mortem for Laurence Kyng. By this time he must have been an adult, and was quite likely born as early as 1375. He would not have been appointed a juror if he was not a man of some substance.

The next sighting occurs about 30 years later (equivalent to one generation), and can be found on both the british-history.ac.uk and medievalgenealogy.org.uk websites, which cite a land deal from the period between 1449 and 1457<sup>9</sup> which involved several parcels of land, at least one of them linked to a John Cnappeman. In this deal, Edward Langford and his wife Sanchia sold some land to William Lytelwyke, Nicholas Whyte, Thomas Smyth, clerk, and William West, described as "... *the manors of Catykkebeare and Melbyre and the advowson of the church of Monkeokhampton and 8 acres of land, 9 pounds, 15 shillings, 10 pence and 1 halfpenny of rent and rent of 1 horse's nail and of 2 red roses ...*". The description goes on to specify that the land was "... *in Monkeokhampton, Nythercote, Southcote, Maddeford, Blakedon, Crofte, Greneslade, Bradeworthe, Nythermelbyre, Wyggedon, More, Manyspesdyche, Ouermylbury, Brokescombe, Cokyswall, Northcombe, Wyke Germyn and Fenne*". The medievalgenealogy.org.uk website reckons that these places are all to be found in the parishes of Okehampton, Bratton Clovelly, Germansweek, Beaworthy, Clawton, Pyworthy, Bradworthy, Parkham, Frithelstock, Huntsham, Monkeokehampton, Winkleigh and North Tawton, all of which lie within a circle with a radius of just over 15 miles (as the crow flies) centred on Black Torrington.

Besides the land and its rents, Edward and Sanchia Langford passed on "... *the homages and all services of Walter Nithercote, Walter Reynald, Thomas Coke, Henry Denbold, Thomas Wonnecote, John Madeford, John Grodon, Thomas Arnold, John Cnappeman, John Bex, Alice Bratyn, Thomas Pateryg, Martin Haywode, John Thorne, William Clerke, William Melbury, Baldwin Fulleford, William Langeford, John Manspesde[c]he, William Perys, John Heye, Roger Colompere, Nicholas Corune, Walter, prior of Frydelstoke, and his successors, Adam atte Fenne and William Cary and their heirs, in respect of all the tenements which they held before of Edward and Sanchia in the aforesaid vills*".

This places John Cnappeman in west Devon, with a foot on the property ladder, in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He could have been born at any time between about 1400 and 1425.

The third reference can be found on the National Archives website, and concerns another land transaction (from the period 1493 to 1500) involving "... *John Knapman and Thomasyn, his wife, and daughter and heir of Alys Ovorde v. John Hurle, feoffes to uses: two messuages and land in Treburtell and Treglomme, Cornwall*"<sup>10</sup>. Treburtell was apparently a large monastic estate in the parish of Tresmere, a few miles west of Launceston, and less than 20 miles from Black Torrington as the crow flies.

If this John Knapman was old enough to be buying and selling land in the closing years of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, he could well have been born in about 1465. If he was descended from John Cnappeman, it seems more likely that he was a grandson rather than his son.

The fourth sighting comes from the handwritten card index in the DHC (and formerly in the Westcountry Studies Library in Exeter) which was assembled many years ago, and certainly prior to the disastrous fire of 1942 which destroyed so many old Devon archives. It concerns Thomas Knapman and a feoffment dated 30 October 1507 signed at Hartland. It states that "*Thomas Dalyn of Cuttisford and Robert Rawe had conveyed on 28 August 16 Edw IV to Knapman jointly with Philip Beamont Esq, John Denys of Orleigh, Wm Coffyn, Thos Cutlyff, John Coke the younger, John Leyman, John Clyff and Thos Veyle all now deceased (1) certain lands and tenements in Yeryche in West Putford (2) lands lately held by Isabel Puddyng in Chepying Torryngton (3) a tenement in which Batina (illegible) lately the wife of Robert Gifford lately dwelt (4) twelve acres in Herton (5) a tenement near Herton Mille which Alice Bapilhole lately held, in Hartland. Knapman gives and*

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<sup>8</sup> Source: 'Parochial histories of Devonshire No.1: Okehampton' compiled by Dr Edward H Young in 1931 for the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art. See page 17.

<sup>9</sup> The source is a 'feet of fines' record held in the National Archives, Ref CP 25/1/46/90 number 285, translated and transcribed on the medievalgenealogy.org.uk website.

<sup>10</sup> Court of Chancery, Six Clerks Office, pleadings addressed to the Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury as Lord Chancellor, ref C 1/210/11. 'Feoffes' is a term that was used in property transfers at that time.

*demises the same to Laurence Cutlyff, Thomas Docton (illegible) Laurence Prust of Thuyscote, John Husband, John Veyle and John Draper, making Hugh Prust and Wm Blanchard his attorneys to deliver (illegible). Witnesses Richard Lorymer, Abbot of Hartland, Louis Pollard, John Prust, Peter Cawode."* The original document is referenced as 'Hist MSS Comm 5<sup>th</sup> Rep App571'.

All of these references pre-date the adulthood of William Knapman of Throwleigh, and given William's wealth, it seems relatively likely that his direct ancestors would have been among these individuals.

### **William Knapman of Throwleigh and his descendants**

At the end of this chapter is a set of pre-1650 family trees which show where several of the families which appear in Chapter 3 sprang from. Family Tree 2A starts with William Knapman of Throwleigh, and the first half of it is based on evidence that is very good. The second half of 2A, particularly as regards the descendants of John, William's second eldest grandson, are more speculative. John died as a relatively young man, albeit married with a family, without leaving a will (at least one that survives). Similar caution should be applied to parts of Family Tree 2B. Family Tree 1 provides a highly speculative hypothesis showing how William of Throwleigh could conceivably be linked to other early Knapmans, including those in Family Tree 3.

As mentioned above, I have in a separate document written an extended account of William of Throwleigh and his pre-1650 family. That account is dominated by branches of the family that are now extinct (at least as far as the male line and Knapman surname are concerned), but does show in more detail than can be captured on Family Trees 2A and 2B how John and Edward (his two grandsons) fit in to the wider narrative, and how they very probably connect to several of the families in Chapter 3.

### **Other clusters of Knapmans in Devon**

#### ***Knapmans in the parishes of Woolfardisworthy and Hartland after 1520***

The 1524-27 Lay Subsidy Rolls recorded William Knapman and John Knapman living in the north Devon parish of 'Wulfardysworthy', and assessed for £9 and £8 respectively (compared to £11 for the first William of Throwleigh, which was the highest assessment in the parish). Given their very similar assessments, they may have been brothers rather than father and son. Woolfardisworthy is less than 20 miles as the crow flies from Black Torrington (the area where Knapmans had previously been identified). It is pure speculation, of course, but this John could have been the John Knapman who had an interest in land near Launceston.

The 1543-45 Roll for Woolfardisworthy has an illegible Knapman assessed for £15 (compared to £30 for William of Throwleigh), and Richard Knapman assessed for £2. The illegible name was presumably either William or John, with one of them being Richard's father.

There is then evidence from 1549 that Richard Knapman occupied some land in the neighbouring parish of Hartland. Specifically, the National Archives website says<sup>11</sup> that on 2 October 1549 Richard Knapman gave an 'indented witness of homage' to Henry, Marquis of Dorset, "... *for lands and tenements in Knap held of the Marquis by military service as of the manor of Southole*". By way of background, Henry, Marquis of Dorset came from a prominent family, and was the father of Lady Jane Grey, who was Queen of England for nine days in 1553. She was executed for her presumption, but he was pardoned. Four years later, however, he was executed for supporting a rebellion against Queen Mary and her marriage to King Philip of Spain.

According to the Hartland parish website, 'hole' signifies a house in a hollow (and the name Hartland is derived from Hertiland, the home of Hert, or Heard). The modern map shows Knap Head, very close to the coast, to the west of the village of Welcombe. There are no obvious grounds for believing that Richard Knapman's position was particularly significant: there are several other records of indented homage to Henry, Marquis of Dorset involving residents of Hartland in the same year.

There is then a record in the Cornwall Record Office (visible via the National Archives website) dated 14 October 1558 which refers to "Alice, wife of Richard Knappman" as the holder of some land in the parish and/or manor of Hartland. The TDA<sup>12</sup> also reveals evidence of Richard Knapman in the form of two freehold tenancies held 'by military service' at West Town in Hartland, and

<sup>11</sup> The summary refers to a document in the DHC, Ref 123M/TB549.

<sup>12</sup> TDA Vol.34, pp.446 and 448.

Forcewell in West Wullesworthy (or Woolfardisworthy) in 1566. If he was old enough to hold land from the Marquis of Dorset in 1549, and to have been assessed for tax before that, he may well have been born between 1500 and 1520, and very probably towards the start of that period.

The Devon Muster Roll for 1569 shows that Richard was still resident in Woolfardisworthy. He was assessed as being liable to contribute between £10 and £20, plus a bow, a sheaf of 24 arrows, a steel cap, a bill (presumably bill hook) and 'a corslet' (an item of body armour). Three of the four persons in Woolfardisworthy identified as pikemen were Philip, Sampson and John Knapman, presumably sons of Richard and Alice.

The tax assessment for 1581 records Philip Knapman in Hartland, while his (probable) brothers Sampson and John were still in Woolfardisworthy. Richard was not mentioned, and appears to have died in 1579, leaving a will<sup>13</sup> (since lost) which described him as 'of Woolfardisworthy'. John also left a will, dated 1586, which is recorded by the same source as Richard's.

There was a marriage at Ilfracombe on 17 June 1572 between Luce Knapman (that is the transcription on the Findmypast.org website, and having checked the original I can offer nothing better) and William Hartnall. She was probably from this same family.

We also know from the genuki website (including the seating plan for St Nectan's church from 1613) that Philip had a wife called Margery, and that she was buried on 26 November 1617 followed less than a year later (on 30 September 1618) by Philip. His younger brother, Sampson, married Honor Abbat on 6 February 1587, and was buried on 14 April 1606. Shortly before his death, in 1605, Sampson is mentioned in the Hartland parish accounts<sup>14</sup> as having given a sheep to the parish. His will was also one of the lost Devon wills destroyed during World War II. Honor was very probably born Honor Cholwill: she married William Abbat of Crenham (Hartland) in 1569, and was widowed in 1585.

I have seen no evidence that either Philip or Sampson had any children (certainly no sons who held land or were assessed for tax in subsequent Rolls), and I have seen no further evidence of their (probable) brother John. All the evidence suggests that this branch of the Knapman family died out either in 1618, or when John died.

### ***Knapmans between Okehampton and the north Devon coast after 1520***

The Devon Lay Subsidy Roll for 1543-45 records Nicholas Knappman of Kokebury (Cookbury), assessed for £4. No Knapmans had been listed there or nearby in 1524-27, and Nicholas was very probably the Nicholas who had been assessed for £1 at Bridestowe (near Okehampton: see below) at that time.

The National Archives website then has a Chancery case from the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century (1556 to 1558) involving "... *John Tarrye of Cookbury, yeoman, v. Joan Peers and John Knapman: 'peysed groots' of silver, silver spoons, brass pots and pewter entrusted to defendants*"<sup>15</sup>. I have looked at the original document, but was unable to read a word of it.

Another piece of evidence from the card index (formerly located in the Westcountry Studies Library, but now in the DHC) shows that on 5 April 1561 John Chechester of Frithelstock sold some property in Great Torrington including "... *land in Towne Parke and Heigh Street in tenure of John Knapman ...*".

The 1569 Muster Rolls list John Knapman junior as a 'harquebusier' (musket bearer) at Cookbury, from which we can infer that there were two Johns, father and son, at Cookbury by then, that any other sons were too young to appear on the Muster Roll, and that John senior was too old (or unfit).

About six or seven miles south of Cookbury, at Ashwater, on 24 November 1578, Phillip (female, possibly Phillippa) Knapman married Anthony Rich. Based on her age and name, she could have been one of the Hartland Knapmans (and a sister of Philip, Sampson and John): her marriage

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<sup>13</sup> The evidence for this comes from 'Index of the Wills and Administrations Relating to the County of Devon Proved in the Archdeanery of Barnstaple, 1553 to 1858' edited by J J Beckerlegge, which is one of the sources covered by the Devon Wills project accessible via the genuki website.

<sup>14</sup> The accounts are available as a transcript in the DHC. Hartland is a particularly well-documented parish. Even the microfiche copies of the earliest parish registers are beautifully clear.

<sup>15</sup> Chancery Ref C 1/1477/3.

probably occurred not very long after the death of Richard. Based on geography, though, I think it is slightly more likely that she was the daughter of the elder John Knapmans of Cookbury.

John Knapman senior was assessed for tax on the 1581 tax roll, and was the only Knapman in the immediate area listed at that time. This is also very likely the same John Knapman who was involved, posthumously, in a case that was frequently cited in legal circles thereafter<sup>16</sup>. The case was heard in 'Michaelmas Term, 24 and 25 Eliz.' which is probably 1582, and concerned a bond for £200 given by John Knapman which the plaintiff (called Kinguell) wanted to recover from his administrators, John having died before Michaelmas. His executors were instructed to pay £30 in two instalments, but no further damages were awarded.

A John Knapman was then married to Margerye Glawen on 13 August 1603 at Frithelstock, a few miles west of Great Torrington. Then, on 26 July 1604, Priscilla, daughter of John Knapman, was baptised at Monkleigh, the parish immediately to the north of Frithelstock, followed by Jane on 17 November 1606. Margerye died the following year, and the Monkleigh parish register shows that she was buried there in July 1607. Then on 7 February 1614, a John Knapman married Elizabeth Frye at Ashwater, and it seems highly likely that this was a second marriage for this same John. A widow called Elizabeth Knapman was later assessed for 5s tax at Cookbury on the 1642 tax roll, by when we can assume that John had died.

Three years after John's second marriage, on 4 February 1617, Thomas Knapman married Thomzine Clindon in the parish of Cookbury, and then on 27 November 1617 Thomas' daughter Willmott was baptised at Cookbury. I have also seen a record<sup>17</sup> dated 20 June 1621 which refers to a "... *messuage and tenement in Upcott within the manor of Stapledon, late in the tenure of Thomas Knapman, deceased*". Stapledon is in Cookbury, and we can assume that Thomas died while his daughter was still very young. His will, dated 1619, was another of the lost Devon wills.

No Knapmans were listed at Cookbury on the roll for either the 1660 Poll Tax or the 1674 Hearth Tax. However, the parish register for Bradford (just north of Cookbury) shows that on 13 December 1694 an Anna Knapman was buried there.

The parish register for Ashreigney, several miles further east, shows that there was at least one further family of Knapmans living there in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. On 20 February 1679 Amy, daughter of Mary Knapman, was buried. By linking the event to Mary's name, we can conclude that Amy was a child, and that Mary had probably been widowed. About 20 years later Elizabeth Knapman, possibly another daughter, was buried, on 6 November 1698, followed on 12 March 1700 by Mary Knapman, widow. It may be worth noting that the 1674 Hearth Tax Roll recorded a pauper called John Naman living at Bishop's Tawton, which is just south of Barnstaple, and about a dozen miles north of Ashreigney. He could have been Mary's husband, and descended from one of the Cookbury Knapmans.

Because the information in the previous paragraph is so fragmentary, and omits any information regarding who Mary's husband may have been, these post-1650 individuals are not picked up in Chapter 3.

### ***Two clusters of Knapmans around Okehampton and Tavistock after 1520***

The Devon Lay Subsidy Rolls for 1524-27 records a John Knappeman of Northlew (about 5 miles north west of Okehampton), assessed for £10 (one pound less than the first William of Throwleigh). The spelling is very close to that of John Knappeman, who lived in exactly this area in about 1450. The same roll records John and Robert Knappeman in the neighbouring parish of Ynwardlegh (Inwardleigh), assessed for £1-6s-8d, and £1 respectively. No Knapmans were listed in either of these parishes in 1543-45, and it seems likely that this particular branch of the family had died out (or moved) by then.

A few miles further south, but still within the 'natural catchment' of Okehampton, a Nicholas Knapman was assessed for £1 at Bridestowe in 1524-27, but not recorded in 1543-45. As noted above, he had very probably moved to Cookbury by then. He may well have been related to the Knappemans of Northlew and Inwardleigh, and John and Robert may have moved to Cookbury with him. Certainly as reported above, there are instances of those names at Cookbury in subsequent generations.

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<sup>16</sup> The information here is taken from p.11 of 'Reports of Sir George Cooke, Kt, of Selected Cases adjudged in the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, King James and King Charles I' which can be viewed on-line via Google Books.

<sup>17</sup> DHC Ref 212/8/8.

There was a further cluster of Knapmans at Lamerton, about 3 miles north west of Tavistock. The Devon Lay Subsidy Rolls for 1524-27 record William Knapman assessed for £4 at that time (*'and no more on his oath'*). His assessment had risen to £10 by 1543-45.

Then on 5 July 1564, a Johannes (John) Knapman was baptised in the neighbouring parish of Mary Tavy, a mining village on the western side of Dartmoor, between Lydford and Tavistock. The parish register is not entirely clear, but his father's name looks very like William, and he (William) was very probably the son of the above mentioned William Knapman of Lamerton, presumably born between about 1530 and 1540. A William Knapman was then buried at Lamerton on 3 May 1569, followed by two Johns (on 22 March 1626 and 27 July 1632, one of whom may well have been baptised (as Johan) at Lamerton on 24 January 1577), and Honor (a widow) on 17 August 1634.

There are no further tax assessments of Knapmans in or around Lamerton until 1674, when the Hearth Tax Roll (which recorded a much wider stratum of society) listed a Will Napman with two hearths at Sydenham Damerel (a few miles west of Lamerton, close to the Tamar), and a pauper called Jane Napman at Lamerton. A Constantine Knapman had been buried at Lamerton 2 years before, on 2 January 1672.

In the absence of any further information, the post-1650 individuals named in the foregoing paragraph are not picked up in Chapter 3.

### ***Three otherwise unexplained Knapmans at Chagford, South Tawton and Drewsteignton (1528 to 1542)***

In June 1511 Robert Knapman presented 4 ingots of tin at the Chagford coinage. I owe this information to Dr Tom Greeves, a leading authority on the Dartmoor tin industry. So far I have been unable to find any further reference to Robert, who could have been the father of the first William Knapman of Throwleigh (though see below for an equally plausible alternative).

A board in South Tawton church shows that a John Knapman was a churchwarden there in 1528, and this can be confirmed by reference to the Churchwardens' Accounts for the parish, which are held at the DHC, and which give the date as 1528/29. He could well have been either the father or brother of the first William Knapman of Throwleigh. He may well also be the John Knapman who presented tin at Chagford to the value of 12s 5d in June 1523 and 6s 3d in September of that same year.

However, there is no evidence of a John Knapman on the Lay Subsidy Rolls for South Tawton (or Throwleigh, or Drewsteignton) in 1524-27, suggesting that he may have moved to South Tawton from elsewhere. My suspicion is that he is the same relatively rich individual who had been assessed for tax at Northlew in 1524-27, and therefore of an age to be the father of the first William Knapman of Throwleigh.

There is then an entry in the card index formerly held at the Westcountry Studies Library but now in the DHC which indicates that in 1542 Sir John Fulford sold some land in Drewsteignton to John Martyn, including land at Morton "... *which Johan Legh, late wife of John Knapman, holds*". It seems reasonably likely that her late husband was the former churchwarden at South Tawton.

### ***Knapmans in the area around Exeter after 1520***

Generally speaking I have not noted instances of the surname Knapp, which appears to be quite distinct from Knapman. However, it may be relevant that a William Knap was identified on the 1569 Muster Roll as a pikeman at Alphington, a short distance west of Exeter: on balance, though, I doubt it.

There was a marriage on 8 November 1615 at St Mary Major, Exeter between John Knapman, described as a 'minister' (i.e. priest) and Joane Bennet, which I have not managed to link clearly to any of the other early Knapmans. The fact that it took place in Exeter does not, of course, mean that John was originally from Exeter: he could have been from almost anywhere in Devon.

The next 'sighting' in or around Exeter can be found on the 1661 Poll Tax Roll (though not the 1674 Hearth Tax Roll), which lists Alexander Knapman (and his wife) living in Exminster. They and their probable family are picked up in Chapter 3. The 1674 Hearth Tax Roll records Edward Napman of Newton St Scirius (Newton St Cyres), a few miles from Exeter, and he too is picked up in Chapter 3.

## ***Knapmans on the southern edge of Dartmoor***

The most numerous sightings of Knapmans outside the area around Throwleigh, Drewsteignton and South Tawton that I have found in the 17<sup>th</sup> century come from various clusters on the southern edge of Dartmoor, several of them close to Ashburton and Totnes (and one in Stoke Gabriel, near the mouth of the river Dart). The very first sighting that I have found of a Knapman to the south of Dartmoor (from the IGI) is in Buckfastleigh, where Thomas, son of Philip Knapman, was baptised on 5 September 1602. The second sighting occurs a few years later and a few miles further north, in the parish of Ilsington, where a John Knapman married Hanna Brewer on 29 September 1614. The parish marriage register records that he was a 'clerk', or priest.

The parish registers for Holne start in 1597, and are available via the genuki website as well as in the Devon Records Office, and they do not show any other Knapman-related events prior to 1614.

These Knapmans can be found on Family Tree 3 at the end of this chapter, and many of their probable descendants can be found in Chapters 3 onwards. One marriage which is missing from Family Tree 3 involved a John Knapman who married Barbara Soper at Staverton St Paul (adjacent to Dartington) on 10 August 1626. This could have been a re-marriage for the John who had previously married Hanna Brewer (see above). If it was not, then I do not know where he came from.

There was also a baptism at Bovey Tracey on 21 March 1626 of Richard Knapman, the illegitimate son of Anne Knapman, whose origins I do not know. Richard did not survive: he was buried at Bovey Tracey in 1627. Anne may be the person, recorded as Anna, who then married Johes Cocke at Bovey Tracey on 5 May 1628.

It may be a pure coincidence, but Ashburton is another of the Stannary towns, and Totnes was the port from which much of the tin was shipped out of Devon. The Knapmans who first moved to this area may, like those in Throwleigh, have been drawn by an interest in tin mining. As well as the parishes of Holne, Buckfastleigh and Rattery (a very short distance further south), Chapter 3 records other Knapman families from Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh and Kenn, a few miles to the north east.

## **Other Knapmans outside Devon in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries**

### ***Somerset***

The IGI records the burial of Baldwin Knapman at Pitminster, near Taunton, on 22 December 1618. I have found no other evidence of Knapmans in Somerset at this time.

### ***London***

According to the IGI, Agnete Knapman married Richard Bradforde at St Martin in the Fields, then still very much on the outskirts of London, on 6 July 1578. She had presumably been born in around 1550, possibly in Devon. It is pure speculation, but she could easily have been the daughter of Richard Knapman of Hartland, who had very probably died in the year or two before her marriage. Alternatively she might have been the daughter of John Knapman senior of Cookbury.

Seventy years later, in 1648, according to 'A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames'<sup>18</sup>, Elizabeth Knapman married Richard Hill at St Michael's, Cornhill.

### ***Two false leads in Hampshire***

The british-history.ac.uk website carries a reference in a document dated August 1681 to a 'Ferdinando Knapman (or Knapton)' who had at some time before that leased what was evidently quite a grand house in or near Lyndhurst (in the New Forest) from the Earl of Bath. The 'Original Records of Nonconformity under Persecution and Indulgence' transcribed by Professor G Lyon Turner MA in 1911, and now available on-line via Google Books, carries a slightly earlier reference to a Presbyterian preacher called 'Albynus Knapman of Dockenhurst' (corrected to Brockenhurst in the index) in 1672. There was certainly a large family in the Brockenhurst area called Knapton in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, whose family names included instances of Albinus, Caesar and Ferdinando. There are also several references accessible via the National Archives website to

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<sup>18</sup> By Charles Wareing Bardsley. This is one of a small number of early sightings under the entry for 'Knapman'.

persons called Albinus Knapton (e.g. three references in 1696<sup>19</sup> to a naval officer of that name), and I conclude that the use of Knapman in these two instances is due to simple mis-transcription. I have included them here simply to assist anyone else who may find them, to treat them with appropriate caution.

### **German Knapmans**

There were also Knapmans in Germany (primarily in Prussia). Evidence for this can be found via the IGI, including some who spelled their surname without any double letters. Some of their descendants subsequently emigrated to North America, but they represent a small minority of the total Knapman 'tribe'. I have no reason to believe that the German Knapmans had roots in Devon, though given the extent of the trading and maritime links between London and the ports of North Germany and the Baltic, it is not completely out of the question.

### **Conclusions**

Although I certainly cannot prove it, I think that it is both possible and conceivable that all of the Knapmans with English roots who are mentioned above were descended from a single family. That family could well have started in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century with Thomas Knapman and John Cnappeman of West Devon. I have constructed Family Tree 1 (which follows the end of this section of text) to show how this could have happened, consistent with all of the evidence that I have found or been shown. I must stress that this does not purport to be a true family tree, but simply a hypothesis which can be further tested. If evidence that is inconsistent turns up, then Family Tree 1 will have to be amended or abandoned, but for the time being it provides a working model.

As the remainder of this document (from Chapter 3 onwards) shows, most all of the families and individuals named Knapman who were living outside Devon by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century who did not have German roots had clear links to Devon, as did the only surviving English-born individuals who had emigrated to North America prior to 1850. It therefore seems relatively likely that all non-German Knapmans alive in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century could trace their roots back to Devon.

### **Early Family Trees**

Family Trees 1 to 3 below show where many of the families described in Chapters 3 to 9 inclusive very probably came from, as far back as I have been able to trace their roots.

Text **in bold** within Family Trees 2A, 2B and 3 shows where to look for descendants of those families. Those families which last for several generations are colour-coded throughout Chapters 3 to 9. Those that died out relatively quickly (in the male line) are not.

Family Tree 2A is linked to all of the families colour-coded **yellow** and **grey** (and to some others which are not colour-coded).

Family Tree 2B is linked to all of the families colour-coded **brown** (and to some others which are not colour-coded).

Family Tree 3 is linked to all of the families colour-coded **light green**, **light blue** and **medium blue** (and to some others which are not colour-coded).

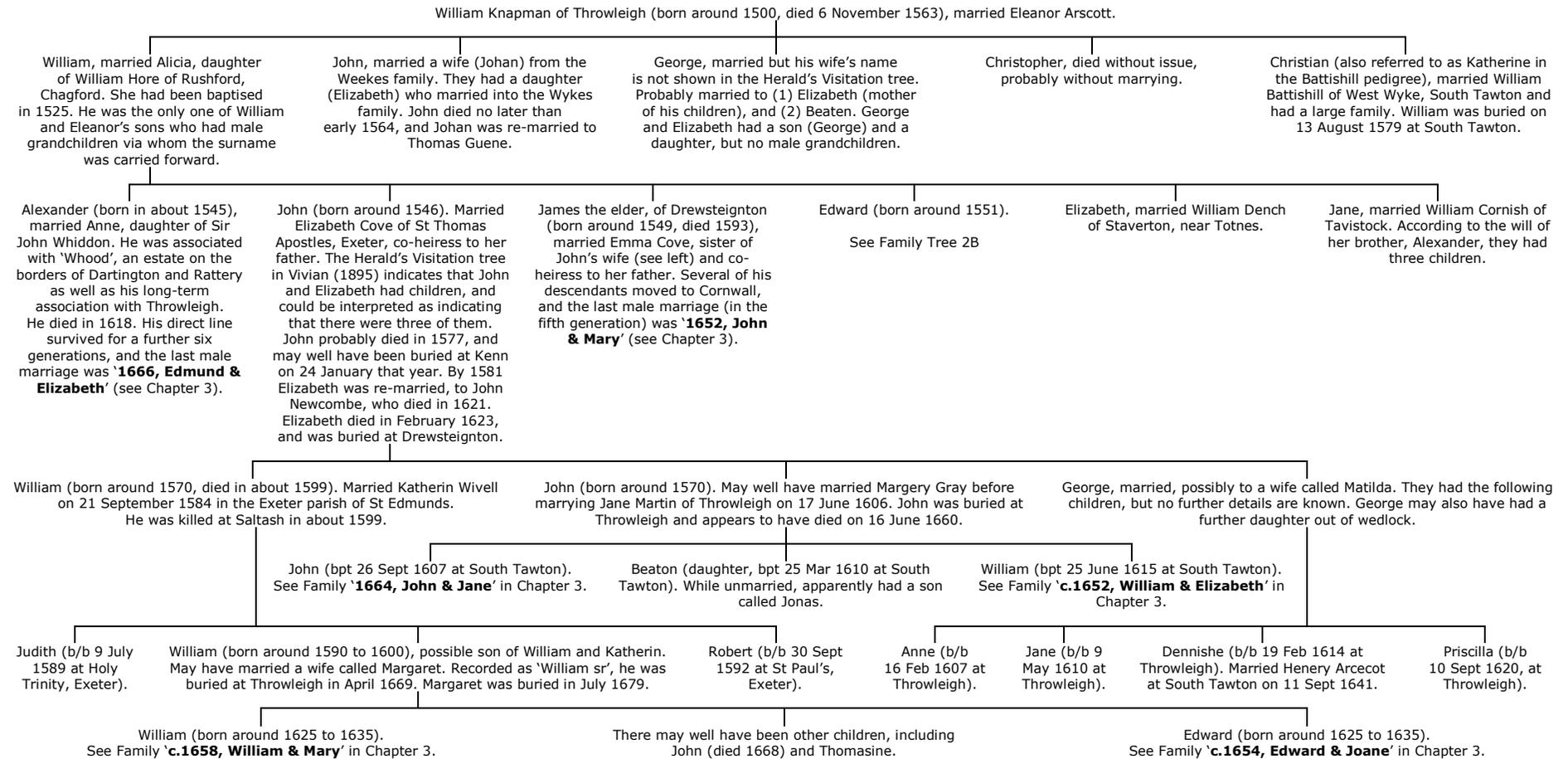
The only other families that I have colour-coded (using **mauve** and **orange**) were not, so far as I can presently tell, descended from Family Trees 2A, 2B or 3. The same applies to all of the later non-colour-coded families, and to some of the earlier ones (which died out in the male line).

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<sup>19</sup> ADM 106/490/229, ADP 106/484/95 and ADM 106/490/240.



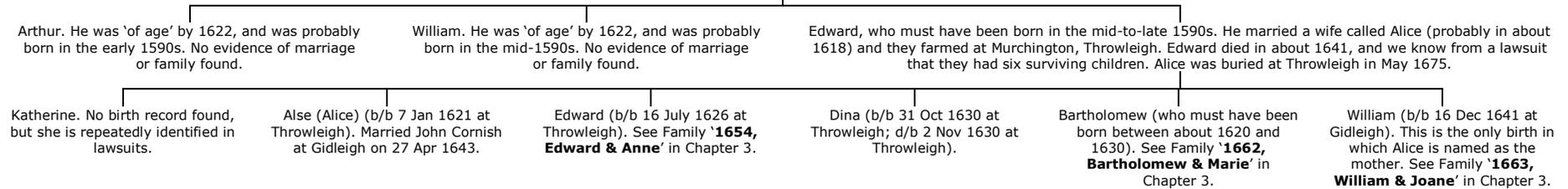
## Family Tree 2A: The early family of William Knapman of Throwleigh, starting in 1500



The main sources for this tree are the tree drawn up following the Herald's Visitation (in Vivian, 1895) and a Knapman family tree drawn up by John Knapman of Plymouth, supplemented and amended using information drawn from the IGI and the parish registers for Throwleigh, South Tawton and other parishes as indicated. In this tree bpt means baptised, b/b means born or baptised, and d/b means died or buried.

## Family Tree 2B: The probable family of Edward Knapman of Throwleigh, 1550 to about 1675

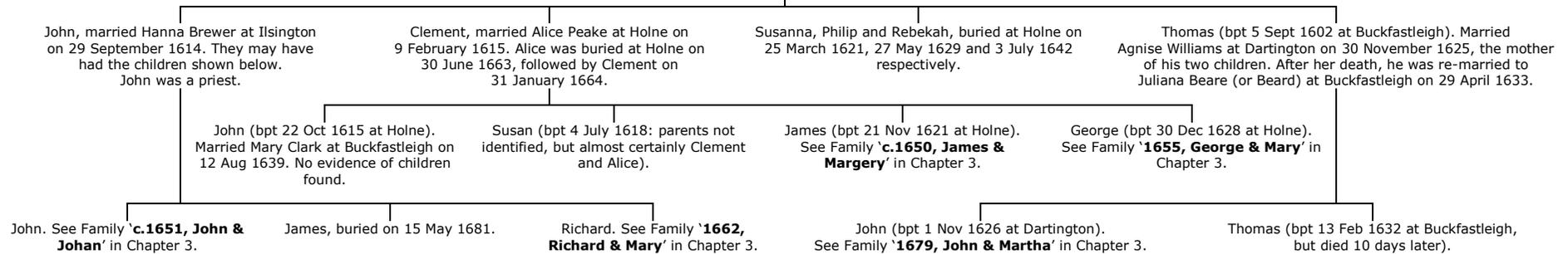
Edward Knapman (born around 1551: see Family Tree 2A above) married a daughter of Henry Endecott of Throwleigh. She may have been called Alice. They had three sons who survived to adulthood (based on the evidence of an Endecott family will), and may well have had daughters, and other sons who died young. Edward and his wife both probably died in 1623.



Some information is based on evidence from family wills and lawsuits, some of it very kindly provided by John Knapman of Plymouth. In this tree bpt means baptised, b/b means born or baptised, and d/b means died or buried. Most dates are taken from the IGI, or from transcriptions of the Throwleigh parish registers.

## Family Tree 3: The possible family of Philip Knapman (born in about 1560), of Holne, Buckfastleigh and nearby

Philip Knapman, born in about 1560, was married to a wife called Alice who was buried at Holne on 20 December 1614.



NB: This tree should be treated with great caution. It suggests a series of theoretically possible connections through which many of the early Knapmans for whom documentary evidence exists in the area around Holne and Buckfastleigh could have been linked. To save space, speculative statements have not all been qualified by 'might have', 'possible' etc, but this should be clearly understood throughout.) In these trees bpt means baptised, b/b means born or baptised, and d/b means died or buried. Most dates are taken from the IGI, or from transcriptions of the relevant parish registers.

## Chapter 3: Marriages from 1650 to 1699

### Introduction

#### *Sources:*

By far the main original sources for the period covered by this chapter are those Parish registers that remain both accessible and legible. The picture which they provide can be supplemented by the Devon rolls for the 1660 Poll Tax and the 1674 Hearth Tax and a small number of other sources which on their own tell us very little beyond the fact that an individual with a particular name was alive at the time that the document concerned was compiled. It also has to be acknowledged that fire, insects, rodents, damp and human stupidity have led to many Parish registers being incomplete. Those which survive are then often characterised by sections which are effectively illegible.

Possibly the greatest frustrations are caused by insects, rodents and damp, because within a sequence of years where most records are legible, parts of the Registers (typically the bottom few rows of all pages) may have been lost, and with them the only hope of tying together all of the members of a single family.

In the case of the Knapman families set out below, there are very few wills, and not many lawsuits on which to draw. Only one individual (the mariner Captain Joseph Knapman) was in any way prominent outside his own local neighbourhood.

#### *Context:*

The social and political context for the period covered by this chapter was dominated by the aftermath of the Civil War(s). Charles I had been beheaded in 1649, and the last battle of the Civil War was fought in 1651. After that much of the atmosphere in which local families lived would have been heavily influenced by which side they had supported in the Civil War, and how far they had upset their neighbours. In the early days of Parliamentary rule and Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth it can be assumed that Royalist families risked losing their wealth. Later, with the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, and the passing of the 1662 Act of Uniformity, those whose Parliamentary sympathies had been strongest risked suffering similar reversals of fortune.

The 1650s also marked the start of a series of Anglo-Dutch wars, in which (in 1667) the English Navy came close to losing control of the Medway and the Thames, let alone more distant outposts. These events are vividly chronicled in the diaries of Samuel Pepys, as are the Great plague (in 1665) and the great fire of London (in 1666). The Anglo-Dutch wars lasted on and off until the 1670s.

In 1673 the Test Act was passed, depriving Catholics and non-conformists of public offices. As Charles II's reign drew towards a close there was increasing concern that the country would return to Catholicism under his brother and heir, James II (who took the throne in 1685).

This sense of dissatisfaction with James II encouraged the Monmouth rebellion, which affected the West Country in particular, and ended with the defeat of Monmouth at the battle of Sedgmoor in (1685), followed by the Bloody Assizes overseen by Judge Jeffreys.

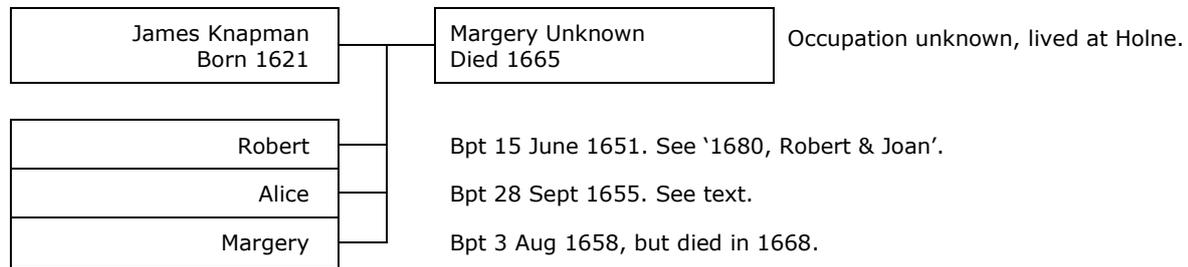
Three years later, however, in 1688 the Glorious Revolution saw William and Mary land at Torbay, and crowned soon after they reached London, James II having fled the country.

#### *Weather:*

With so many families described below being dependent on farming, it is worth bearing in mind that 1676 produced a notably hard winter in Devon. Indeed this was a time of unusually severe winters (the beginning of the end of a so-called mini-ice age), and the winter of 1683/84 saw the first of a series of Thames 'ice fairs', in which the frozen river was used by Londoners over a period of weeks as a large open space for both leisure and commerce.

### c.1650, James & Margery

James Knapman married a wife called Margery in about 1650. He was the son of Clement Knapman of Holne and his wife Alice (née Peake), and had been baptised there on 21 November 1621.

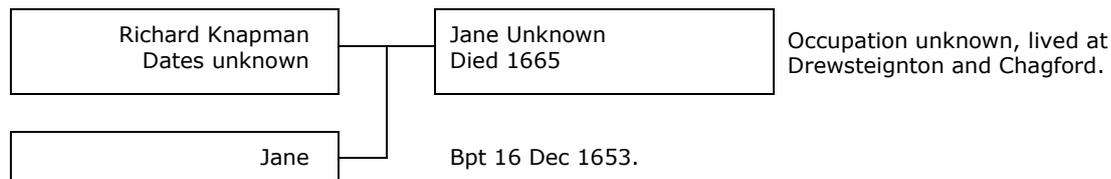


Margery was buried at Holne on 15 January 1665, and James' second marriage is dealt with below as '1665, James & Joan'.

Alice (the daughter) may have been the person whose name was transcribed as 'Dunce' who apparently married John Fairchild at Buckfastleigh in 1676 (though see also Family '1655, George & Mary').

### c.1650 Richard & Jane

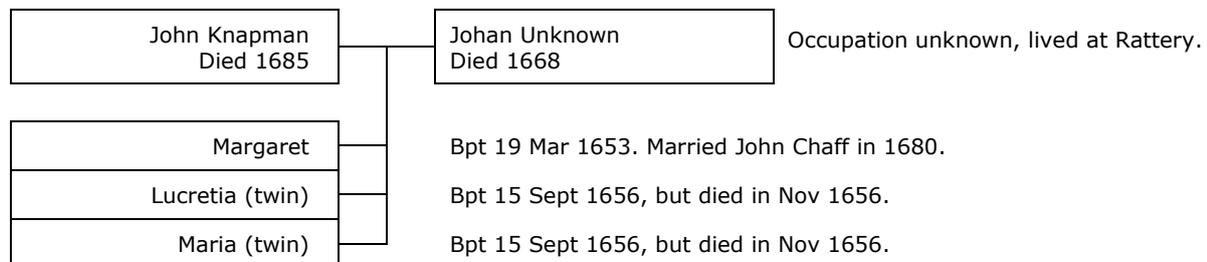
Richard Knapman married a wife called Jane, possibly in about 1650. I do not know where he came from, but they had at least one child, as shown below, who was baptised at Drewsteignton.



By the time the 1660 Poll Tax Roll was drawn up Richard and his family were living in Chagford, and they were basic rate taxpayers (i.e. they owned little or no property). I know nothing more about this family, but so far as I know the Knapman surname was not carried forward beyond Richard's death.

### c.1651, John & Johan

John Knapman married a wife called Johan in about 1651, and they had the children shown below, all baptised at Rattery. He may well have been the son of John Knapman and his wife Hannah (née Brewer), who were married at Ilsington on 29 September 1614 with John (the father) shown as 'clerk' (i.e. a priest).



When Margaret was baptised her parents were not named. Lucretia and Marie were buried on 6 and 21 November 1656 respectively, both identified as daughters of John. A Johan Knapman, who

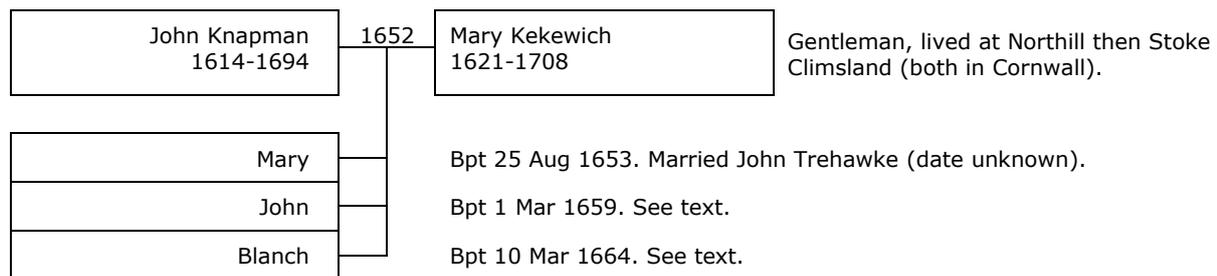
I think was probably the mother of these three daughters, was buried at Rattery on 31 January 1668. John's second marriage is shown below as '1670, John & Johan'.

Margaret may well be the person who married John Chaff at Buckfastleigh on 6 January 1680, and had a family of at least four children there.

## 1652, John & Mary

John Knapman almost certainly married Mary Kekewich of Polmarkin at Liskeard on 13 February 1652, though if this is true, then her name was wrongly transcribed as Elizabeth. His older brother James was already married to another member of the same family, which was very prominent in south east Cornwall.

Their eldest daughter, Mary, was baptised at St Just in Roseland; the other two at Northill.



James, the older brother of John (the father), who was in the main male line from James Knapman of Dreswteignton (see Family Tree 2A in Chapter 2), had a son also called James (John's nephew). This younger James was the undisputed heir of both his father and grandfather ('our' John's father), but in 1650 he died apparently intestate before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and certainly unmarried. John got into a legal tussle with the younger James' sister, who was called Jane, over the inheritance. Despite having an apparently strong case, John lost the lawsuit.

We know (from his evidence in the lawsuit against Jane) that during the first Civil War John had served in the Parliamentary army. His evidence confirms that "... *by reason of the late troubles the late King's forces having the command of the countrie where the said defendts said father dyed this defendt being wth the parlament forces was fearfull to go near the house where his father dwelled in a long tyme after his death*".

He was also the John Knapman of Northill in Cornwall who filed a lawsuit<sup>20</sup> in 1670 against John Chase and Thomas Hawke of London and William Hawke of Cornwall, in which he stated that he had been for some time in the West Indies<sup>21</sup>.

There are other legal depositions<sup>22</sup> which show that by 1680 John had moved to Stoke Climsland, and a lawsuit<sup>23</sup> launched in 1681 in which Sir John Coroton complained about John, his son (also John) and various members of the Kekewich family of Stoke Climsland concerning payments due on land which they appear to have leased from him. The younger John died in 1689 at the relatively young age of 30, apparently without marrying or producing an heir (and his will is in the Cornwall Records Office<sup>24</sup>). His younger sister Blanch had died two and a half years earlier. These facts are confirmed by a tablet on the wall of the church in Stoke Climsland which says "*In memory of John, the son of John Knapman, of this parish, gent, who departed this life the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April Ano.1689. Also of Blanch, ye daughter of the said John Knapman who died the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 1686.*" This tablet was almost certainly placed there by their father, who outlived them. His will, dated April 1694 and proved in 1696, is also in the Cornwall Records Office<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> Chancery Ref C 10/478/75.

<sup>21</sup> In his deposition John mentioned an associate called Ferdinando Massaro (spelling uncertain).

<sup>22</sup> Chancery Ref C 89/20/39a and 39b.

<sup>23</sup> Chancery Ref C 9/75/37.

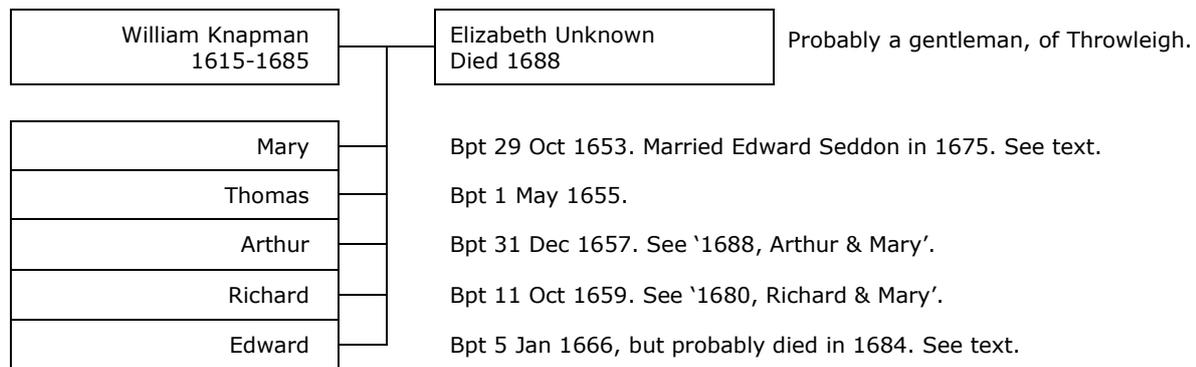
<sup>24</sup> Ref AP/K/449.

<sup>25</sup> Ref AP/K/506.

All the evidence that I have seen points to the male Knapman line descended from James Knapman the elder of Drewsteignton being extinguished when John Knapman of Stoke Climsland (formerly Northill) died, in 1694.

### c.1652, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman married a wife called Elizabeth in about 1652. Although I have not found the baptismal record to confirm this, I believe that William was probably the son of John Knapman of Throwleigh and his second wife, Jane (née Martin). William and Elizabeth probably had a daughter and then four sons, all baptised at Throwleigh as shown below.



The family evidently lived in South Tawton at some point, because a William Knapman and his wife Elizabeth were assessed there for the 1660 Poll Tax. Both of them also appear to have left wills describing them as 'of South Tawton' (even though William was buried at Throwleigh, in January 1685, followed by Elizabeth in March 1688).

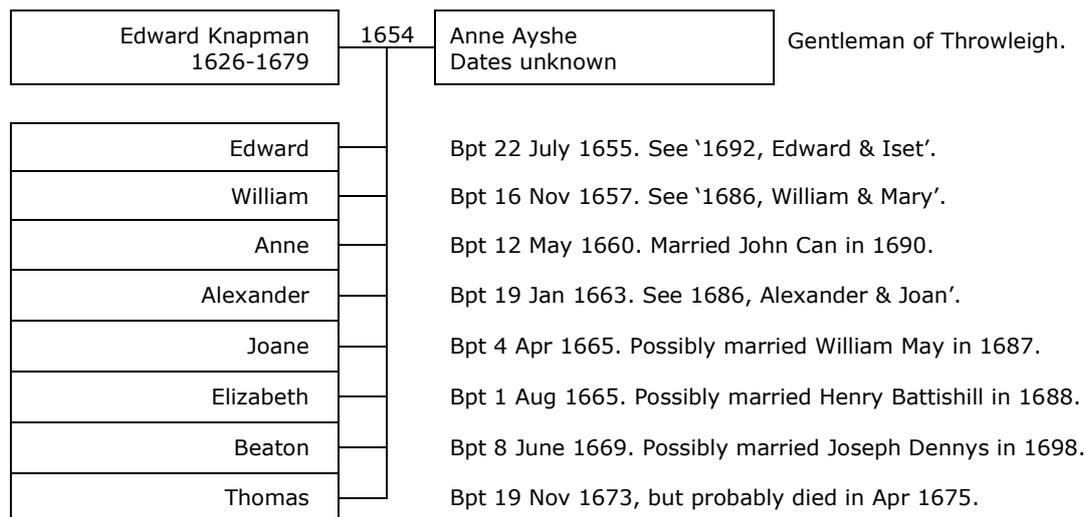
Their daughter Mary married Edward Seddon at Throwleigh on 12 October 1675. He was rector of Throwleigh from 1670 until his death in 1711, and successor to the non-conformist John Dickes. They had at least two children (both of whom died young), possibly more. Mary was buried at Throwleigh in July 1684.

William and Elizabeth did almost certainly have had a son called Thomas, but three fathers called William were having families simultaneously in Throwleigh between 1650 and 1669 (the others being 'c.1658, William & Mary' and a family based on a marriage in 1649, before the cut-off set for this document), and it is perfectly possible that I may have mixed them up.

I also believe that Edward was buried at Throwleigh in October 1684, though it is possible that he could be the originator of Family '1692, Edward & Iset'.

### 1654, Edward & Anne

Edward Knapman married Anne Ayshe at Throwleigh on 13 November 1654 and had the family shown below, all of whom were baptised at Throwleigh. He too had been baptised there, on 16 July 1626, the son of Edward and Alice Knapman of Murchington, Throwleigh. Edward (his father) had died over a decade before this Edward's marriage, but Alice survived until May 1675, when she was buried at Throwleigh.



The evidence from the 1660 Poll Tax Roll (which shows an Edward Knapman and his wife living in Throwleigh, assessed for £16-10s, with a brother called Bartholomew and a widowed mother called Alice both living with him) strongly suggests that this was Edward and his wife Anne (née Ayshe). It shows that he was one of the richest men in the parish, and a 'rator' for Throwleigh. There is also a fragmentary piece of evidence available via Google Books which refers to an unnamed woman being found not guilty in 1672 after being accused of 'feloniously laming' Edward Knapman.

Edward was probably buried at Throwleigh in October 1679, followed (possibly) by Anne in November 1685.

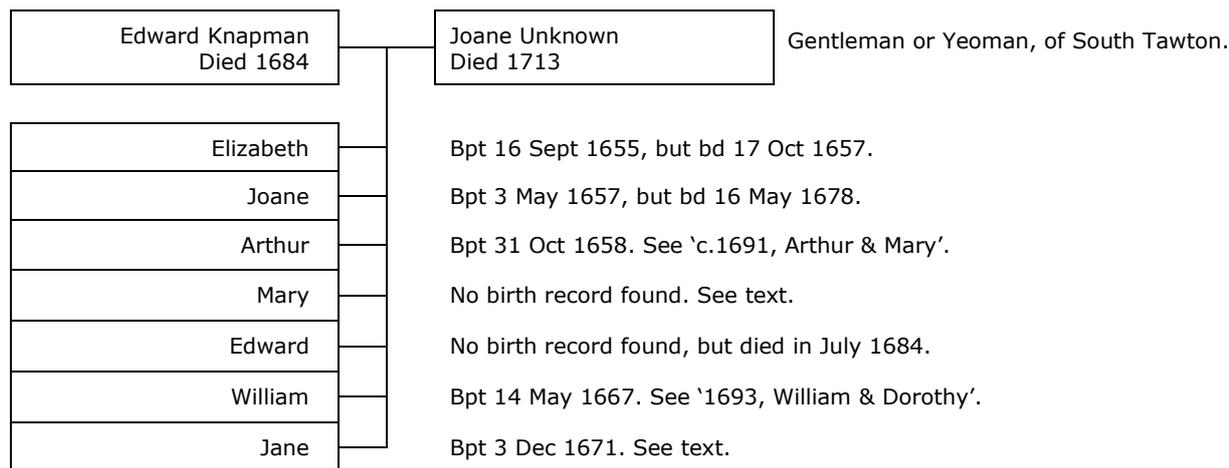
It is possible that their son Edward was buried at Throwleigh in October 1684 (rather than the Edward from Family 'c.1652, William & Elizabeth'), but I think it is slightly more likely that he was the originator of Family '1692, Edward & Iset'.

If I am right about Anne's marriage to John Can (at Throwleigh on 4 March 1690), she was buried at Throwleigh in August 1701, in the same month as four of her children. The marriages of her three younger sisters all look likely to be right (in South Tawton, Drewsteignton and The Apostle, Exeter, respectively).

### **c.1654, Edward & Joane**

Edward Knapman married a wife called Joane in about 1654 (based on the birth of their first known child). He was probably the son of William and Margaret Knapman of Throwleigh, and the brother of William, the originator of Family 'c.1658, William & Mary'.

Edward and Joane can both be found on the 1660 Poll Tax Roll records living in South Tawton, which is where most of their children were baptised. Although I have not found baptismal records for two of their children, we know that they had a daughter called Mary (see below for details of her will, which prove the link), and a son called Edward.



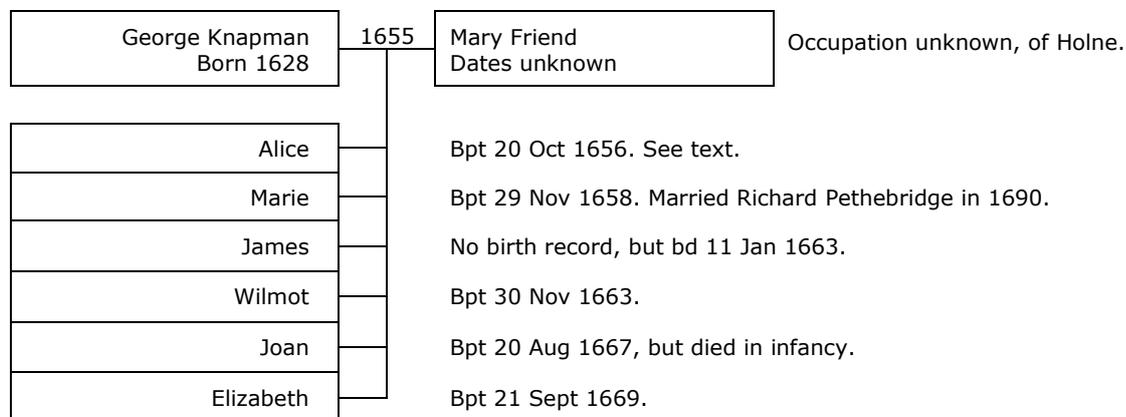
When Edward was buried, at South Tawton on 27 July 1684 (shown as 'Edward sr'), he was buried with his son (Edward jr). Joane is very probably the 'Joane Knapman, widow, of Dunsford' who was buried at South Tawton on 26 April 1713.

Their daughter Mary's will (which is accessible in the DHC) was written on 22 August 1692 (and she was probably buried at South Tawton on 20 October that year). She had apparently been left at least a share in Coursebeer (a farm just north of Whiddon Down), and her will made provision for Coursebeer to be sold, and for her brother Arthur to receive 20 shillings from the proceeds. The remainder of her assets were to be divided equally between her other brother William, her mother Johan and her only surviving sister Jane, who was also named as her executor.

Documents attached to the will include a declaration signed by Arthur on 23 September 1695 stating that he renounced any further claims relating to Coursebeer, and acknowledging that he had been paid the money due to him. It also confirmed that his mother was still alive, and that Jane was still unmarried. There is then a further agreement dated 1699 between Jane, her mother and Richard Drew regarding the management of Coursebeer (strongly suggesting that Jane had bought it herself, or in association with her mother). Then in 1701 the farm was leased to Thomas Hore.

### 1655, George & Mary

George Knapman married Mary Friend of Dartington on 15 January 1655. The marriage was recorded in both Dartington and Totnes parishes, and the records and transcriptions of the marriage give multiple versions of Mary's surname<sup>26</sup>. George was very likely the son of Clement Knapman and his wife Alice (née Peake), baptised on 30 December 1628 at Holne. Their children were all baptised at Holne.



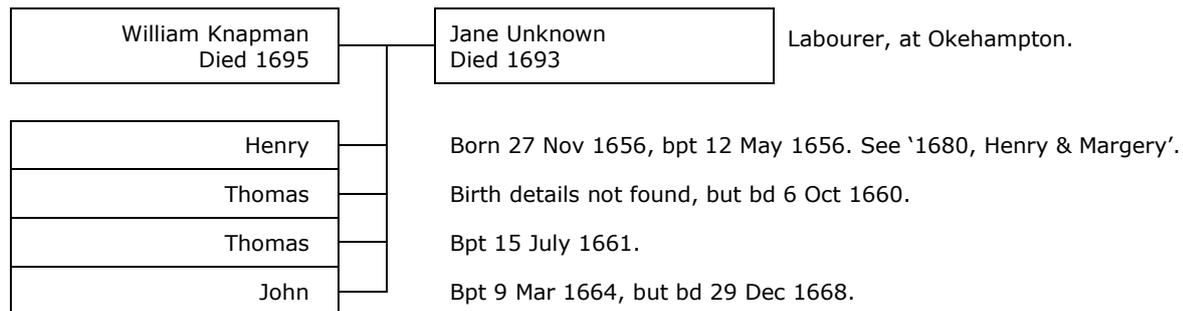
<sup>26</sup> The IGI has two spellings of Mary's surname: Brad and Vrind, and the transcript of the Totnes parish register in the DHC provides a third (Drend). Vincent Duggleby, who has also researched this family, suggests that the correct surname may well be the well-established local surname of Friend, and this is what I have gone with.

Alice (the daughter) may have been the person whose name was transcribed as 'Dunce' who apparently married John Fairchild at Buckfastleigh in 1676 (though see also Family 'c.1650, James & Margery').

The Knapman surname was not carried forward via this family, and I know nothing further about them.

### c.1655, William & Jane

William Knapman had married a wife called Jane by 1656, possibly as late as 1655. I do not know where he came from<sup>27</sup>, but he was a labourer, and he and Jane lived at Okehampton, which is where the sons shown below were baptised (and, in the case of the first Thomas and John, buried).



Jane was buried at Okehampton on 8 December 1693, followed by William on 20 February 1695. He was described in the register as a labourer on both occasions.

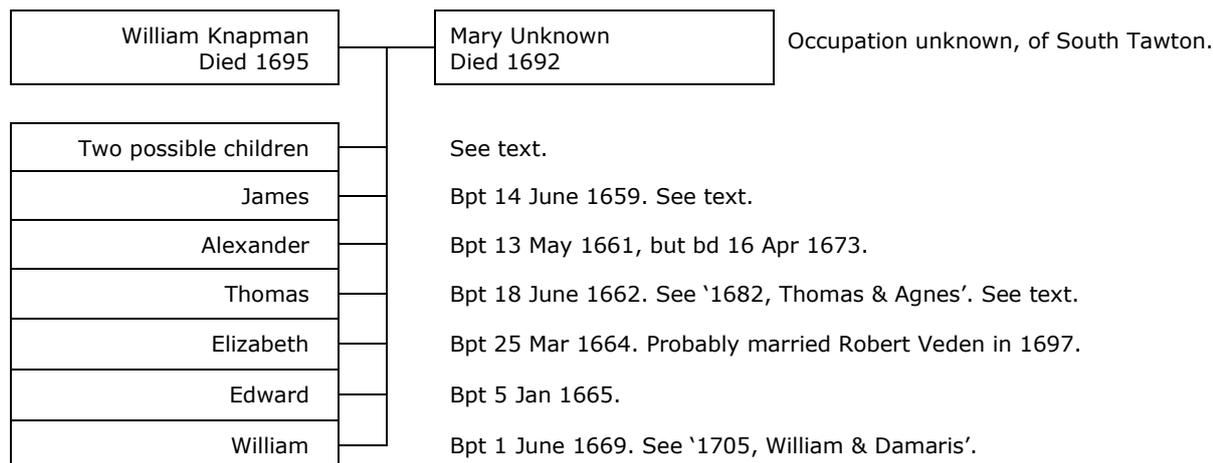
### c.1658, William & Mary

William Knapman may well have married a wife called Mary in about 1658 (though see below). He was probably the son of William and Margaret Knapman of Throwleigh, and the brother of Edward, the originator of Family 'c.1654, Edward & Joane'.

William Knapman senior (this William's probable father) was assessed for £10 on the 1660 Poll Tax Roll (which shows that he was married at that time), and buried at Throwleigh in April 1669. The fact that he was described as 'William sr' suggests that he had a son called William. A younger William was indeed living and rearing a family in or around Throwleigh in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, which would be consistent with him being born in about 1630. Although we have no firm evidence of his wife's name, we have some circumstantial evidence in the form of the 1660 Poll Tax Roll, which records William Knapman and his wife Mary living in South Tawton parish. There are also two more of the lost Devon wills, of Mary Knapman of South Tawton proved in 1692, and William Knapman of South Tawton in 1695. Although all of their children as shown below were baptised at Throwleigh, we know that families that farmed Well, Gooseford and other farms in the narrow strip of South Tawton that lies to the east of Throwleigh often treated Throwleigh as their 'home' church, particularly when there were strong family ties.

It is also possible that William and Mary may have married a few years earlier than indicated above, because Ann Knapman, daughter of William and Mary, was baptised at Burrington on 11 November 1656, and John Knapman, son of John and Mary (possibly an error, when William and Mary was intended) was baptised there on 22 July 1654. These are the only two Knapman baptisms at Burrington, suggesting that the family (or families) moved there temporarily. This is by some way the most likely 'candidate' family to which John and Ann might have belonged.

<sup>27</sup> An Alexander Knapman had been buried at Okehampton, All Saints on 19 January 1639. It is possible that he might have been William's father, but I have not found any further information to support this potential link.



Mary was buried at South Tawton on 20 October 1692, followed by William on 18 July 1695.

I believe that James became a tailor in South Tawton, and we know for sure that 'tailor James' had a brother called Thomas, because he was mentioned on a 1695 lease under which James took on a property in South Tawton. I have not found any record to support the idea, but I think that James may well have married a wife called Mary, because Mary Knapman, described as a tailor's wife, was buried at South Tawton on 1 December 1704.

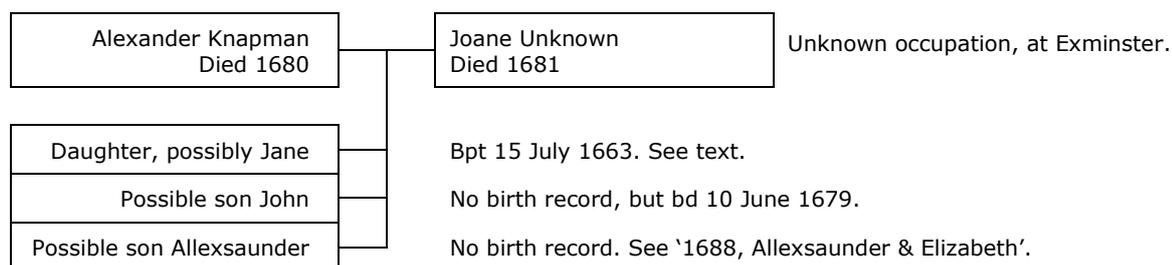
I also believe that James' brother Thomas was a weaver, first in Throwleigh and then in South Tawton.

(As noted above in the context of Family 'c.1652, William & Elizabeth' three fathers called William were having families simultaneously in Throwleigh between 1650 and 1669, and although I am reasonably confident that I have the two Thomases the right way round, I may have mixed them (and potentially other family members too) up.)

### c.1659, Alexander & Joane

The 1660 Poll Tax Roll lists Alexander Knapman and his unnamed wife living in Exminster. I am suggesting, based on the evidence of the burials register (see below), that she was called Joane. Their marriage may, of course, have taken place much earlier than suggested here.

The parish register then records the baptism of an unnamed daughter of 'Saunder' Napman at Exminster, who I am suggesting may well have been called Jane (see below).

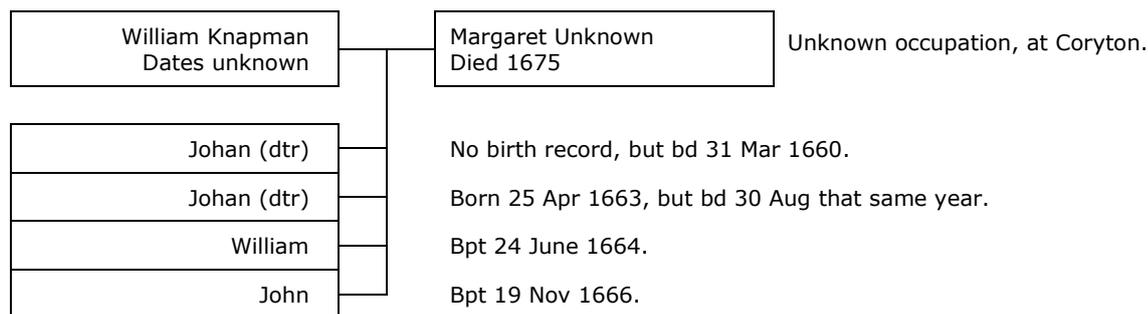


Alexander was not listed on the 1674 Hearth Tax Roll, at Exminster or elsewhere. Nevertheless, he appears to have been relatively well off, because the parish accounts for Exminster show that he contributed 3d to an undated fund to redeem "... *slaves out of Turkie*". He was buried at Exminster in 1680 (an affidavit confirming that he was buried in woollen was dated 19 May 1680), and his will, proved the following year, is one of the lost Devon wills. Joane Knapman was then buried in woollen (affidavit dated 5 March 1681), and I believe she was probably his wife. Two further burials at Exminster (and their affidavit dates) were their possible son John (10 June 1679) and their possible daughter Jane (18 January 1705: she also witnessed affidavits for other Exminster residents, proving that she was an adult at the time).

Based on the name Alexander he (the father) may have had some link to the Knapmans of Throwleigh, though I have been unable to find it. Based on his use of the diminutive 'Saunder' when his daughter was baptised (and he was not alone in this: Saunder Jarman had a daughter baptised at Exminster a year before), his link to the Alexsaunders who married at Crediton in 1688 is by no means unlikely, albeit circumstantial.

### c.1659, William & Margaret

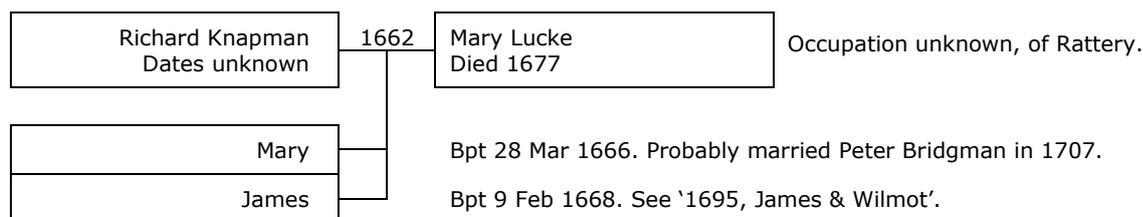
William Knapman married a wife who was probably called Margaret in about 1659, and they subsequently lived at Coryton, west of Lydford and north of Lamerton (where Knapmans had been recorded over an extended period: see Chapter 2). All of the events linked to the tree below come from the Coryton registers as made available on the Findmypast.org website. The microfiches in the DHC are very hard indeed to decipher.



Margaret was buried at Coryton on 11 March 1675. The register does not identify her as William's wife, but in the absence of any post-1666 baptismal records, this seems the most likely explanation.

### 1662, Richard & Mary

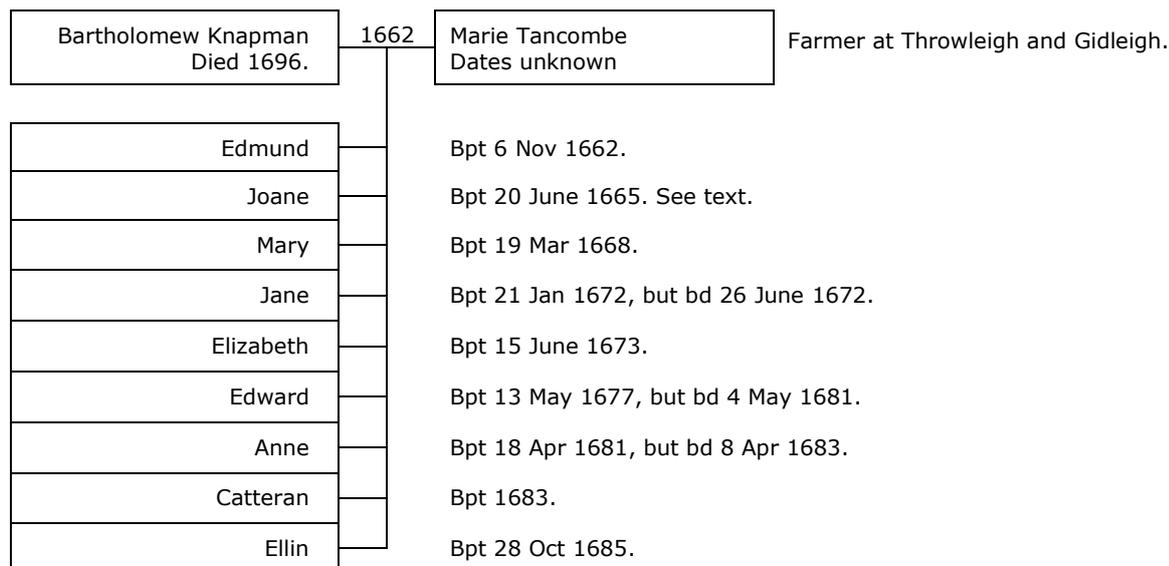
Richard Knapman married Mary Lucke at Rattery on 1 September 1662. He may well have been the son of John Knapman and his wife Hannah (née Brewer) of Rattery. Richard appears to have died young, because Mary was buried at Rattery as a widow on 28 January 1677, leaving two orphans (both of whom had been baptised there) aged about 11 and 9.



### 1662, Bartholomew & Marie

Bartholomew Knapman married Marie Tancombe of Throwleigh on 14 May 1662. The marriage actually took place at Brushford, and was conducted irregularly by John Hunt, the curate of Brushford<sup>28</sup>. This would be 2 years after Bartholomew had been recorded living with his brother Edward (see Family '1654, Edward & Anne'), confirming that he too was the son of Edward and Alice Knapman of Murchington, Throwleigh.

<sup>28</sup> Source: Devon and Cornwall Notes & Queries, Vol 10 p.259 (the item is entitled 'Irregular marriages at Brushford', and it states that John Hunt conducted a series of marriages as a way of boosting his income, without keeping formal records in any parish register. When this was discovered, he made a retrospective return based on his memory, which is the subject of the item cited).



All except one of their children as shown here were baptised at Throwleigh (though only Bartholomew's name is shown in the register). The only child baptised elsewhere was Catteran, and when she was baptised at Gidleigh her parents were recorded as Bartholomew and Mary. As far as I have been able to discover, only their two eldest children survived to adulthood, and the Knapman surname appears to have died out in this branch of the family with Edmund.

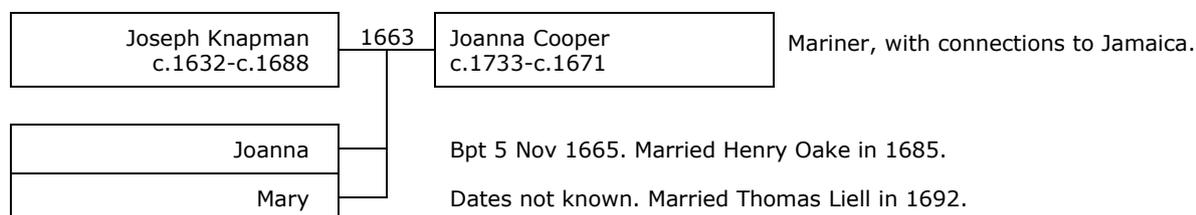
Joane probably married Nathaniel Ascott at Throwleigh on 10 October 1682, and then William Ascott on 10 November 1692, presumably after Nathaniel's death.

### 1663, William & Joane

William Knapman, probably the younger brother of Bartholomew (see above) married Joane Thomas at Throwleigh on 22 January 1663. So far as I know they did not have any children, and William may well be the person of that name buried at Throwleigh on 18 July 1677.

### 1663, Joseph & Joanna

Joseph Knapman, who became a sailor and sea captain, was described as a 32-year-old bachelor when he married<sup>29</sup> a 31-year-old widow called Joanna Cooper at Stepney on 5 September 1663. They were both described as 'of Stepney<sup>30</sup>' at the time, and we know that in 1666 they were still living there in some style, in the Shadwell area, because the 'London Hearth Tax: City of London and Middlesex' returns for that year<sup>31</sup> show that his house had eight hearths, when the norm was two or three. The children for whom I have found evidence<sup>32</sup> are shown below. Joanna was baptised at St Dunstan's, Stepney, but I have not seen a baptismal record for Mary.



<sup>29</sup> The evidence comes from the 'Marriage Licences of the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1660-68'.

<sup>30</sup> In the 1660s Stepney was still a village a mile or two east of London, but conveniently located for the fast-growing docks on the north bank of the Thames.

<sup>31</sup> These are accessible on line via the british-history.ac.uk website.

<sup>32</sup> The IGI shows one baptism and two burials as shown on the fragment of Family Tree, with varying spellings of Knapman.

Joanna (the mother) must have died, and Joseph's second marriage is dealt with below as '1672, Joseph & Elizabeth'. Details of his naval career are dealt with in one place, under his third marriage ('1679, Joseph & Rachel').

Jo(h)anna (the daughter) married Henry Oake of Redrith, Surrey in 1685<sup>33</sup>. They had a daughter called Susanna who is mentioned in Joseph's will of 1688; a son called Henry who was born in 1687, possibly after the will was written, and who died in 1698; and a daughter called Mary who was buried at St John's, Wapping on 14 August 1690, by which time Johnanna was described in the burial register as a widow.

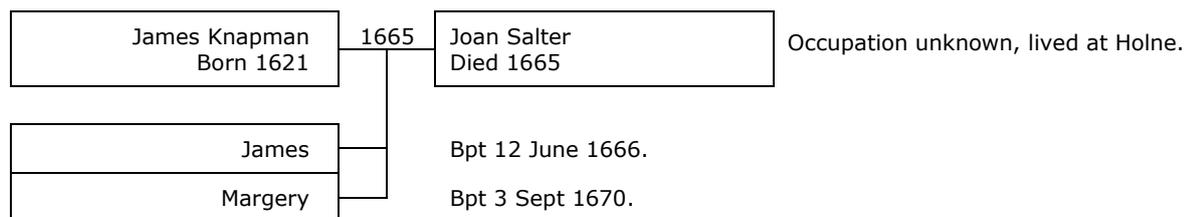
On 27 April 1692 Mary Knapman married Thomas Liell<sup>34</sup>, and it seems likely that she was born to this marriage rather than Joseph's second (see below).

### 1664, John & Jane

John Knapman married Jane Battishill at Throwleigh on 18 January 1664. He was probably the eldest son of John Knapman and his wife Jane (née Martin). I have seen so evidence to suggest that they had children, and John was apparently buried at Drewsteignton on 14 September 1671 described as 'of Shilston'. A Mrs Jane Knapman, who may have been his widow, was then buried at South Tawton<sup>35</sup> on 28 March 1696.

### 1665, James & Joan

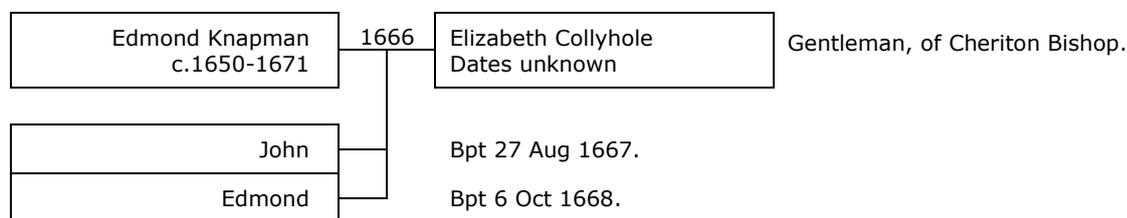
James Knapman married Joan Salter at Holne on 22 July 1665. This was his second marriage (the first being 'c.1650, James & Margery'), and their sons were both baptised at Holne. I have not traced either of them any further.



James was the only Knapman assessed for the 1674 Hearth Tax in or around Holne, at which point he was assessed as having one hearth.

### 1666, Edmond & Elizabeth

Edmund (or Edmond) Knapman married Elizabeth Collyhole at Throwleigh on 23 April 1666. He was almost certainly the eldest son of William Knapman and his wife Ann (née Hutton), and therefore descended from the first Alexander Knapman of Throwleigh, and he must have been very young when he got married. He had been recorded (as Edmond) at the time of the 1660 Poll Tax living at Throwleigh with his parents. Their two sons were baptised at Cheriton Bishop.



Edmond (the father) pre-deceased his own father (being buried at Throwleigh in April 1671 leaving one of the lost Devon wills). Elizabeth may well have been buried at South Tawton on 14 April 1689.

<sup>33</sup> Source: Marriage Licences of the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1679-1694.

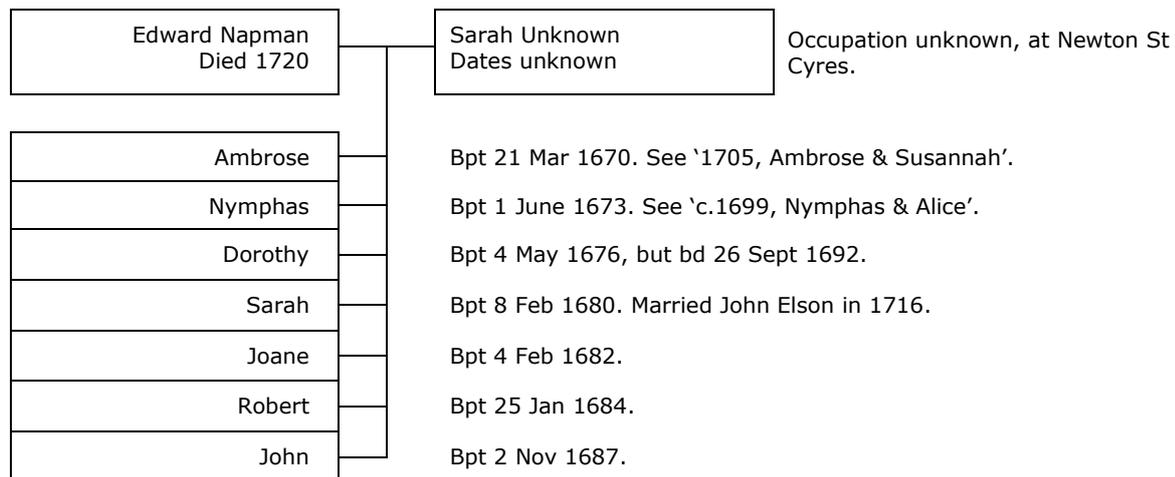
<sup>34</sup> Source: Marriage Licences issued by the Faculty Office, 1632-1714.

<sup>35</sup> The Battishill family had strong connections to South Tawton.

I can only conclude that their sons both died young, because all of the contemporary records agree that this branch of the family died out in the male line with the death in 1692 of Edmond's probable father (William).

### c.1668, Edward & Sarah

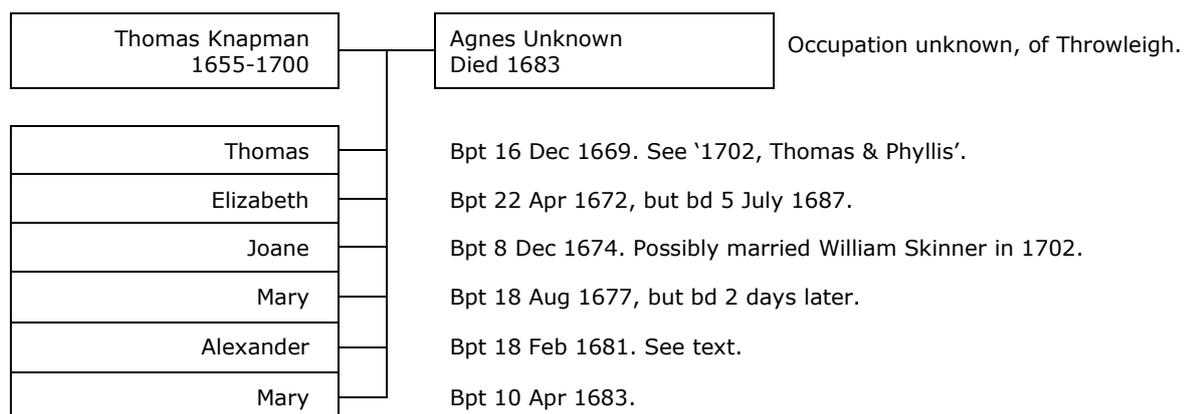
Edward Napman married a wife called Sarah in about 1668. The 1674 Hearth Tax Roll records him living at Newton St Scirus (Newton St Cyres), described at that time as 'poore'. The parish register also shows a series of baptisms in Newton St Cyres to parents called Edward and Sarah Knapman, as shown below.



Edward (described as 'Edward sr') was buried at Newton St Cyres on 6 March 1720.

### c.1668, Thomas & Agnes

Thomas Knapman married a wife who was probably called Agnes, and their marriage may have taken place in about 1668. I have been unable to work out where he came from, but he and Agnes (if that was her name) could well have been the parents of a son called Thomas who was described as the 'son of Thomas Knapman of Throwleigh' when he was baptised at St Thomas a Becket, Bovey Tracey on 16 December 1669. All of their other children were baptised at Throwleigh.



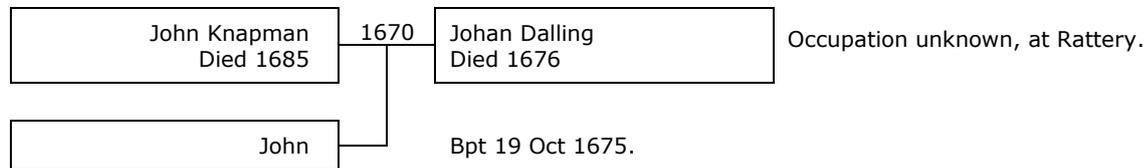
Agnes may well have been buried at Throwleigh in December 1683, followed by Thomas in October 1700.

Alexander could be the originator of Family '1711, Alexander & Joan', though on balance I think probably not.

The Knapman surname does not appear to have survived the deaths of the children of this family.

### 1670, John & Johan

John Knapman married Johan Dalling at Rattery on 7 May 1670. This was probably his second marriage (the first being 'c.1651, John & Johan'). So far as I can see they only had one child, as shown below (baptised at Rattery).

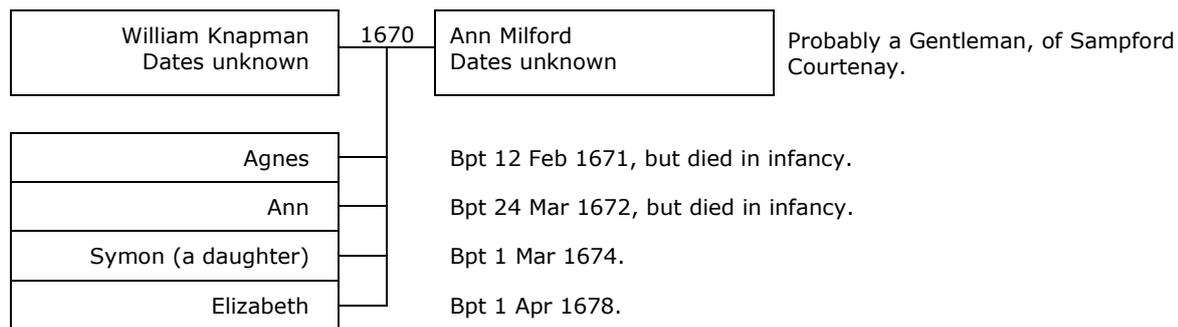


Johan (recorded as Joane, the wife of John) was buried at Rattery on 13 April 1676, and John's probable third marriage is shown below as '1677, John & Mary'.

So far as I know John (the son) did not marry and have children.

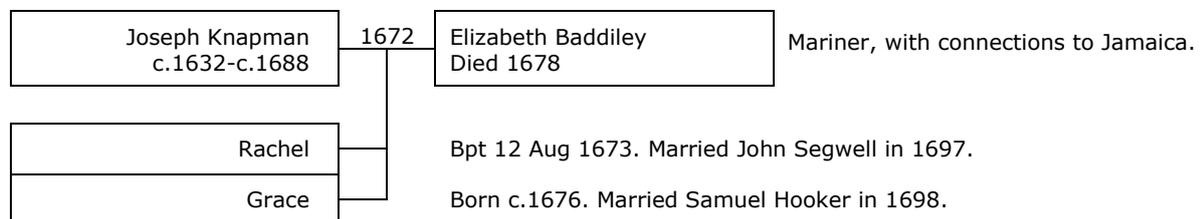
### 1670, William & Ann

William Knapman married Ann Milford at Sampford Courtenay on 20 June 1670. He was probably the son of William Knapman<sup>36</sup> and his wife Joane (née Rament). Their four daughters were all baptised there, but in the absence of sons, the Knapman surname was not carried forward via this branch of the family.



### 1672, Joseph & Elizabeth

Joseph Knapman married<sup>37</sup> Elizabeth Baddiley at the church of St Dunstan's, Stepney on 14 June 1672. This was his second marriage (the first being '1663, Joseph & Joanna'). Their daughter Rachel was baptised at St John's, Wapping.



Elizabeth was buried at St John's, Wapping on 6 June 1678.

Rachel married John Segwell at St Mary's, Whitechapel on 14 August 1697. Grace (who was named in Joseph's will as his daughter) can be found on a list of residents of the City of London in 1695,

<sup>36</sup> He can be seen on the tree drawn up following the Herald's Visitation of 1620, being a grandson of the original Alexander Knapman of Throwleigh, via his son Francis.

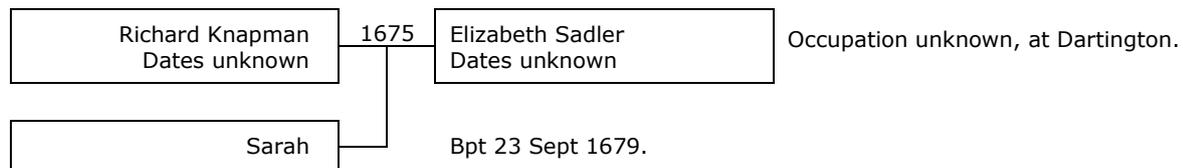
<sup>37</sup> Source: London Calendar of Marriage Licence Allegations Book 25, 1660-1700. Also IGI.

living in the parish of St James, Garlickhithe (close to where the Mansion House now stands). In November 1698 she married Samuel Hooker of St Michael's, Cornhill, though there is some uncertainty about the details. One record shows the marriage taking place at St Michael's Cornhill on 9 November with Grace's age shown as about 22, while another suggests that the marriage took place at St Mildred's, Bread Street on 24 November, with her residence given as St Dunstan's, Stepney. Both records can be found on the ancestry.co.uk website, and it is probable that the earlier one refers to the reading of banns rather than to the marriage itself.

A further marriage licence was issued for "*Elizabeth Bodilo, spinster, aged about 17, with the consent of her mother Mrs Knapman alias Bodilo*" to marry John Smith at Hackney in 1678. This shows that Elizabeth was Joseph's step-daughter rather than daughter.

### 1675, Richard & Elizabeth

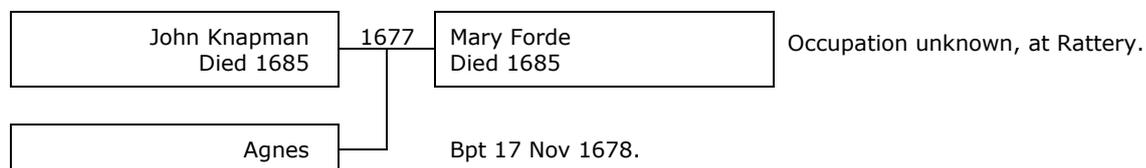
Richard Knapman married Elizabeth Sadler at Dartington on 16 June 1675. I have not worked out where Richard may have come from, but he does appear to have had a daughter, as shown below.



It is possible that Elizabeth died, and Richard may have been re-married (see '1680, Richard & Elizabeth').

### 1677, John & Mary

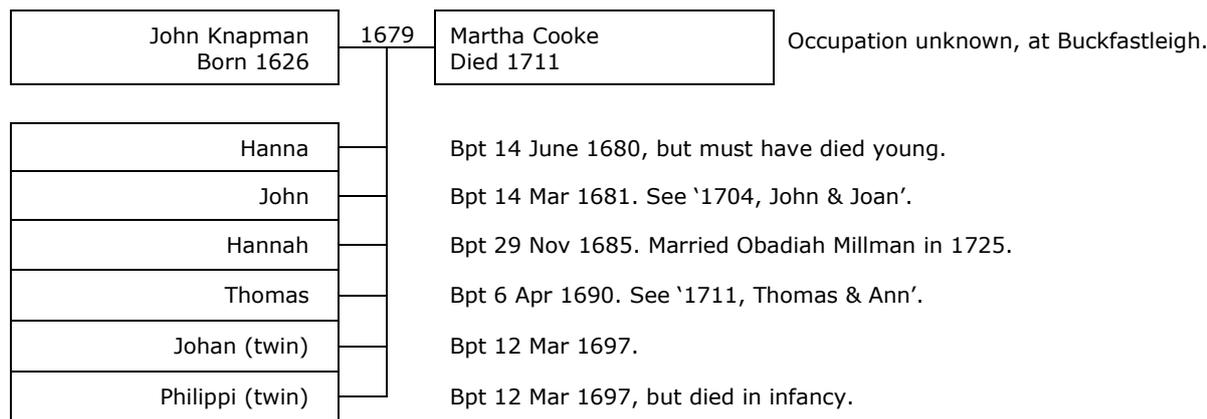
John Knapman married Mary Forde at Rattery on 26 July 1677. This was very probably John's third marriage (the others being 'c.1651, John & Johan' and '1668, John & Johan'). So far as I am aware they only had one daughter, as shown below.



John was buried at Rattery on 20 February 1685, followed by Mary 3 days later.

### 1679, John & Martha

John Knapman married the somewhat younger Martha Cooke at Buckfastleigh in 1679. He was probably the son of Thomas Knapman and his wife Agnise (née Williams), baptised at Dartington on 1 November 1626.

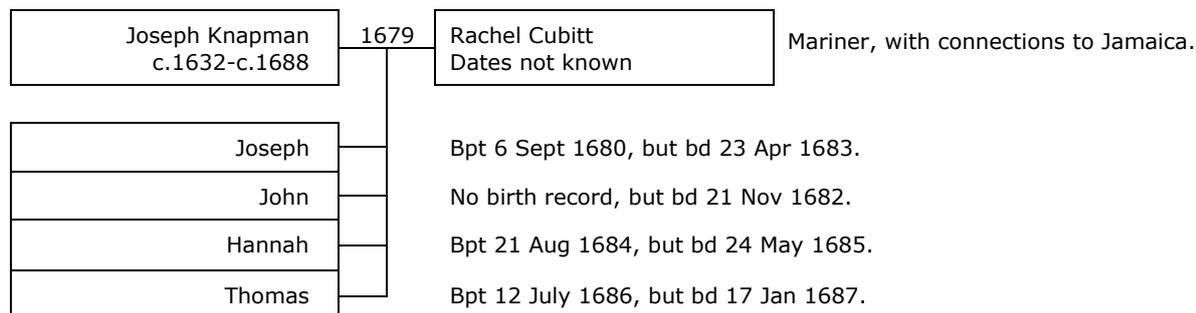


John appears to have been in his 50s when he married Martha, and over 70 when the twin girls who I have suggested were their youngest children were born in 1697. Martha was buried at Buckfastleigh on 3 May 1711.

Hannah married Obadiah Millman at Buckfastleigh on 24 August 1725. I have been unable to trace John (the surviving twin) further.

### 1679, Joseph & Rachel

Joseph Knapman, widower and mariner of Whitechapel, married<sup>38</sup> Mrs Rachel Cubitt ('of Islington, spinster') at St Andrew's, Holborn on 17 October 1679. This was Joseph's third marriage (the previous one being '1672, Joseph & Elizabeth'. Their children were all baptised (and buried) at St John's, Wapping.



In 1680 Joseph held the position of one of the stewards of Bow church<sup>39</sup>.

None of the children identified above were mentioned in Joseph's will, all of them having died before he wrote it in about 1688.

To make the narrative easier to assimilate, the details of Joseph's career are drawn together here, rather than being spread over the separate accounts of his three marriages.

A recently-published book<sup>40</sup> explains that a captain in the colonial trade was well rewarded. As well as a salary he had an allowance for freight on his own account, and "... *could earn a substantial income of several hundred pounds a year*"<sup>41</sup>. The book names Captain Knapman as one of six captains who were "... *among London's hundred largest plantation importers*". It also points out that few captains rose through the ranks to hold such lucrative positions: most had access to patronage, and the capital needed to buy a share in a ship.

<sup>38</sup> Source: Marriage Licences of the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1679-1694.

<sup>39</sup> Source: A fragment of information accessible via Google Books.

<sup>40</sup> 'The Capital and the Colonies: London and the Atlantic Economy 1660-1700' by Nuala Zahediah (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

<sup>41</sup> The source cited is the Deposition of Francis Neagle, on 16 June 1684 (PRO HCA 13/79; Case of Swallow, PRO HCA 13/78; Case of Lucitania, PRO C 24/1168).

Joseph's will (drawn up in 1688, when he was "... *Commander of the ship Prudence of London, now bound for the West Indies, of Wapping, Middlesex*", and apparently proved in August 1688, though this is not entirely clear) is in the National Archives. It does not provide any evidence of any remaining links to Devon (if there ever were any: nor have I seen any evidence of the birth in Devon of a boy called Joseph), but there are references to a farm that he owned at Bicester in Oxfordshire, and a row of houses that he owned at a place called Ratcliffe, and it confirms that he and Rachel lived at Lymehouse Corner. As well as his step-daughter Elizabeth and his daughter Johanna Oake, it identifies three other daughters called Mary, Grace and Rachel as well as making provision for any child with which his wife Rachel might have been pregnant at the time of writing (she was 20 years his junior). It also shows that his daughter Johanna Oake had a daughter called Susanna by then. As well as leaving money to two of his three mothers-in-law, he left money and property to his wife and daughters, though much of the money was clearly in the form of sums owed to him, rather than cash in hand.

Captain Knapman featured in William Dampier's 'A new voyage round the World: The journal of an English buccaneer' (published in 1697), which is widely quoted on the internet, in which he wrote that "... *I first set out of England on this voyage at the beginning of the year 1679, in the Loyal Merchant of London, bound for Jamaica, Captain Knapman Commander. ... We sailed with a prosperous gale without any impediment or remarkable passage in our voyage: unless that when we came in sight of the island of Hispaniola, and were coasting along the south side of it by the little isles of Vacca, or Ash, I observed Captain Knapman was more vigilant than ordinary, keeping at a good distance off shore, for fear of coming too near those small low islands; as he did once, in a voyage from England, about the year 1673, losing his ship there, by the carelessness of his mates. But we succeeded better; and arrived safe at Port Royal in Jamaica some time in April 1679, and went immediately ashore*". Jamaica had only relatively recently been seized from the Spanish, and trade (in sugar and slaves) was booming, as was the English merchant fleet.

I have not seen it, but there is also a Journal of a voyage made by Captain Knapman in 1675 in the National Archives. I have, however, seen records from the 'Calendar of State Papers Colonial, America and West Indies 1675-76' (which are accessible via the british-history.ac.uk website) that show that the 1675 shipwreck involved the notorious privateer Sir Henry Morgan, who was at that time part of the Government of Jamaica as well as a pirate. On 20 September 1675 the Governor of Jamaica, Lord Vaughan, wrote to Sir Joseph Williamson in London saying that he "... *exceedingly desires to know how his Majesty and his Royal Highness resent the miscarriage of Knapman, and his declaring Sir H M to be the true cause of it. Is every day more convinced of his imprudence and unfitness to have anything to do in the Civil Government, and of what hazards the Island may run by so dangerous a succession. Sir Henry has made himself and his authority so cheap at the Port, drinking and gaming in the taverns*". There is also a letter from Joseph Knapman to Mr Alderman, who appears to have been an investor in the voyage, in which he regrets the loss of the ship, and states that he "... *knows not what evil genius led him there, and never was any man more surprised considering the course they steered. Saved all the people, and 5 or 6 days after, one Capt Tho. Rogers, a Jamaica privateer now sailing under the French, carried Sir Henry Morgan and all the passengers for Jamaica, but he and his men stayed behind to save, if possible, his Majesty's stores and the ship's furniture, and he was obliged to offer them one third of what they could save, or could get them to do nothing*". He reports that he saved the gold belonging to Mr Alderman and his son by swimming with it on his back, but "... *sees no likelihood of laying out (the) money to any advantage*" because the prices of pimento, sugar and indigo are so high. They also saved 8 barrels of the Government's powder, 458 hand grenades, 301 snaphance muskets, 480 carbines, 2,667 long pikes, 186 snaphance dragoons, 10,000 cut flints, 805 'cartooth' and 'cardose' boxes, 78 pistols, 544 culverin shot, 323 demi-cannon shot, and 2 petards. There are other references on the same website to the loss of "20 great guns and 212 great shot", probably in the same incident.

The earliest work-related reference that I have seen to Joseph Knapman was in 1664 when he was captain of an Indian Merchant ship. There are other fragments of information<sup>42</sup> that show that he was in Jamaica in 1671, 1675 and 1678, and that on 12 April 1688, in Kingston, he signed a proclamation which involved the Royal African Company, which was heavily involved in transporting slaves from west Africa to the Caribbean. By that time he had risen to the rank of Commander. The ships' names 'Loyal Merchant' and 'Prudence' were both used at various times by the East India Company, but I have been unable to work out the link between that company and the Caribbean (or the Royal African Company).

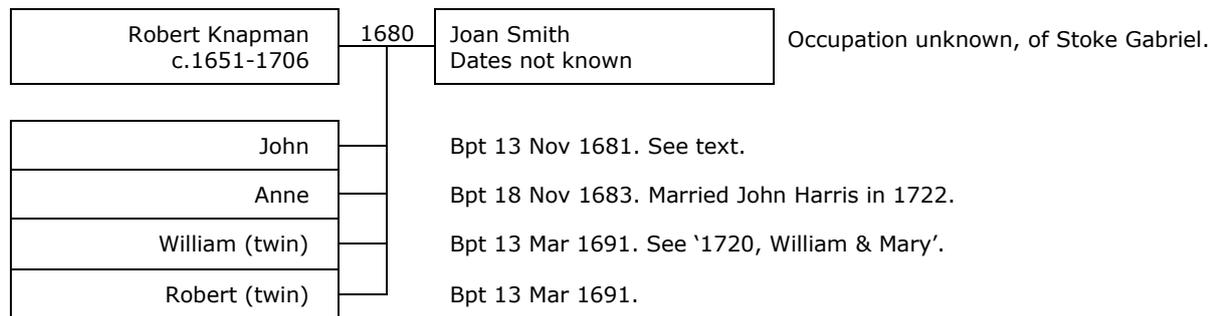
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<sup>42</sup> Source: 'Interesting Tracts Relating to the Island of Jamaica', which is accessible on-line via Google Books.

This was about the time when he became embroiled in the fall-out from an attempt to salvage the hugely valuable treasure from the shipwreck of the Spanish ship *Concepción* off the Hispaniola coast. The wreck had occurred in 1641, but in 1688 there was a concerted effort involving James II (who saw an opportunity to pay off his debts) and his nominee as Governor of Jamaica, the second Duke of Albermarle (a friend and close associate of Sir Henry Morgan, his Lieutenant Governor and Judge of the Admiralty Court in Jamaica). If the treasure was recovered, King James did not get any of it, and Joseph Knapman was caught up in the affair. A 1692 document on the british-history.ac.uk website (and issued after Joseph's death, if I have read his will correctly) shows that Joseph Knapman, gent had given a bond for £2,000, which the recently enthroned King William wished to call.

### 1680, Robert & Joan

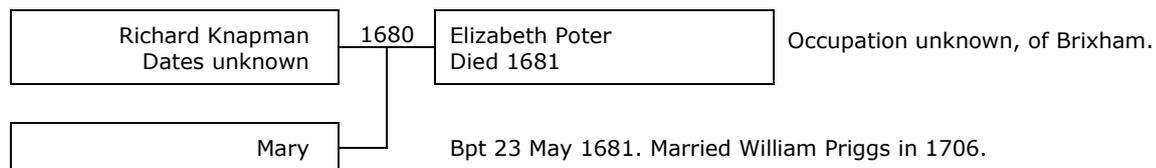
Robert Knapman married Joan Smith at Stoke Gabriel on 13 January 1680. He may well have been from Family 'c.1650, James & Margery', but this is by no means sure. Their children were all baptised at Stoke Gabriel, and the family remained there for several generations.



Robert was sufficiently prosperous to leave a will when he died in 1706, as was his eldest son John, who died in 1715, apparently without getting married. Anne married John Harris at Stoke Gabriel on 26 February 1722. I have found nothing further about Robert (the son).

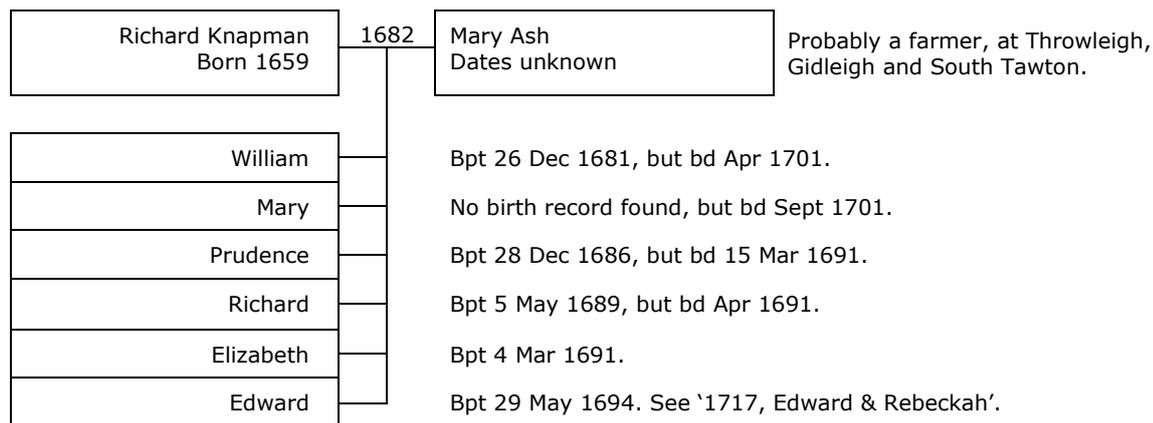
### 1680, Richard & Elizabeth

Richard Knapman married Elizabeth Poter at Churston Ferrers on 27 January 1680. It is possible (though this is pure speculation) that this may have been Richard's second marriage (see '1675, Richard & Elizabeth'). Their daughter was baptised at Brixham, and Elizabeth appears to have died as a consequence of the birth, being buried at Brixham on 31 May 1681.



### 1680, Richard & Mary

Richard Knapman married Mary Ash at Throwleigh on 11 October 1680. He was from Family 'c.1652, William & Elizabeth', and he may well have been a farmer. Their son William was baptised at Gidleigh but buried at Throwleigh, as was Mary (who may have been born later than indicated below by her place in the sequence). Prudence was both baptised and buried at Throwleigh. The three youngest children were all baptised at South Tawton, and Richard was buried at Throwleigh.

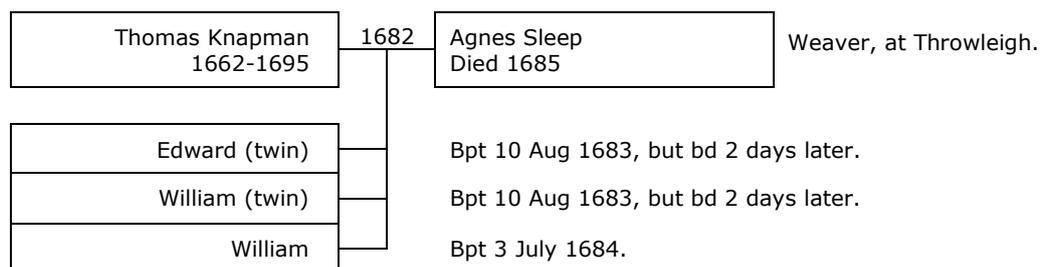


### 1680, Henry & Margery

Henry Knapman married Margery Hill at St Petrock's, Exeter on 6 December 1680. It is possible that Henry was from Family '1655, William & Jane', but I know nothing further about him, or any children that he and Margery may have had.

### 1682, Thomas & Agnes

Thomas Knapman married Agnes Sleep at Throwleigh on 4 February 1682. He was very probably from Family 'c.1658, William & Mary', and a weaver<sup>43</sup>. Their sons were all baptised at Throwleigh, but both of their twins died in infancy.



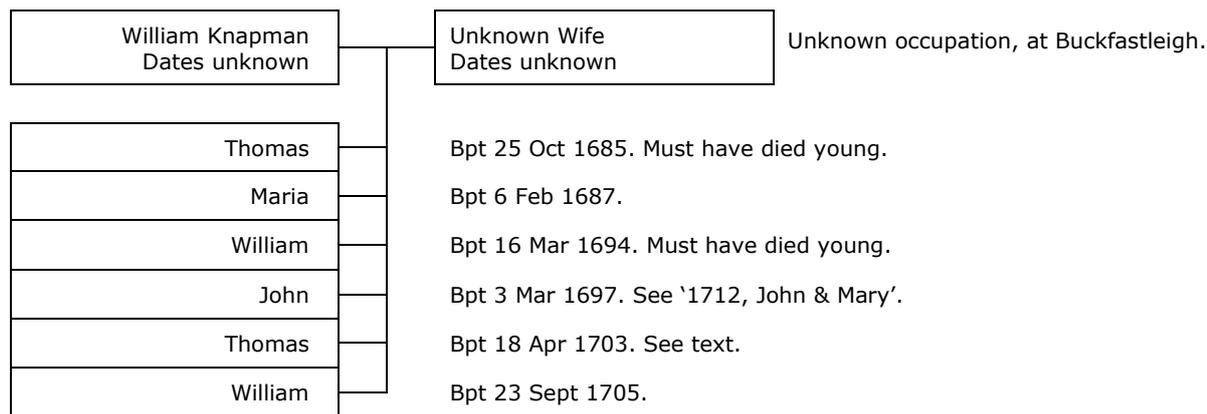
It is by no means sure that the second William was born to this family. When he was baptised his father's name was given in the register as Thomas, but this was not qualified by any reference to his being a weaver, which was the case with all other events involving this family. This could possibly be explained by the fact that Thomas Knapman of Family 'c.1668, Thomas & Agnes' had just lost his wife, and therefore was not having children, and therefore no additional descriptor was required to distinguish between them.

Agnes was buried at Throwleigh in August 1685, and Thomas' second marriage is dealt with below as '1686, Thomas & Damaris'.

### c.1684, William & Unknown

William Knapman had a series of children baptised at Buckfastleigh, as shown below, but I have not found his wife's name, or identified his likely origins.

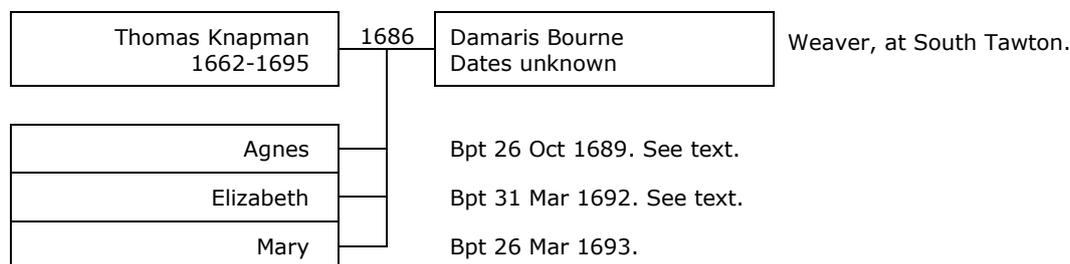
<sup>43</sup> I thought for a long time that Thomas the weaver was not related to the other Throwleigh Knapmans, but the evidence from South Tawton regarding his almost certain second marriage, and the fact that his probable brother James was a tailor has persuaded me to reconsider.



It is just possible, based on his age and an absence of other traces, that Thomas became a sailor, and was the originator of Family '1729, Thomas & Ann', but there is no actual evidence to support such a link.

### 1686, Thomas & Damaris

Thomas Knapman married Damaris Bourn at Throwleigh on 13 January 1686. I believe that Thomas was a weaver, and that this was his second marriage (his first being '1682, Thomas & Agnes'). Whereas I am confident about Agnes and Mary being their daughters (with both being baptised at South Tawton), I am much less sure about Elizabeth, who was baptised to a father named Thomas at Throwleigh. However, there are no other obvious 'candidate families' to which she might belong (assuming that I have my facts right regarding Family 'c.1668, Thomas & Agnes'), and Thomas (the weaver and proposed father in this case) certainly had strong family links to Throwleigh.



Agnes may be the person of that name who was buried at South Tawton on 1 August 1693.

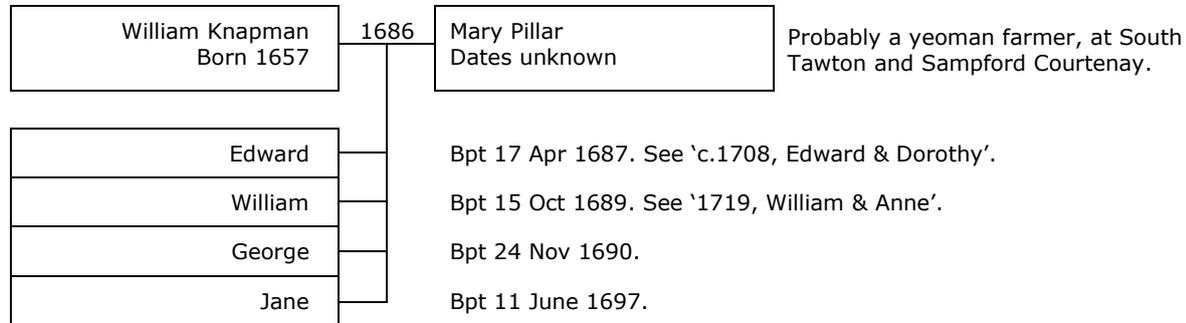
Then Thomas Knapman of South Tawton was buried at South Tawton on 28 March 1695, leaving a will which was proved in 1695, and I believe that this was Thomas the weaver.

However, in September 1701 John, son of Damaris Napman, a widow, was buried at South Tawton. Then on 5 March 1704 Joane Knapman, described as a 'base child', was baptised at South Tawton, with Damaris shown as the mother, and the reputed father's name given as Hugh Bourne. There was a further burial at South Tawton, on 11 January 1705, of Jane (presumably the same child as Joane), again described as a 'base child'.

Although the Knapman surname does not appear to have been carried forward via this branch of the family, this does not appear to be the end of the story, because Damaris was then apparently re-married, to another member of the Knapman family (see '1705, William & Damaris').

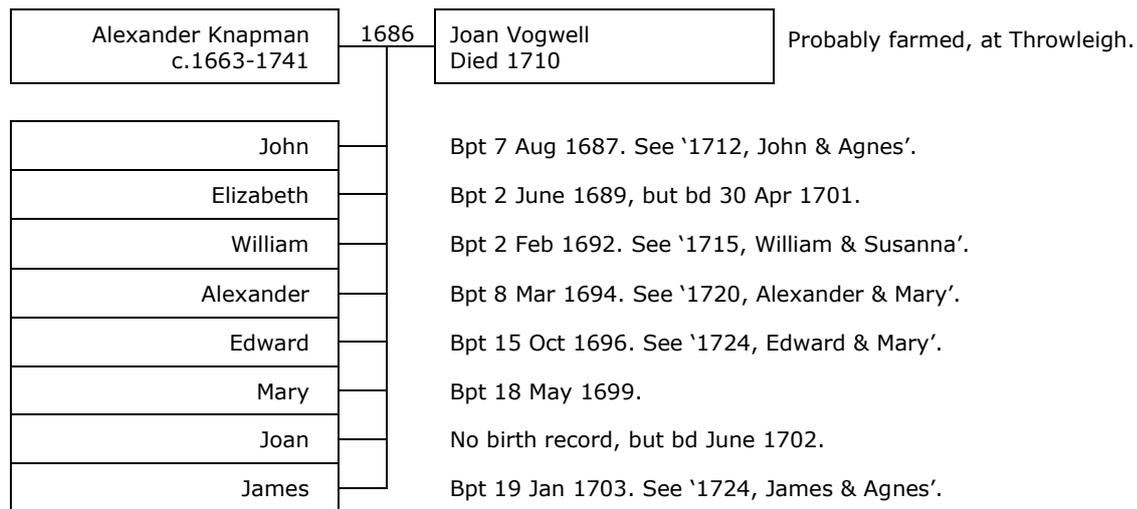
## 1686, William & Mary

William Knapman married Mary Pillar at South Tawton on 3 May 1686. He was probably from Family '1654, Edward & Anne'. Three of their children were baptised at South Tawton, though George was baptised at Sampford Courtenay (with his parents recorded as being 'of South Tawton').



## 1686, Alexander & Joan

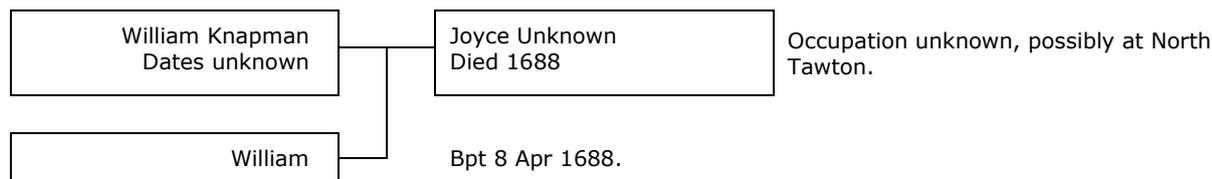
Alexander Knapman married Joan Vogwell at Throwleigh on 10 November 1686. He was from Family '1654, Edward & Anne', and they had the family shown below.



Joan was buried at Throwleigh in October 1710 (leaving a large and relatively young family), followed by Alexander in November 1741. It seems likely that Alexander was re-married, his likely second marriage being dealt with below as '1711, Alexander & Joan'.

## c.1687, William & Joyce

William Knapman was married prior to April 1688 when his son (shown below) was baptised at North Tawton. The reason why I think his wife was probably called Joyce is that someone of that name was buried at North Tawton on 2 June 1688, just 2 months after William's baptism, and no further baptisms were recorded. However, given that first children were often baptised in the place where their parents had been married, and wives who died young were often buried in their home parish, there must be some doubt about the strength of the continuing connection between the two Williams (father and son) and North Tawton.



It is conceivable that William (the father) was from Family 'c.1654, Edward & Joane', and that he was subsequently re-married (see Family '1693, William & Dorothy'), though there is no evidence beyond age and availability to support these hypotheses. Equally, William (the son) could conceivably be the originator of Family '1709, William & Susannah'.

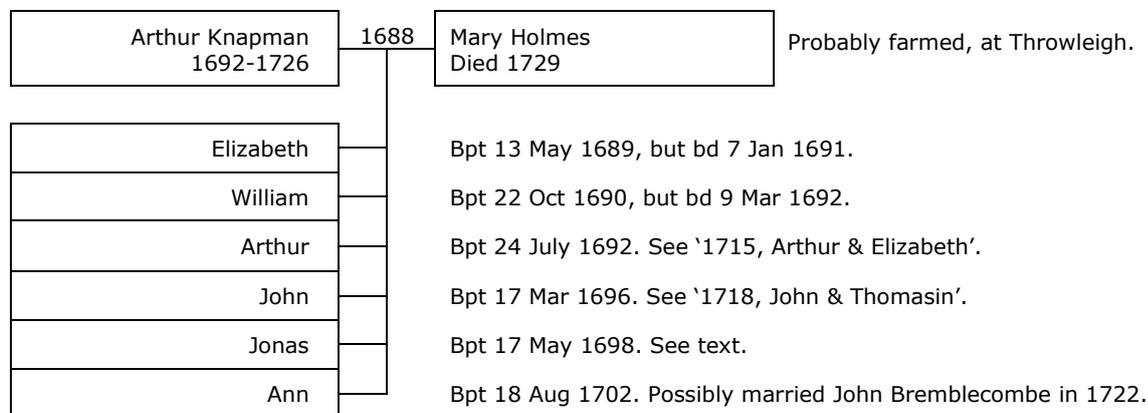
### c.1687, Mordecai & Joanna

The parish register for St Dunstan's, Stepney records that John Napman, son of Mordecai and Joanna Napman, was baptised on 15 October 1688, suggesting that there had been a marriage between Mordecai Napman and a bride called Joanna. Mordecai was described in the baptismal register as a capmaker, of Botts Street. However, further investigation shows that Mordecai and Joanna Notman had several other children baptised at St Mary's, Whitechapel (including Mordecai, Margaret, Martha and Elizabeth). I believe that the 1688 baptismal record should have read Notman rather than Napman, and that this is a red herring.

### 1688, Arthur & Mary

Arthur Knapman married Mary Holmes at Throwleigh on 7 August 1688. He was from Family 'c.1652, William & Elizabeth'.

Fifteen children were born to fathers called Arthur Knapman in and around Throwleigh and South Tawton between 1689 and 1708, with the mother named as Mary in some of those cases. Based on the dates and where they were baptised, I have 'allocated' six of them to this family, and seven to Family '1691, Arthur & Mary'<sup>44</sup>. The family as I believe it to have been is shown below.



It seems likely that Arthur (the father) was buried at Throwleigh in September 1726 and was the originator of a will (of Arthur Knapman of Throwleigh) proved in 1727, but no longer extant. Mary was very probably the person of that name buried at Throwleigh in April 1729.

Although I have not found the marriage of Jonas, he appears to have married a wife called Mary. In 1723 he was living in South Tawton (he made his mark, rather than signed, the 1723 Loyalty Oath as a South Tawton resident<sup>45</sup>), but when he was buried, at Throwleigh in August 1730, he was recorded as a resident of Cheriton Bishop. His burial was followed 3 months later by that of Mary. I have seen no evidence to suggest that they had children in Throwleigh, South Tawton or Cheriton Bishop.

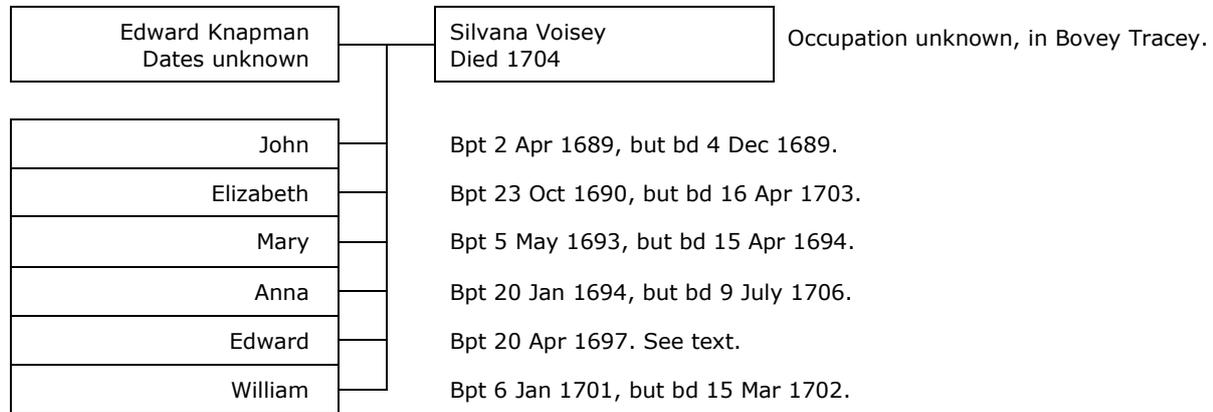
<sup>44</sup> That still leaves two more children whose father was called Arthur and whose mother was not recorded in the baptismal registers, see 'c.1699, Arthur & Unknown'.

<sup>45</sup> Source: foda.org.uk website.

Ann probably married John Bremblecombe at Chagford on 26 March 1722.

### 1688, Edward & Silvana

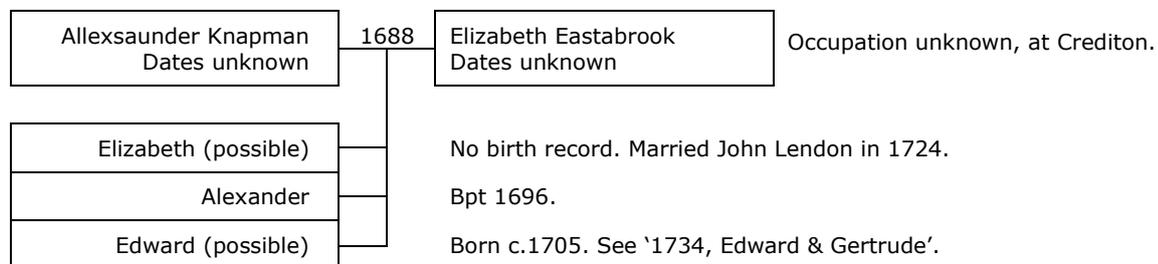
Edward Knapman married Silvana Voisey at Bovey Tracey on 17 May 1688. I do not know where he came from, but with the exception of one baptism (in 1669) I believe that this was the first evidence of Knapmans in Bovey Tracey. All of their children were baptised there, and all were buried there.



An Edward Knapman was buried at Bovey Tracey on 9 February 1702, but whether this was the father or the son I do not know. Silvana was buried on 2 April 1704.

### 1688, Alexsaunder & Elizabeth

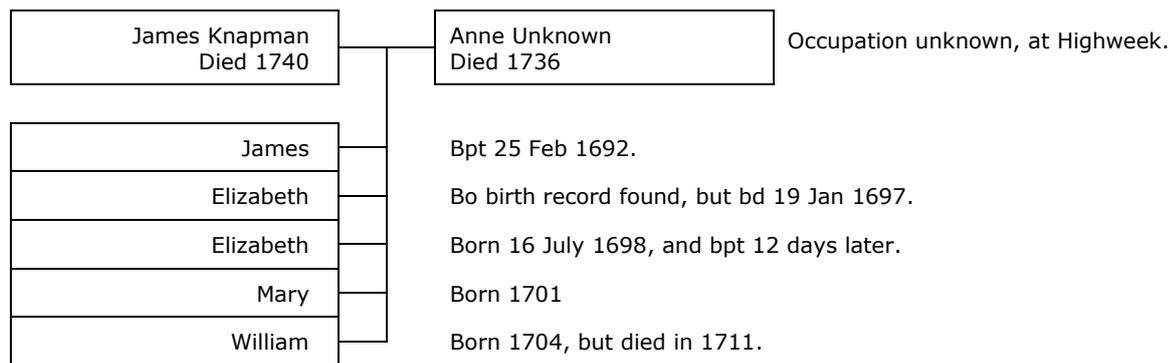
Alexsaunder Knapman married Elizabeth Eastabrook at Crediton on 10 August 1688. He was almost certainly from Family 'c.1659, Alexander & Unknown wife'. Such information as I have managed to assemble about their probable family is shown below.



It is perfectly possible that the marriage between Elizabeth Knapman and John Lendon which took place at Crediton on 25 December 1724 could have involved the re-marriage of Elizabeth (the mother) rather than her possible daughter.

### c.1690, James & Anne

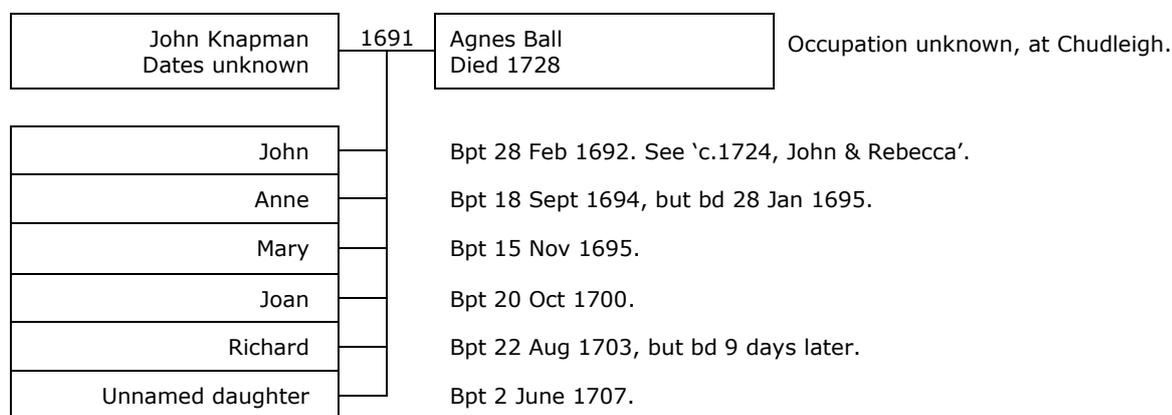
James Knapman married a wife called Anne in about 1690, and had the following children, all baptised at Highweek (now part of Newton Abbot). I do not know where James came from.



Anne was buried at Highweek on 15 January 1736, followed by James in 1740.

### 1691, John & Agnes

John Knapman married Agnes Ball at Holy Trinity, Exeter on 14 July 1691. I do not know where he came from<sup>46</sup>, but it seems likely that they settled in Chudleigh, where all of the children shown below were baptised.



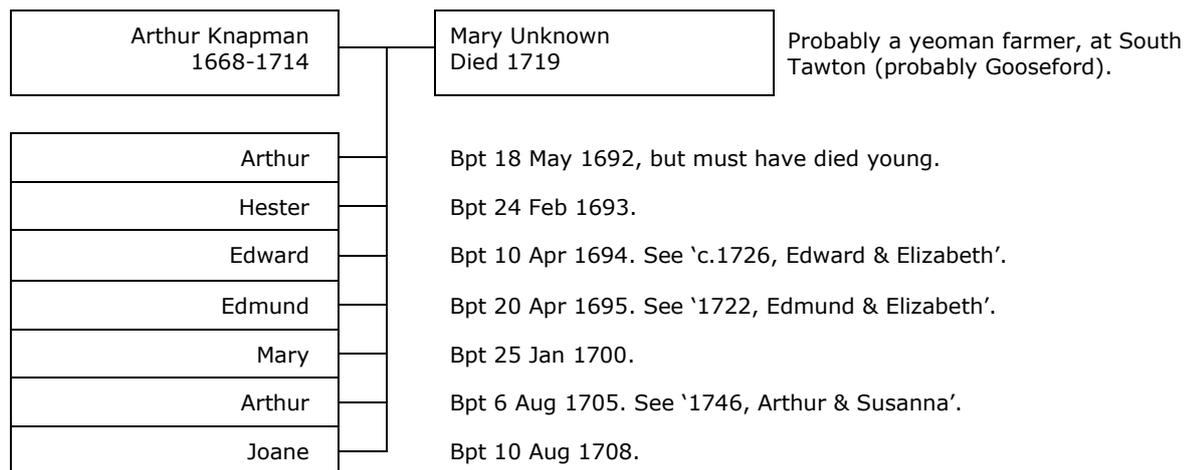
Agnes was buried at Chudleigh, described as a widow, on 23 March 1728.

### c.1691, Arthur & Mary

Arthur Knapman married a wife called Mary in about 1691. He was from Family c.1654, Edward & Joane'.

As noted above in the context of Family '1688, Arthur & Mary', 15 children were born to fathers called Arthur Knapman in and around Throwleigh and South Tawton between 1689 and 1708, with the mother named as Mary in some of those cases. Based on the dates and where they were baptised, I have 'allocated' seven of them to this family, as shown below. All of these children were baptised at South Tawton.

<sup>46</sup> It is possible that John was baptised at Burrington in 1654: see Family 'c.1658, William & Mary' for further information.

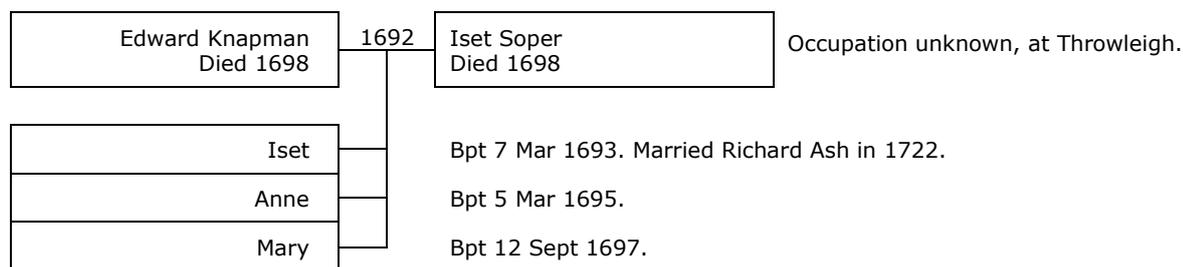


Arthur was buried at Throwleigh in October 1714, followed by Mary in May 1719.

### 1692, Edward & Iset

Edward Knapman married Iset Soper at Throwleigh on 5 July 1692. He could be from either Family 'c.1652, William & Elizabeth' or '1654, Edward & Anne', with the second of these two being marginally the more likely, in my opinion.

Their three daughters were all baptised at Throwleigh, and the Edward who did not marry Iset was probably buried in Throwleigh, unmarried, in October 1684, meaning that the family surname was not carried forward via either of them.



I believe that both Edward and Iset were buried at Throwleigh in January 1698, when their daughters were all aged under 5, and Edward probably left a will dated 1697 which does not survive.

Iset / Isotte (the daughter) married Richard Ash at St Peter's Cathedral, Exeter on 19 March 1722.

### 1693, William & Dorothy

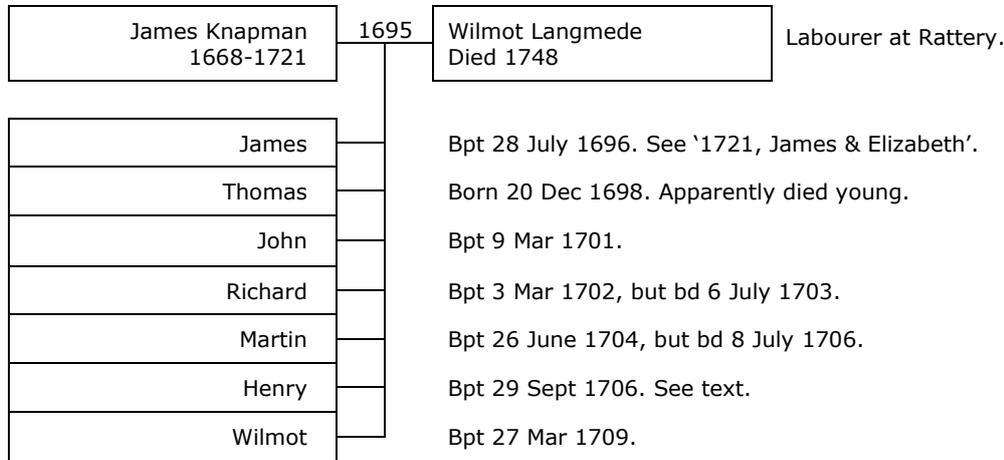
William Knapman married Dorothy Lang at South Tawton on 20 May 1693. He was very probably from Family 'c.1654, Edward & Joane'. Although I have not found a record of his death, a William Knapman of South Tawton left a will which was proved in 1712, and I think it is very probable that the Dorothy Knapman who married William Turner at South Tawton (with both described as being 'of this parish') on 30 April 1713 was his widow. I have not found any evidence of any children being born to William and Dorothy, at South Tawton or elsewhere.

### 1695, James & Ann

James Knapman married Ann White at Kenton on 13 January 1695. I do not know where he came from, and so far as I know they did not have any children. There was another marriage at Kenton 2 years later, between Agnes Knapman and John Kenwood. Agnes was presumably James' sister.

## 1695, James & Wilmot

James Knapman married Wilmot Langmede at Rattery on 12 August 1695. He was described (on the baptismal register) as a day labourer in 1699, and 'poore' in 1703 and 1704. Their children were all baptised at Rattery.

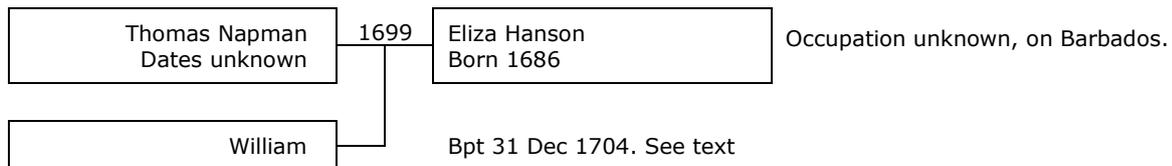


James was probably buried at Rattery on 24 October 1721, followed by Wilmot on 3 April 1748.

It is possible that Henry was the originator of Family '1730, Henry & Agnes', but on balance I doubt it.

## 1699, Thomas & Eliza

Various genealogical / family history websites (e.g. the IGI / Findmypast.org and ancestry.co.uk) show that on 28 March 1699 Thomas Napman married Eliza Hanson at St Thomas', Barbados. Eliza may well have been very young, a girl of that name having been baptised on 21 September 1686 at St Michael's Barbados, but I have been unable to discover where Thomas came from, what he did or what his approximate status was, despite my brother taking time out from a holiday to inspect the original parish registers in Bridgetown. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century a range of settlers left England for Barbados, some of them religious dissenters, including Quakers. There were also indentured servants sent from England and Ireland, and military and naval personnel. There was also some interchange with the British colonies on the eastern seaboard of America.



William was baptised in the parish of St Philip, and he appears to have got married in about 1728, but no record has been found. He then had a daughter called Parthena, who was baptised in the parish of St Philip on 2 January 1730, with her father's name shown as Will Napman. She in turn (with her name recorded as Parthena Nepman) married a husband called Mr Lynch at St Philip on 10 Jan 1768. . So far as I am aware the male Knapman line in Barbados died out with her father, William.

## 1699, Edmund & Mary

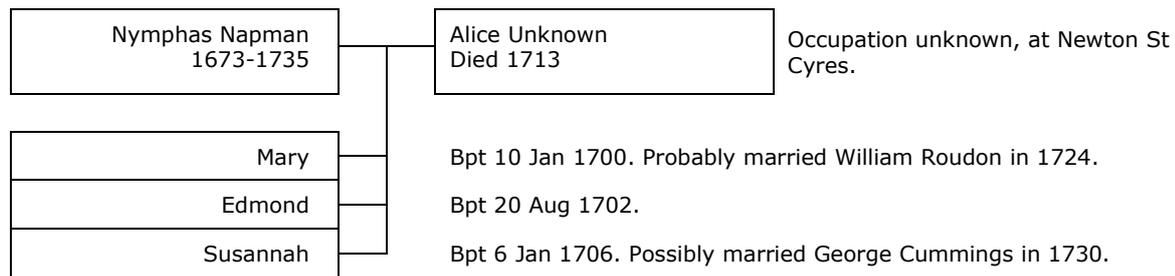
Edmund Napman married Mary Walter at St Anne's, Soho on 9 May 1699. It is possible that he was the eldest son from Family '1662, Batholomew & Marie', born at Throwleigh in 1662.

This Edmund evidently become a sailor, and the National Archives holds the will of Edmund Knapman, mariner, of HMS Grafton<sup>47</sup>. When he wrote his will, in 1701, he was a resident of St Ann's parish, in the Liberty of Westminster, and the will is a very simple document which left everything to his wife, Mary. He was buried at St Ann's in 1708 and his will was proved on 30 March 1709. In 1711 Mary was living at Castle Street, Westminster, which is where she and Edmund had lived before his death. So far as I can tell, they had no children.

There is a reasonable chance that this was the Edmond Knapman who is referred to in very unflattering terms in connection with a voyage to Archangel on 'The Temperance' in 'Sailors: English Merchant Seamen 1650-1775' by Peter Earle.

### c.1699, Nymphas & Alice

Nymphas Knapman married a wife called Alice in about 1699. He was from Family 'c.1668, Edward & Sarah', and their family is shown below. The children were all baptised at Newton St Cyres.

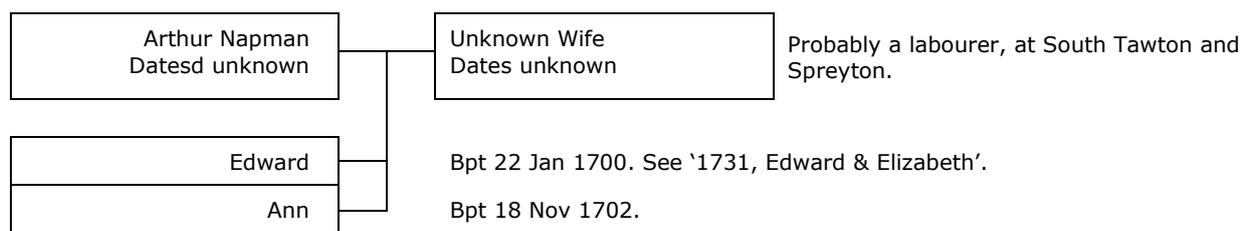


Alice was buried at Newton St Cyres on 29 July 1713, and Nymphas' second marriage is shown below as '1714, Nymphas & Priscilla'.

Mary may well have married William Roudon at Thorverton on 1 January 1724, and Susannah may be the person of that name who married George Cummings at Topsham on 16 November 1730. I have seen no further evidence of Edmond.

### c.1699, Arthur & Unknown

Arthur Napman, with his surname consistently spelled without the 'K' and described as 'of South Tawton' was the father of the two children shown below, baptised at South Tawton and Spreyton respectively. He could have been married some years before 1699, but presumably not much later.



<sup>47</sup> HMS Grafton was a 70-gun third rate ship of the line that had been re-built in 1700. She was captured by the French in an action off Beachy Head on 2 May 1707 in an action classified as part of the War of the Spanish Succession. A replacement ship called HMS Grafton was launched in 1709.

## Chapter 4: Marriages from 1700 to 1753

### Introduction

#### Sources:

The period covered by this chapter is characterised by better (more, and more legible) surviving Parish registers, but any researcher still needs good luck to find all relevant records. As well as concentrating on those parishes identified as home to families in the foregoing chapter, good use can be made of transcribed registers, including many registers which have been digitised in a searchable format. That said, many parishes remain un-transcribed, and several are incomplete, so coverage remains patchy.

The Friends of Devon Archives (FODA) have assembled and published lists of Freeholders, which are particularly helpful where farming families are concerned.

#### Context:

In the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Queen Anne was on the throne, and England was at war with France. The years 1704 to 1709 were marked by the four great victories over the French of John Churchill (later the Duke of Marlborough), at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet.

In 1714 the Georgian age began, with the coronation of George I. The beginnings of modern capitalism were also marked by a series of speculative frenzies including (in 1720) the South Sea bubble.

In 1727 the First Indemnity Act for non-conformists was passed, and George II came to the throne.

The 1730s marked the start of industrial and agricultural revolutions, with the invention in 1733 of the 'flying shuttle' (which changed the weaving process forever), and in the same year the publication by Jethro Tull of his book on 'Horse Hoeing Husbandry'.

Of particular importance to many families in Devon was the foundation in 1738 by Charles Wesley, of the Methodist movement.

Right at the end of the period covered by this chapter, in 1752, the new calendar was introduced, with the 'loss' of 11 days, and a general acceptance that the year started on 1 January.

#### Weather:

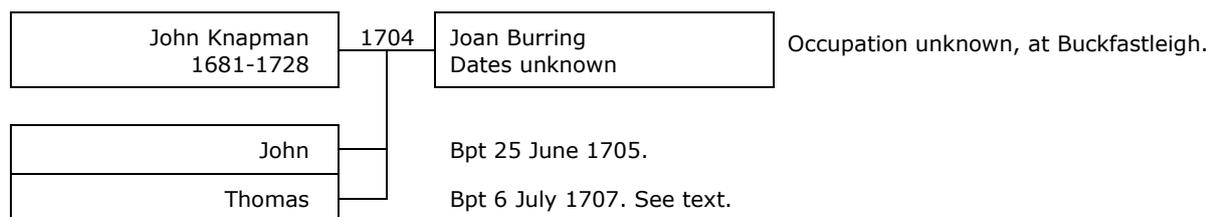
The period covered by this chapter continued to be marked by cold winters, with two further Thames 'ice fairs', in 1716 and in 1739/40.

### 1702, Thomas & Phyllis

Thomas Knapman married Phyllis Hitchins at Throwleigh on 8 October 1702. Although I am uncertain, I think he was from Family 'c.1668, Thomas & Agnes'. So far as I know they had no children.

### 1704, John & Joan

John Knapman married Joan Burring at Buckfastleigh on 26 July 1704. He was from Family '1679, John & Martha', and their sons were both baptised at Buckfastleigh.



John (the father) was buried at Buckfastleigh on 22 November 1728.

I have not traced John (the son) or Thomas further as far as any families they may have had are concerned, though I think Thomas was probably the person of that name who was buried at Buckfastleigh on 20 June 1766.

### 1705, William & Damaris

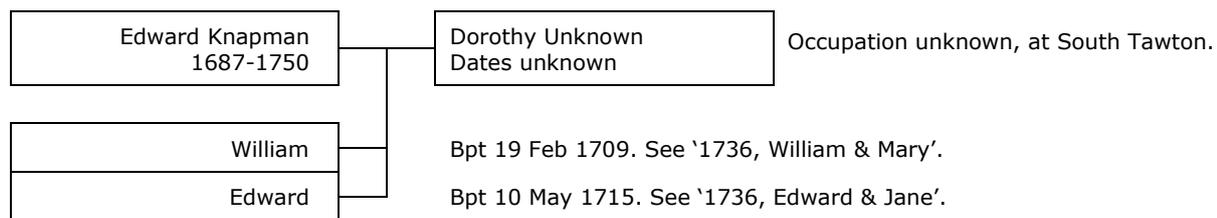
William Knapman married Damaris Knapman at Shillingford St George on 22 April 1705. The parish register identifies them both as being 'of South Tawton'. I am confident that Damaris was the widow of Thomas the weaver (see '1686, Thomas & Damaris') who had had at least two illegitimate children since his death. William could (though this is highly speculative) have been Thomas' younger brother, and there are no other obvious candidate bridegrooms if he was not. I do not believe that William and Damaris had any children of their own.

### 1705, Ambrose & Susannah

Ambrose Knapman married Susannah Tingcombe at Ashcombe (near Dawlish) on 8 May 1705, but appears to have died very soon thereafter, being (presumably) the originator of the lost Devon will of Ambrose Knapman of Awliscombe (near Honiton), dated 1706. He was originally from Family 'c.1688, Edward & Sarah'.

### c.1708, Edward & Dorothy

Edward Knapman married a wife called Dorothy in about 1708. He was probably from Family '1686, William & Mary' (though there must be some doubt about this link<sup>48</sup>). However, there is no doubt that Edward and Dorothy had at least two sons while living in South Tawton, as shown below. There could have been other children born between these two, but no others that were baptised at South Tawton.



There were three persons called Dorothy Knapman buried at South Tawton between 1741 and 1745, and it is not possible to tell which one was the mother from this family. Edward was buried at South Tawton on 1 August 1750.

### 1709, William & Susannah

William Knapman, described as a bachelor and mariner, married Susannah Anderson, a 23-year-old widow from Portsmouth, on 2 February 1709 at St Katherine-by-the-Tower, according to the parish register for 1687-1726. I do not know where William came from, nor have I seen any evidence of children from this marriage.

### 1711, Thomas & Ann

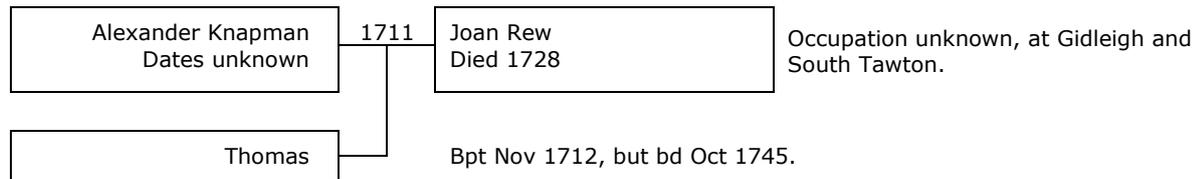
Thomas Knapman married Ann Cune at Buckfastleigh on 29 June 1711. He was from Family '1679, John & Martha'. Unfortunately she was buried at Buckfastleigh on 10 April 1717, and John's second marriage is covered as '1717, Thomas & Ann'.

### 1711, Alexander & Joan

Alexander Knapman married Joan Rew at Throwleigh on 4 March 1711. Although he could have been from Family 'c.1668, Thomas & Agnes', it seems more likely that this was the second marriage of Alexander from Family '1654, Edward & Anne', with his first being '1686, Alexander &

<sup>48</sup> The doubt stems from the fact that there was another marriage between an Edward Knapman and Rebekah Adams at South Tawton on 7 July 1717. Rebekah apparently died at St Mabyn (Cornwall) in 1723, and that marriage may also have been linked to the Rebecca Knapman who married John Wood at South Tawton on 27 July 1739.

Joan'. This is why his dates are not given below. The only child from this marriage that I have managed to spot was baptised at Gidleigh.



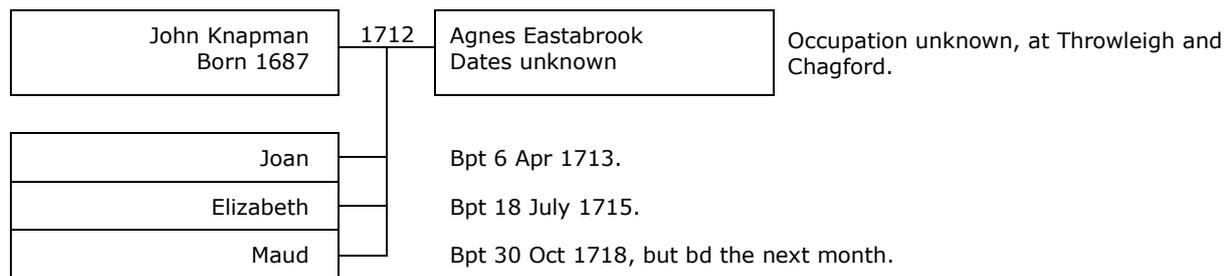
Joan was buried at Throwleigh in December 1728, followed by Alexander either in January 1749 (if he was from Family 'c.1668, Thomas & Agnes') or in November 1741 (if he was from Family '1686, Alexander & Joan'). When (in between these two events) Thomas was buried, also in Throwleigh, the register shows that he was living in South Tawton.

### 1712, John & Mary

John Knapman married Mary Browsey at Buckfastleigh on 27 January 1712. He may well be from Family 'c.1684, William & Unknown'. So far as I know, they had no children.

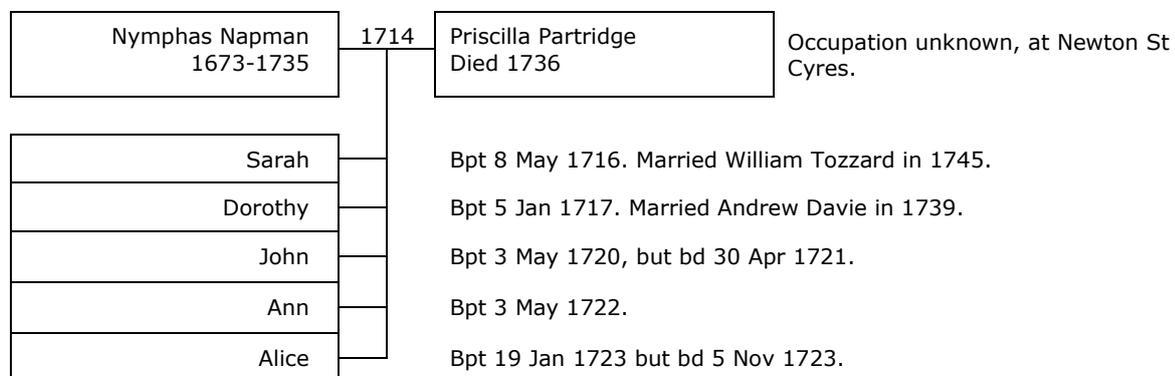
### 1712, John & Agnes

John Knapman married Agnes Eastabrook at Throwleigh on 3 June 1712. He was very probably from Family '1686, Alexander & Joan'. Their probable children were baptised at Throwleigh (Joan and Maud) and Chagford (Elizabeth). Maud was also buried at Throwleigh.



### 1714, Nymphas & Priscilla

Nymphas Knapman married Priscilla Partridge at Whitestone on 25 December 1714. This was his second marriage (the first being 'c.1699, Nymphas & Alice'). Their children were all baptised at Newton St Cyres.



It seems highly probable that Sarah married William Tozzard at Brampford Speke on 5 February 1745; and that Dorothy married Andrew Davie at Newton St Cyres on 27 December 1739.

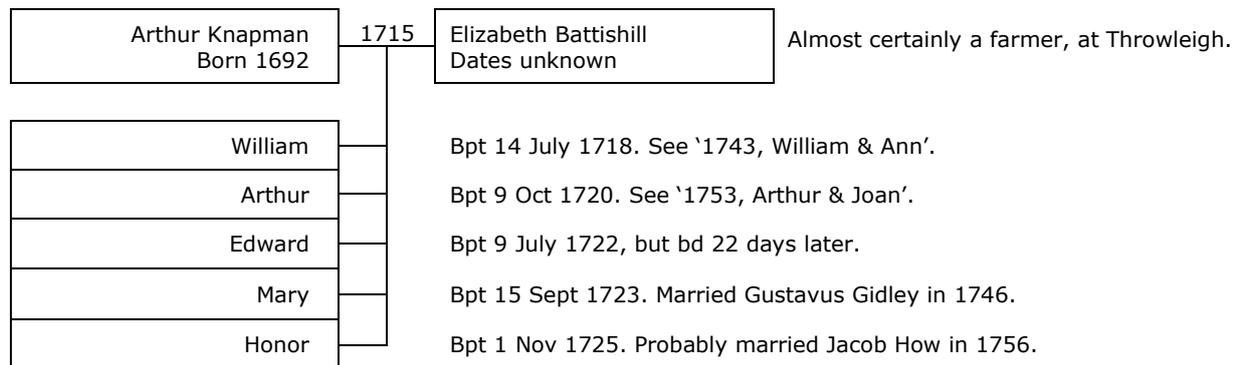
Nymphas was buried at Newton St Cyres on 29 June 1735, followed on 2 May 1736 by Priscilla. No further records of (K)napmans can be found in the Newton St Cyres parish registers until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the surname appears to have died out in this family with Nymphas' death.

### 1715, Alexander & Joane

Alexander Knapman married Joane Pidler at South Tawton on 2 November 1715. It is just possible that this was a first marriage for Alexander from '1686, Alexander & Joan', with his second marriage being '1720, Alexander & Mary'. However, Joane was not buried at South Tawton over the period 1715-1720. Whatever Alexander's origins, I have seen no evidence of children from this marriage.

### 1715, Arthur & Elizabeth

Arthur Knapman married Elizabeth Battishill at Throwleigh on 18 April 1715. He was from Family '1688, Arthur & Mary', and they had five children, as shown below, baptised at Throwleigh.



It seems very likely that it was Arthur and Elizabeth's daughter Mary who married Gustavus Gidley in May 1746. Although there are other 'candidate' Mary Knapmans, particularly one from Family '1715, William & Susanna', I believe that this Mary is most likely, given that Mary Gidley had her last child in 1762, by which point the other Mary would have been 44. I owe most of the following information on Gustavus and his family to Margaret Hughes, Gustavus' direct descendant.

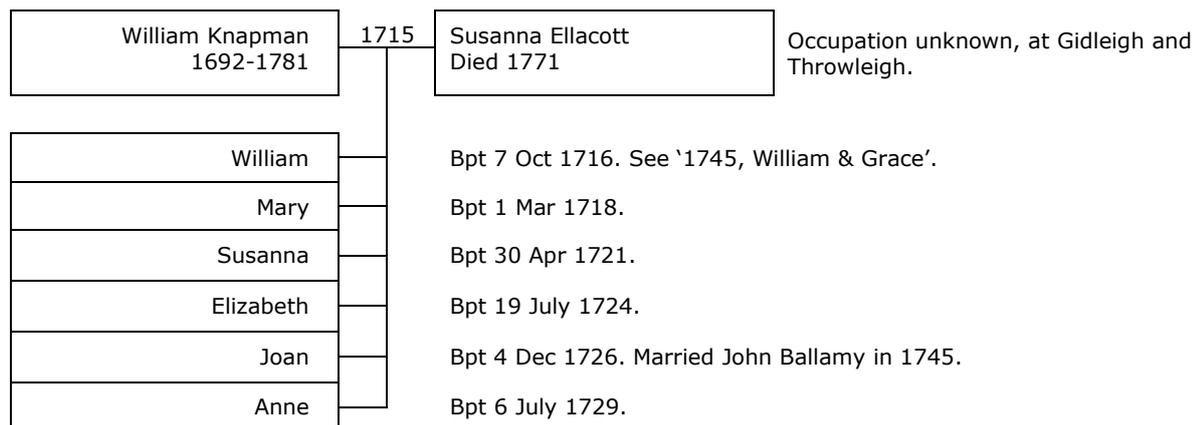
Gustavus was descended from the Gidleys of Winkleigh (they have a family chapel there), and was born in 1717. His great grandfather, John Gidley (born 1632) had been surgeon to Charles II and William III, and a medal presented to him for services rendered can be found in the British Museum. He (John) was married to Rebecca Dunning, whose family has strong connections to Throwleigh. The link from John to Gustavus ran through two generations called Bartholomew.

Gustavus and Mary had three sons and two daughters: Bartholomew (born 1746, married Elizabeth Dunning), Elizabeth (born 1749), John (born 1754), Ann (born 1760, married William Thorn and had a family that survived at least two further generations according to another family tree that I saw on the mundia.org website) and George (born 1762, married Charity German in 1783). George and Charity had a substantial family, which survives to this day via their son Gustavus and his son, who appears to have been landlord of the New Inn, Wonson (now the Northmore Arms). After his death his family moved to Biggleswade and then London.

Mary's younger sister Honor appears very likely to be the person who married Jacob How (or Hone: the register is unclear) of Withycombe Raleigh at Charmouth on 3 June 1765. I know nothing further about them.

### 1715, William & Susanna

William Knapman married Susanna Ellacott at Throwleigh in February 1715. He was probably from Family '1686, Alexander & Joan'. Their first and last children (William and Anne) were baptised at Gidleigh, with the others being baptised at Throwleigh.



Susanna, identified as the wife of William was buried at Throwleigh on 31 October 1771. William then appears to have died aged about 88, and to have been buried at Throwleigh on 17 April 1781.

Joan, the only daughter who I have spotted in adulthood, probably married John Ballamy at Chagford on 6 June 1745.

### 1717, Edward & Rebeckah

Edward Knapman married Rebeckah Addams (with her surname spelled Rebeckath in the register) at South Tawton on 7 July 1717. He may well be from Family '1680, Richard & Mary', but this is not confirmed. So far as I know they had no children via whom the Knapman surname could have been carried forward.

### 1717, Thomas & Ann

Thomas Knapman married Ann Angel at Buckfastleigh on 26 November 1717. This was his second marriage (see '1711, John & Ann' for his first). Their children were all baptised at Buckfastleigh.

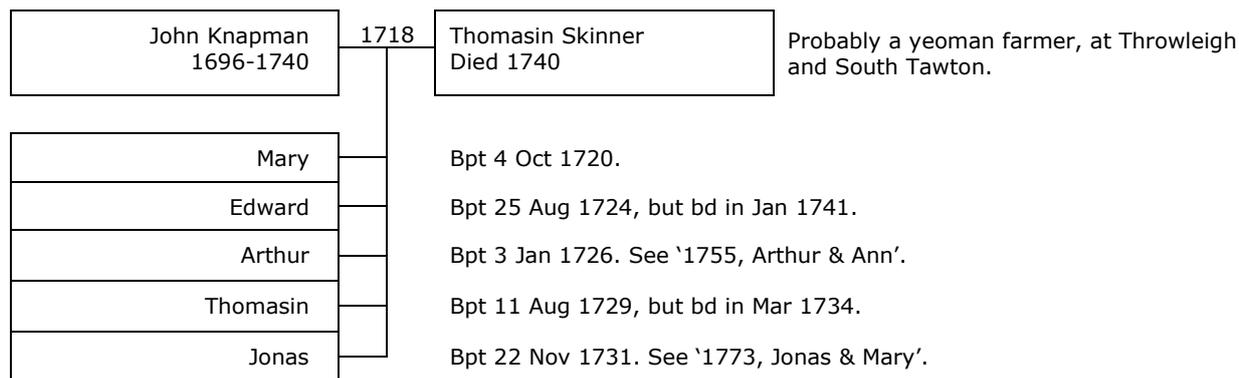


Both Anne and Richard appear to have survived to adulthood, but to have died unmarried. Anne was probably the person of that name buried at Buckfastleigh on 25 July 1763, and Richard was apparently buried there on 18 August 1752.

Both Mary and Martha were married at Buckfastleigh, Mary on 3 March 1746 and Martha on 4 January 1747.

### 1718, John & Thomasin

John Knapman married Thomasin Skinner at Throwleigh on 29 December 1718. He was from Family '1688, Arthur & Mary', and their children are shown below. The four eldest children were baptised at Throwleigh, with Jonas baptised at South Tawton.

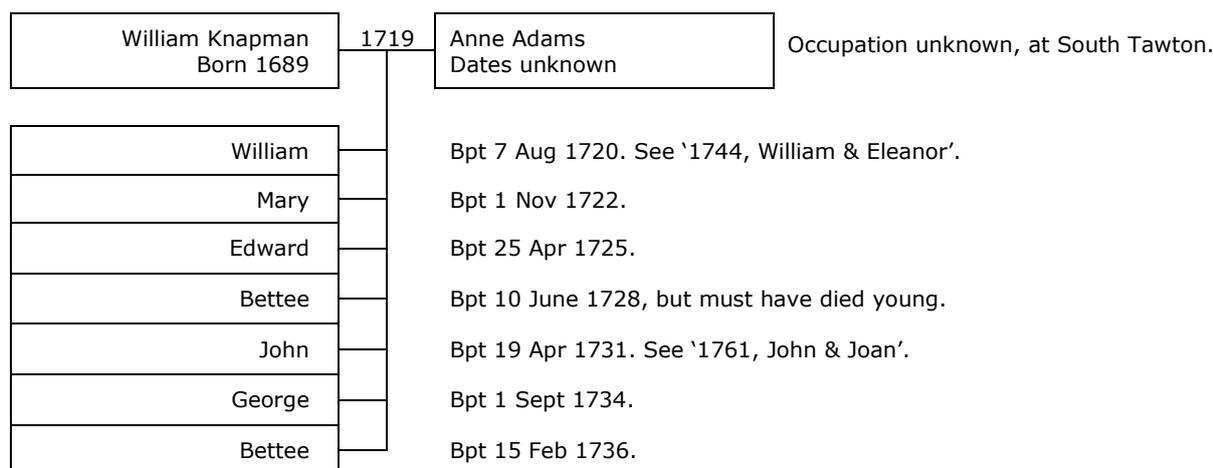


The family appears to have moved to South Tawton in about 1730, about a decade before both John and Thomasin apparently died in quick succession. I believe that they were probably buried at Throwleigh in October and December 1740, respectively.

Both Edward and Thomasin (the daughter) were buried at Throwleigh. In Thomasin's case the register states that she was a resident of South Tawton at the time. I have not traced Mary any further.

### 1719, William & Anne

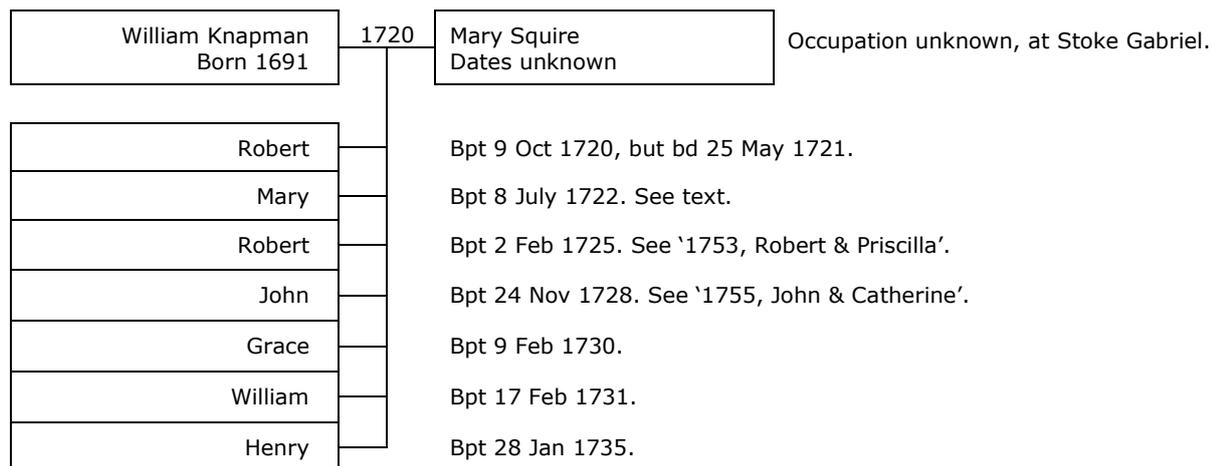
William Knapman married Anne Adams at South Tawton on 24 February 1719. He was from Family '1686, William & Mary', and all of their children were baptised at South Tawton.



It is by no means sure that the marriages that I have indicated for their sons William and John properly belong to the sons from this family, but I think the probability is quite reasonable.

### 1720, William & Mary

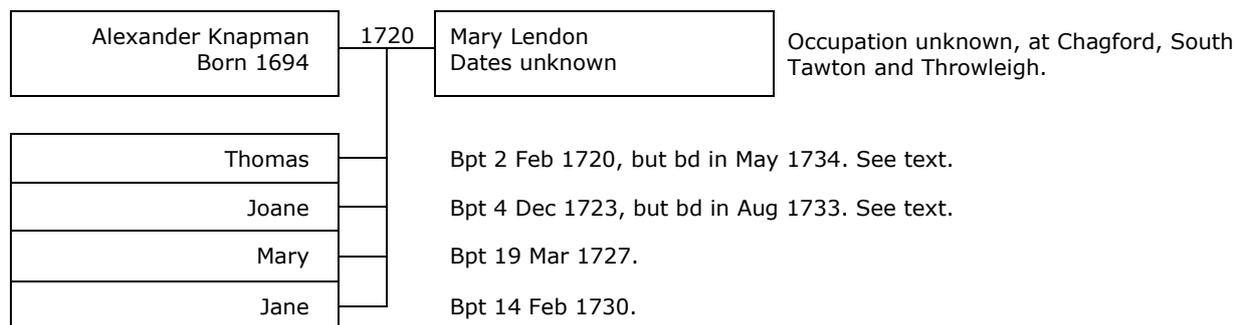
William Knapman married Mary Squire at Stoke Gabriel on 31 July 1720. He was from Family '1680, Robert & Joan'. All of his children were baptised at Stoke Gabriel.



Mary had an illegitimate son, James, who was baptised at Stoke Gabriel on 30 January 1744. See '1767, James & Mary' for details of his descendants. Well after James' birth Mary married Richard Peend at Stoke Gabriel on 18 March 1749.

### 1720, Alexander & Mary

Alexander Knapman married Mary Lendon at South Tawton on 20 April 1720. He was from Family '1686, Alexander & Joan', and it is just possible that this was his second marriage (the first being '1715, Alexander & Joane'). Their children were baptised at Throwleigh (Thomas), South Tawton (Joane and Mary) and Throwleigh (Jane).

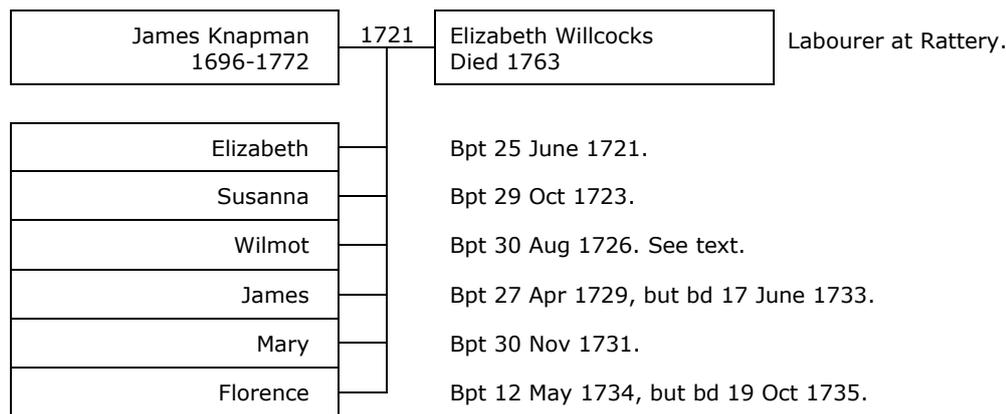


Thomas was apparently baptised at Chagford before his parents' marriage, but buried at Throwleigh when the family was living in South Tawton. Joane was baptised in South Tawton, but also buried at Throwleigh while the family was living in South Tawton.

The Knapman surname was evidently not carried forward via this family.

### 1721, James & Elizabeth

James Knapman married Elizabeth Willcocks at Rattery on 9 April 1721. He was from Family '1695, James & Wilmot', and their children were all baptised at Rattery

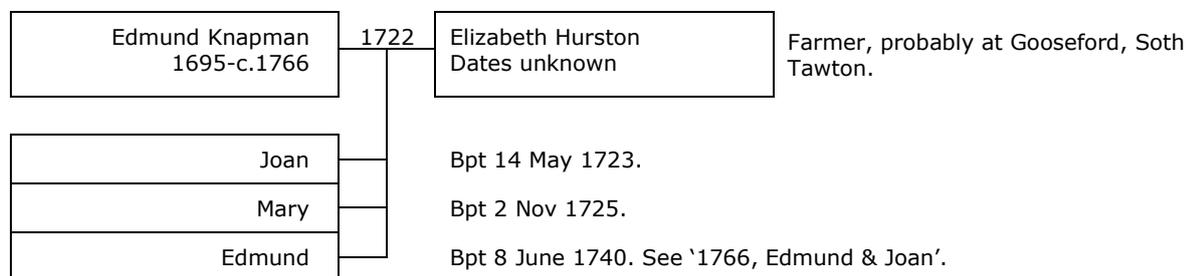


Elizabeth (the mother) was buried at Rattery on 10 November 1763, followed by James on 27 March 1772.

Wilmot appears to have had an illegitimate daughter, Susanna, baptised at Rattery on 26 June 1757. Susanna too had an illegitimate child (baptised at Rattery on 7 December 1777 whose full name was Anthony Soper Knapman: see Family `1801, Anthony & Elizabeth`). However, after his birth, Susanna evidently married John Gullott of Ugborough at South Brent on 3 May 1789. I owe the information about this connection to Ray Anstis, a descendant of John Soper Knapman.

### 1722, Edmund & Elizabeth

Edmund Knapman married Elizabeth Hurston at Drewsteignton on 11 May 1722. He was from Family `c.1691, Arthur & Mary`. Although they only appear to have had three children, with a gap of 15 years between the second and third, the alternative explanation (that Edmund was married twice) does not appear to be supported by the evidence. Joan was baptised at Drewsteignton, Mary at Chagford, and Edmund at South Tawton.

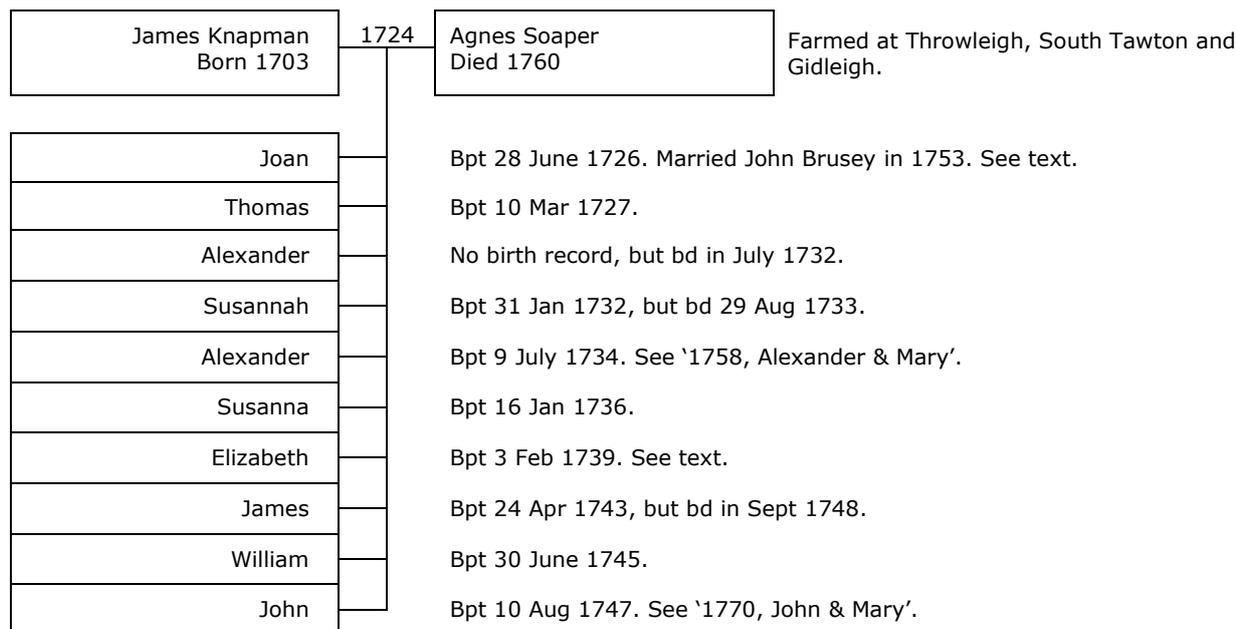


We know from the 1766 marriage settlement of their son<sup>49</sup> Edmund that Edmund (the father) had recently died, but that Elizabeth was still alive, and living on one of the various farms that comprise the hamlet of Gooseford in South Tawton, which lies between Throwleigh and Whiddon Down. We also know from that settlement that the younger Edmund had no surviving brothers.

### 1724, James & Agnes

James Knapman married Agnes Soaper at South Tawton on 7 February 1724. He was the youngest son from Family `1686, Alexander & Joan`. With the exception of their son James (baptised at Gidleigh), their children for whom baptismal records have been found were baptised at Throwleigh, and Alexander, Susannah and James were all buried at Throwleigh.

<sup>49</sup> Some information on the settlement can be found on page 368 of the 1905 Proceedings of the `Transactions of the Devonshire Association` in the DHC in Exeter, which refers to the "...settlement, dated 11-12 May 1766, between Elizabeth Knapman of Goosaford widow of Edmund Knapman, yeoman lately deceased, and Edmund Knapman, his only son and heir ...". Much of the text between pages 366 and 369 refers to this family.



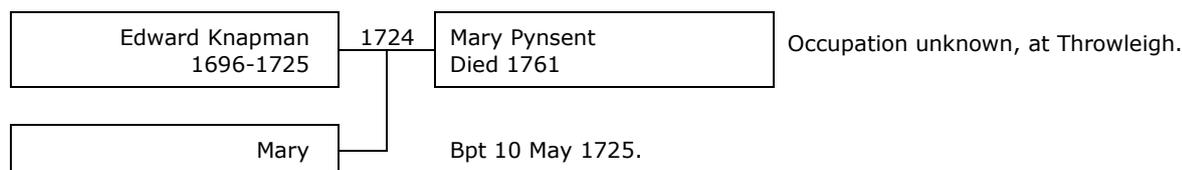
Agnes was probably the person of that name buried at Throwleigh in March 1760, but James survived her by many years.

Two of the relatively few documents that refer to this family concern an apprenticeship<sup>50</sup> to James Knapman for a farm called Creaber in Gidleigh in 1777, by which time he would have been an old man. Another is a parish 'settlement examination' from 1783<sup>51</sup> which concerns a man who had originally been apprenticed to James, but who had transferred in about 1775 to go and work for his son-in-law John Brusey (who had married James' eldest daughter Joan at Denbury on 5 February 1753). John Brusey farmed at Venn, Torbryan, and Joan's presence there may have been a material influence on her brother Alexander's move to Denbury, where he was married in 1758.

Elizabeth appears to have had an illegitimate son called William, baptised at South Tawton on 1764. His family is dealt with under '1791, William & Elizabeth'.

### 1724, Edward & Mary

Edward Knapman married Mary Pynsent at Throwleigh on 5 July 1724. He was from Family '1686, Alexander & Joan'. All the events mentioned below occurred at Throwleigh.



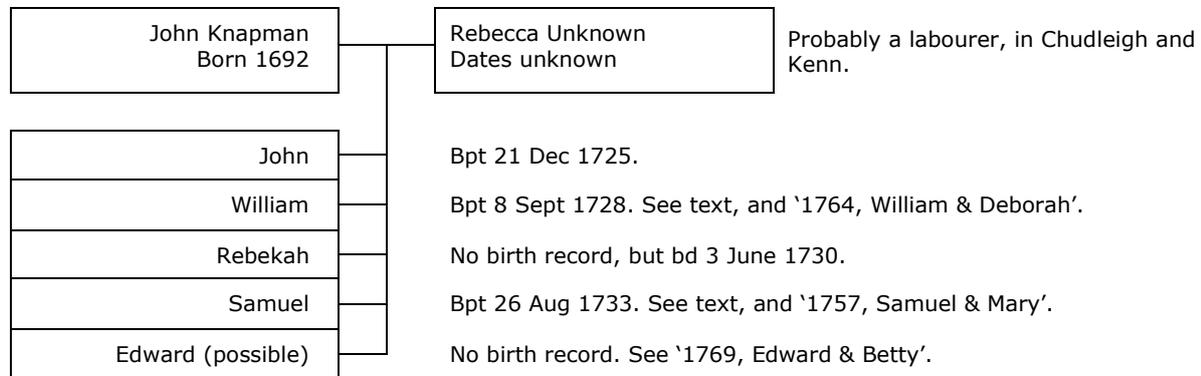
Edward was buried in December 1725, not long after the birth of his only daughter. Mary (probably his widow) was buried in July 1761.

<sup>50</sup> DHC Ref 3600A-3/PO4/34 is an apprenticeship record showing that Samuel More was apprenticed to James in 1777 for Crebear (some time after James apparently "quitted business").

<sup>51</sup> DHC Ref 269/A/PO 68, dated 1783, constitutes a record relating to John Osborn, who the parish register shows to have been baptised in Gidleigh in 1758. He stated that he had been apprenticed to James, aged 8, for 7-8 years (i.e. ending in about 1774), when James "quitted business", at which time he transferred to John Brusey of Torbryan, the son-in-law of James, with whom he stayed until he was 22.

### c.1724, John & Rebecca

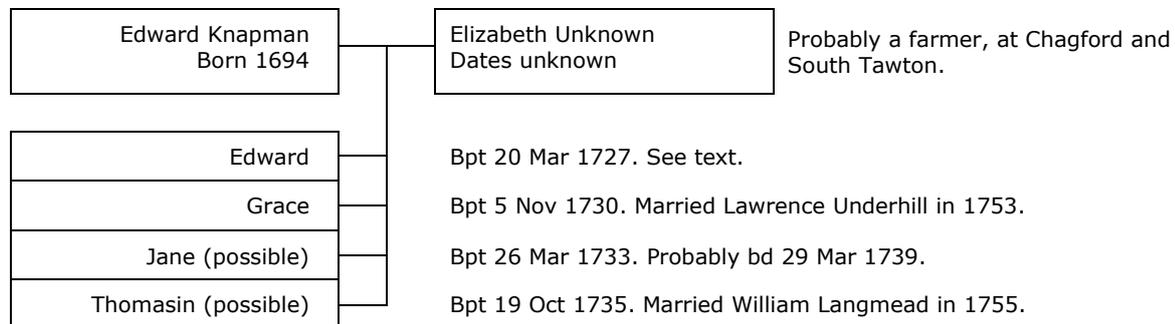
John Knapman married a wife called Rebecca in about 1724. He may have been from Family '1691, John & Agnes'. Their son John was baptised at Chudleigh; with William and Samuel being baptised at Kenn.



William was apprenticed to John Sampson for a property called 'Maunder's' in 1741, and Samuel was apprenticed to Anne Young (a widow) for 'Mamhead' in 1743. These two facts point to the family being relatively impoverished.

### c.1726, Edward & Elizabeth

Edward Knapman married a wife called Elizabeth, possibly in about 1726, and probably had the family shown below. He was originally from Family 'c.1691, Arthur & Mary'. The first two children shown below were baptised at Chagford, the other two at South Tawton.



An Edward Knapman (who could be either the father or the son) was buried at South Tawton on 4 May 1738. In either case, I have seen no evidence to suggest that this family carried the Knapman surname forward.

### 1728, Alexander & Jane

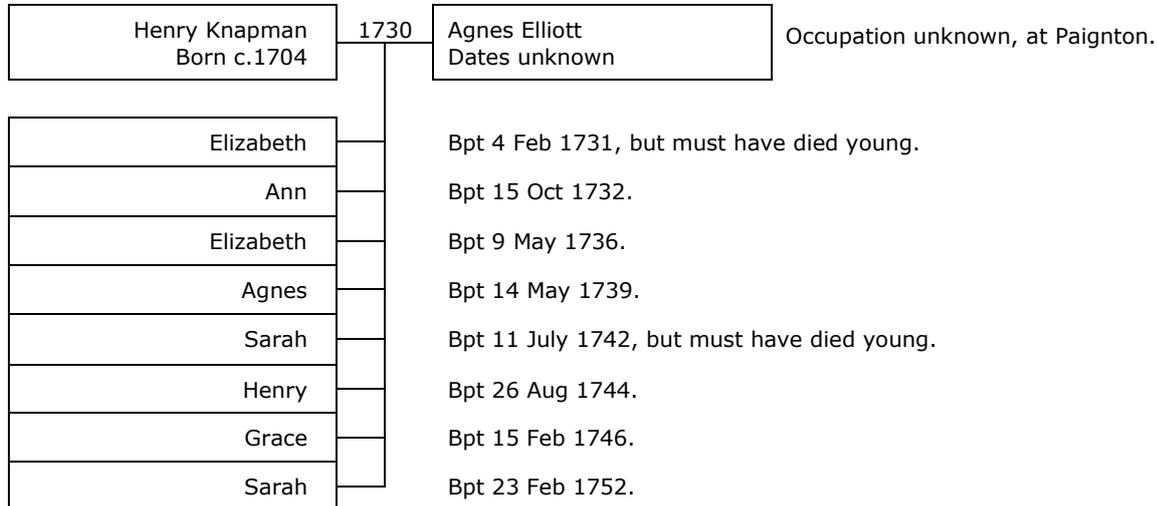
Alexander Knapman married Jane Mitchell at Throwleigh on 18 February 1728. I have not yet worked out where he came from, but he and Jane do not seem to have had any children via whom the surname could have been carried further.

### 1729, Thomas & Ann

Thomas Knapman married Ann Thompson at Longbenton, Northumberland on 12 June 1729. A transcription of the Longbenton marriage register can be found on the Genuki website. I do not know where Thomas came from (unless – and this is pure speculation with no substantive evidence to support it – he was from Family 'c.1684, William & Unknown'). So far as I can see the surname did not survive via this marriage.

### 1730, Henry & Agnes

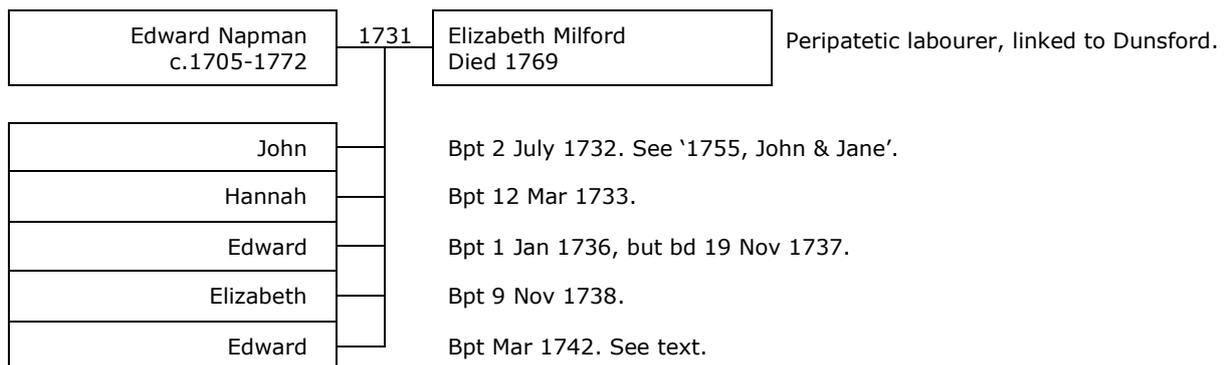
Henry Knapman married Agnes Elliott at Paignton on 4 October 1730. He could possibly be from Family '1695, James & Wilmot', but such a link should be viewed as tentative at best. He and Agnes had the following children, and with the exception of Elizabeth, who was baptised at Stoke Gabriel, their children were baptised at Paignton. They only had one son, and he does not appear to have had a family via whom the Knapman surname was carried forward.



### 1731, Edward & Elizabeth

Edward Napman (described as 'of Dunsford') married Elizabeth Milford at Tedburn St Mary on 10 October 1731. He may well have been originally from Family 'c.1699, Arthur & Unknown', though this link should be regarded as tentative.

Their children and possible children were baptised in several different parishes: John in Cheriton St Bishop (with his father described as 'of Dunsford'), Hannah and the first Edward in Dunsford, the first Elizabeth and the second Edward in Holcombe Burnell (which is also where the first Edward was buried), Mary at Alphington, and the second Elizabeth at Dunchideock.

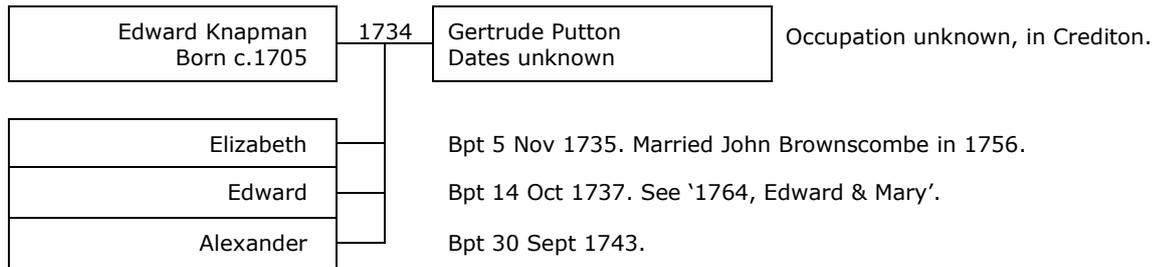


Elizabeth (the mother) was buried at Dunsford on 2 Apr 1769, followed by Edward (most probably the father) on 17 May 1772.

Although I have not found any firm evidence at all to support the assertion, I think it is possible that Edward (the son) was the father of James Knapman from Family '1795, James & Sarah'.

### 1734, Edward & Gertrude

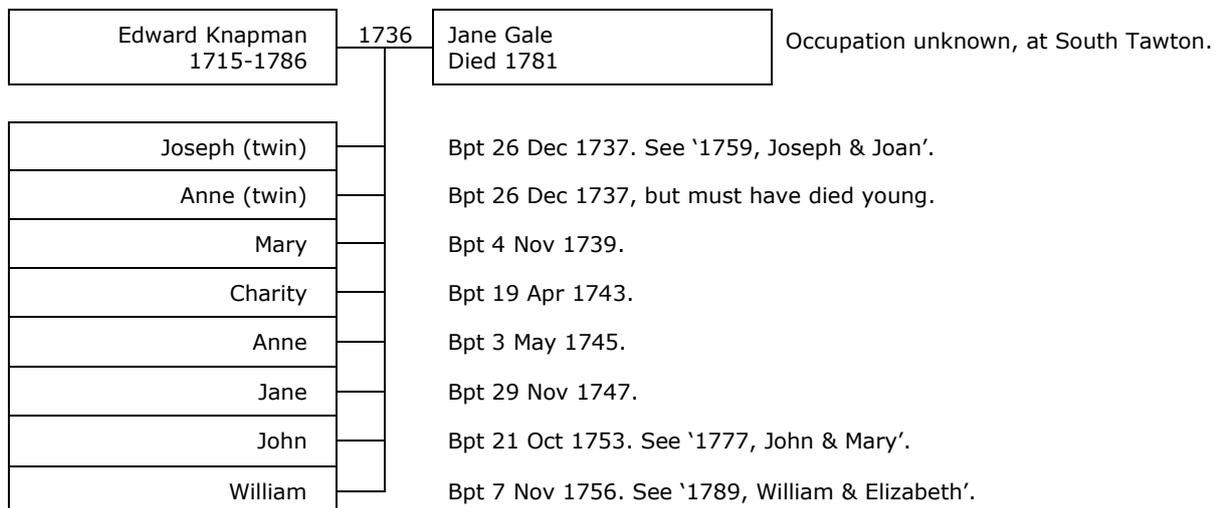
Edward Knapman married Gertrude Putton at Crediton on 6 January 1734. He was probably from Family '1688, Alleksaunder & Elizabeth'. All of their children were baptised at Crediton.



Elizabeth married John Brownscombe at Crediton on 25 December 1756. I have seen no evidence to suggest that Alexander married or had a family.

### 1736, Edward & Jane

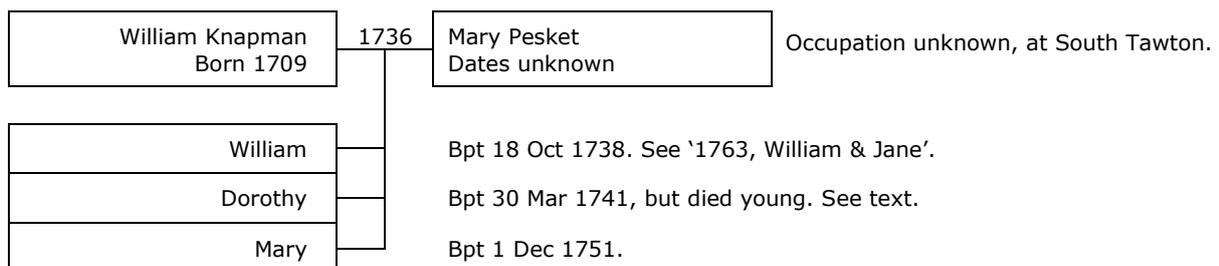
Edward Knapman married Jane Gale at South Tawton on 21 February 1736. I believe that he was probably from Family 'c.1708, Edward & Dorothy'. Edward and Jane's very probable children, all of whom were baptised at South Tawton, are shown below. It should, however, be acknowledged that whereas Edward was identified as the father of all of them, Jane was only named in the parish register as the mother of the two youngest.



Jane Knapman, recorded as the wife of Edward, was buried at South Tawton on 28 January 1781. Edward appears to have been buried on 17 September 1786, just over 5 years later.

### 1736, William & Mary

William Knapman married Mary Pesket (or Perket, or Pecket) at South Tawton on 4 May 1736, and they had the family which is shown below, all baptised at South Tawton. He was probably originally from Family 'c.1708, Edward & Dorothy'.



William's link to Family '1763, William & Jane' is probable but well short of certain.

Dorothy was almost certainly one of three persons of that name buried at South Tawton between 1741 and 1745 (one of the others being her father's mother, details above).

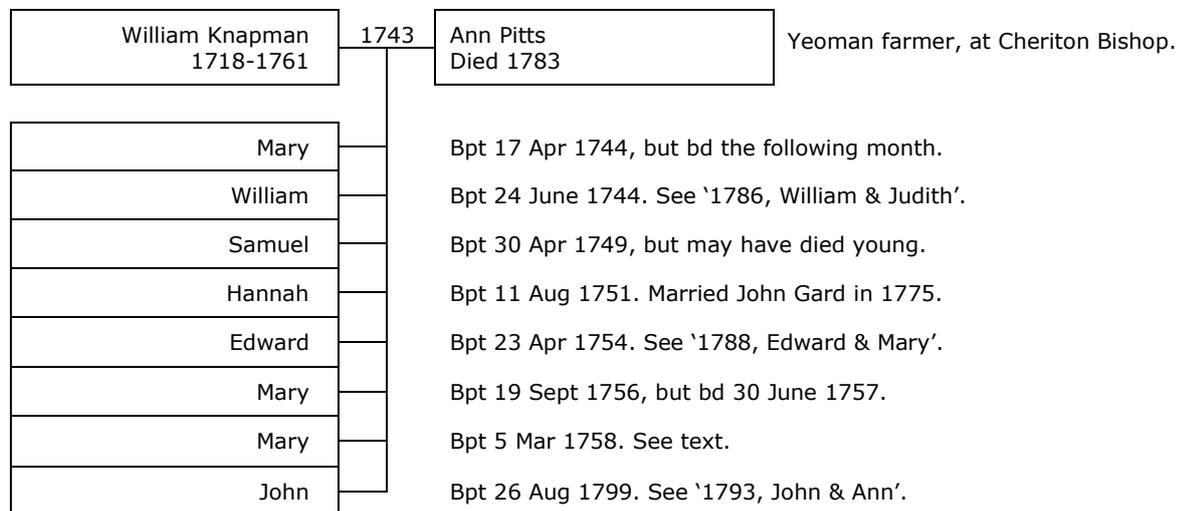
### 1743, Joseph & Mary

Joseph Knapman married Mary Oxenham at South Tawton on 13 June 1743. I have not worked out where he came from, but in any case he does not appear to have had a family via whom the Knapman surname could have been carried forward.

Two Joseph Knapmans were buried at South Tawton, one on 22 September 1786 and the second on 20 May 1788, described as a gardener. Either of these two could have been the husband from this marriage, and other was probably from '1759, Joseph & Joan'.

### 1743, William & Ann

William Knapman, who was from Family '1715, Arthur & Elizabeth', and lived at Cheriton Bishop, married Ann Pitts there on 14 February 1743. Their children, all of whom were baptised at Cheriton Bishop, are shown on the tree below.



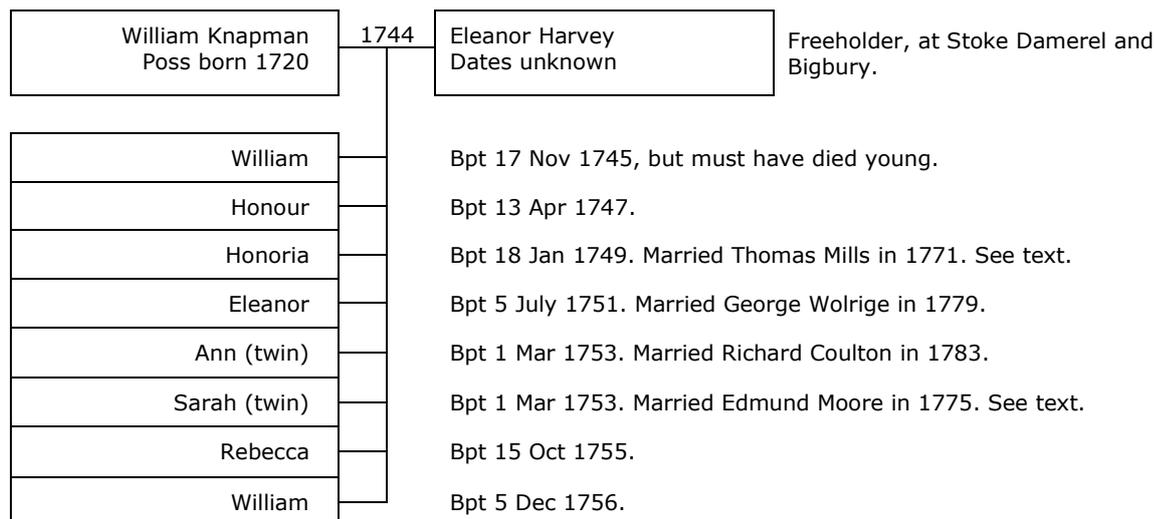
William (the father) died relatively young and was buried at Cheriton Bishop, after which Ann moved to North Tawton where she was buried 20 years later (as was the third of her daughters to be baptised with the name Mary).

The reason for thinking that Samuel died young is that there is good documentary evidence for all of the other children, but nothing regarding him.

Hannah's marriage to John Gard took place at North Tawton on 2 October 1775.

### 1744, William & Eleanor

William Knapman married Eleanor Harvey at Stoke Damerel on 2 February 1744. Although I have not found any positive evidence to link that marriage to the William from Family '1719, William & Anne', the link is certainly possible. Given Eleanor's surname (Harvey), and the fact that there was a marriage to a member of the Moore family in the next generation, the link to South Tawton seems entirely credible, since both of these surnames are associated with South Tawton. In my opinion, the circumstantial evidence goes beyond the simple 'rightness' of William's age. Irrespective of his origins, William Knapman can be seen (via the Friends of Devon Archives website) to have been a Freeholder at Stoke Damerel in 1762. He subsequently moved a few miles east along the coast, to Bigbury, where he was recorded as a Freeholder in 1771, and where four of his daughters were married between 1771 and 1783. In total, William and Eleanor had eight children, as shown below.



Honoria married a clergyman called Thomas Mills at Bigbury on 3 November 1771, and internet postings show that they emigrated with their children to Charleston, South Carolina in 1786.

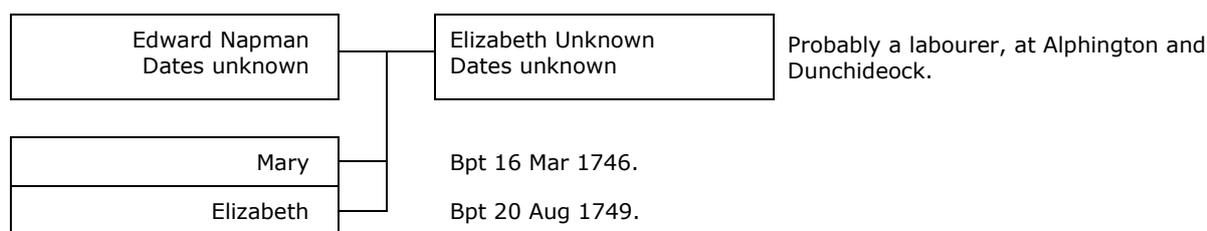
Eleanor married George Wolrige at Bigbury on 15 June 1779, and Ann married Richard Coulton there on 25 April 1783.

Sarah married Edmund Moore at Bigbury on 17 April 1775 and had four children including one son called William Knapman Moore (baptised on 26 March 1777) who became a naval surgeon, and whose will can be accessed via the National Archives website<sup>52</sup>.

I have found no further evidence of William (the son).

### c.1744, Edward & Elizabeth

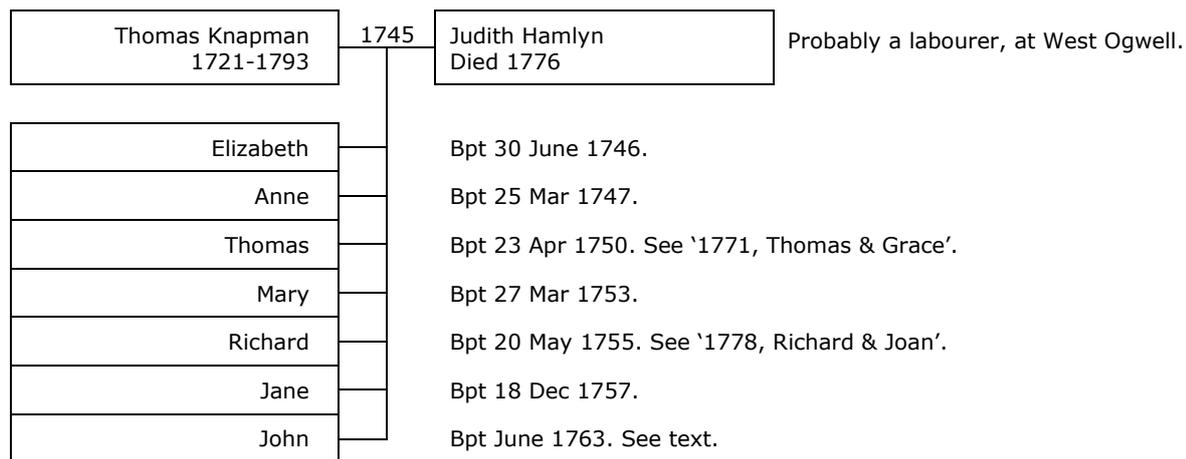
Edward Napman married a wife called Elizabeth, possibly in about 1744, but possibly considerably earlier. They were the parents of children in Alphington (Mary) and Dunchideock (Elizabeth), but could well have had other children elsewhere.



### 1745, Thomas & Judith

Thomas Knapman married Judith Hamlyn at West Ogwell on 6 Aug 1745. He was very probably from Family '1711, Thomas & Ann'. Their children were all baptised at West Ogwell.

<sup>52</sup> It is a very simple will, and suggests that he was unmarried when he wrote it on 1 February 1797 when he was attached to the ship 'La Virginia'. He simply left everything to "Thomas Wolrige of the pay office, gent", who was quite likely his cousin, via his aunt Eleanor. His will was proved on 26 June 1800.

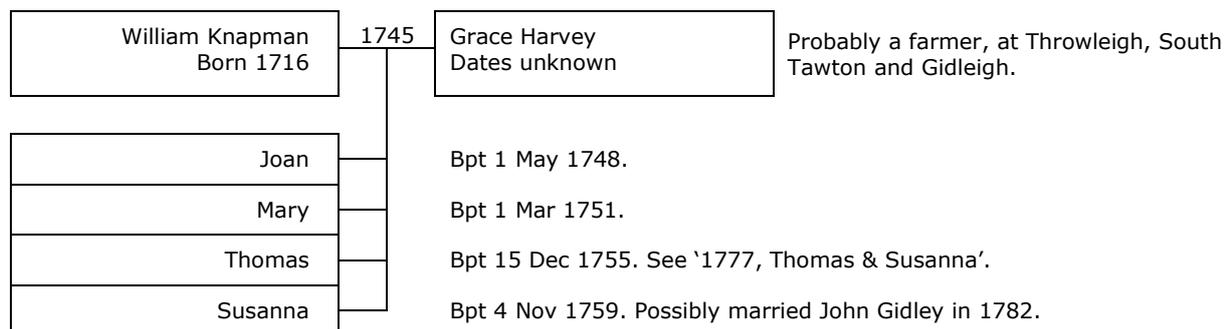


Judith was buried at West Ogwell on 29 December 1776, followed by Thomas (described as 'poor') on 6 June 1793.

Their son John may well be the person of that name buried at Denbury on 1 January 1827 with his age given as 54 (instead of 64, which would be expected if it was him).

### 1745, William & Grace

William Knapman married Grace Harvey at Throwleigh on 11 March 1745. He was very probably from Family '1715, William & Susanna'. Their children were baptised at Throwleigh (Joan), South Tawton (Mary and Thomas) and Gidleigh (Susanna).



### 1745, Bartholomew & Mary

Bartholomew Knapman married Mary Evans at Bridford on 8 October 1745. All of their children were baptised there.

Bartholomew Knapman Dates unknown	1745	Mary Evans c.1721-1803	Occupation unknown, at Bridford.
Mary			Bpt 20 Feb 1746.
Eleanor			Bpt 6 Nov 1748. See text.
John			Bpt 31 Mar 1751.
William			Bpt 11 Nov 1753. See text.
Ann			Bpt 21 Sept 1755. Probably married Jonathan Burd in 1777. See text.
Elizabeth			Bpt 21 Aug 1757. Probably married Henry Grant in 1779.
Joanna			Bpt 24 Feb 1760, but bd 3 Mar that year.
Sarah			Bpt 8 Mar 1761.
George			Bpt 2 Oct 1764. See '1792, George & Elizabeth'.
Susanna			Bpt 14 May 1769.

Mary (the mother) was buried at Bridford with her age given as 82 on 14 Apr 1803.

William was very probably the person of that name who was the one of the subjects of an article in the Newcastle Courant of 19 July 1783<sup>53</sup>, which reported a notice from the Police-Public office at Bow Street (the notice itself having been issued on 4 July 1783). This reported two desertions from the Marine Corps in Plymouth on Saturday 14 June that year, for each of whose return a £50 reward was offered. The newspaper article stated that "... *they were seen at Upton, in the county of Worcester, on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, in company with William Knapman, a Serjeant belonging to the same corps, who deserted at the same time. Knapman is about 30 years old, five feet ten inches high, has dark brown hair, brown eyes, a fresh complexion, was bred a labourer, and born at Bradford, in Devon*". The article definitely says 'Bradford' rather than 'Bridford', but there is no evidence of Knapmans in the Bradford parish registers at that time, and this was almost certainly a simple mistake. The original article is also unclear as to his age, which could be either 30 or 36. There is no mention of there being a reward for William's return.

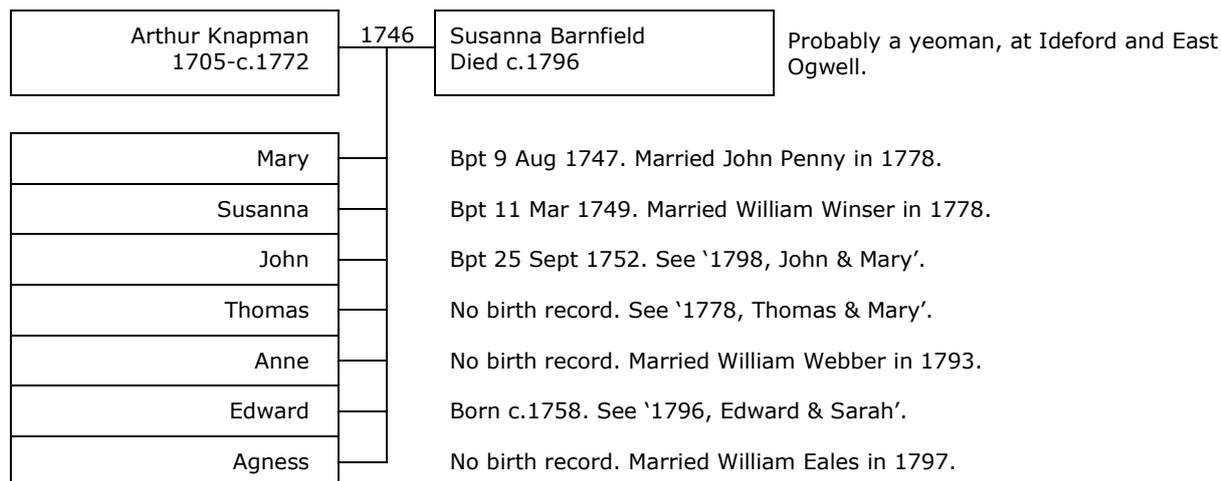
Eleanor may have married Zacharias Crispin (banns were read at Ashton on 11 January 1778 with Elizabeth described as 'of Stoke'), or William Diggins at Christow on 16 May 1820.

When Ann was baptised, her surname was shown as 'Knapman or Sway'. She may well have married Jonathan Burd at Hennock in Feb 1777, and her sister Elizabeth may well have married Henry Grant there (also at Hennock) on 18 April 1779.

### 1746, Arthur & Susanna

Arthur Knapman married Susanna Barnfield at Exeter St Edmund on 21 November 1746. He was almost certainly from Family 'c.1691, Arthur & Mary'. After spending some time at Ideford, where their first three children were baptised, Arthur and Susanna settled at East Oggwell, between Dartmoor and Torbay. I have found no evidence to show in what order their later children were born, so I have listed them below in the same sequence as their dates of marriage, even though they are discussed below in a slightly different order.

<sup>53</sup> Accessible via the britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk website.

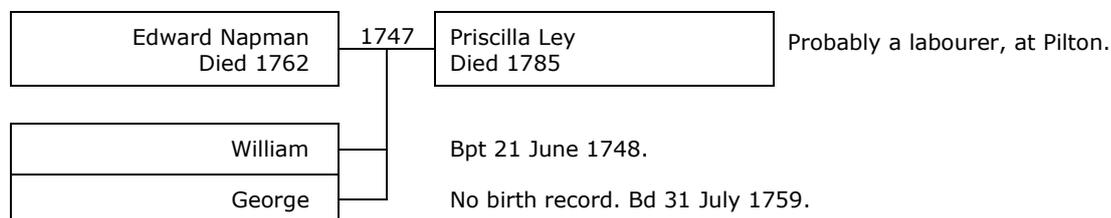


Both Arthur and Susanna left wills (which are no longer extant) which they wrote at East Ogwell, dated 1772 and 1796 respectively.

Their daughter Mary married John Penny on 13 January 1778, and died in 1830. Both of their wills can be found on the East Ogwell page of the genuki website. Her sister Susanna married William Winser on 11 October 1778; Anne married William Webber on 18 January 1793; and Agness married William Eales on 1 September 1797.

### 1747, Edward & Priscilla

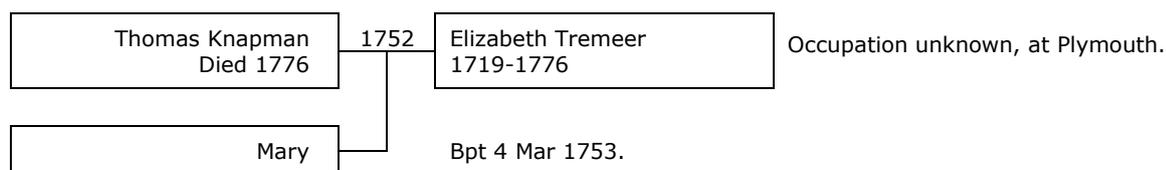
Edward Napman married Priscilla Ley at Pilton (which now forms the northern part of Barnstaple) on 20 August 1747. I do not know where he came from, and they may have had more children than the two shown below. All the details shown below refer to Pilton.



Edward was buried on 16 April 1762. When Priscilla was buried over 20 years later, on 12 March 1785, she was described as a pauper.

### 1752, Thomas & Elizabeth

Thomas Knapman married Elizabeth Tremeer at Milton Abbot (a large parish to the north of Plymouth) on 11 June 1752. I do not know where he came from, but she was probably the daughter of Henry Tremeer, a tailor from Milton Abbot, and his wife Grace. If this is right, then she was in her mid-30s when their daughter Mary was baptised at Milton Abbot. They may well have had other children born elsewhere who are not shown below.



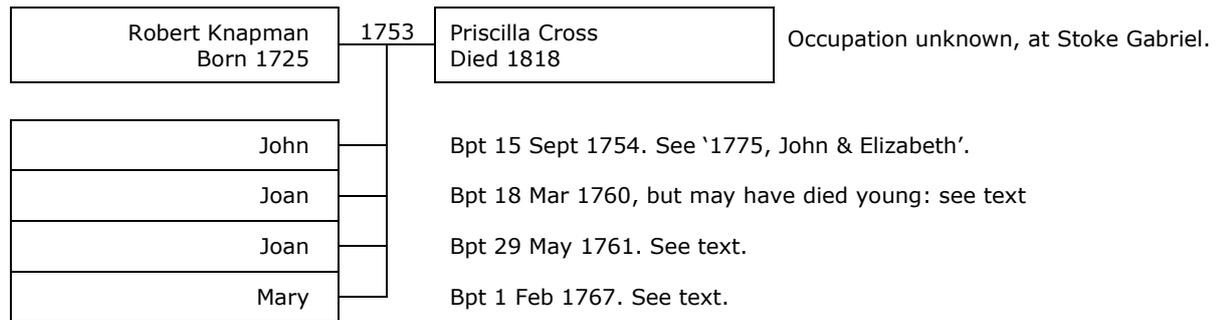
Thomas and Elizabeth were both buried at Milton Abbot within a month of each other: Elizabeth on 17 March 1776 described as 'of Plymouth', and Thomas on 7 April the same year.

## 1753, Arthur & Joan

Arthur Knapman married Joan Endicott at South Tawton on 3 March 1753. He was from Family '1715, Arthur & Elizabeth', but she apparently died the following year. His second marriage is covered under '1767, Arthur & Mary'.

## 1753, Robert & Priscilla

Robert Knapman married Priscilla Cross at Stoke Gabriel on 2 October 1753. He was from Family '1720, William & Mary'. Their family is shown below, with all of the children being baptised at Stoke Gabriel.



There is some doubt concerning their apparent two daughters called Joan. They may have been the same person who was sickly at birth, baptised privately at home (as was common practice with children who were not expected to survive), and then again in church just over a year later. When Joan was baptised in church, Robert was not identified as her father. She may have married either Marks Vinnicombe at Stoke Gabriel on 1 April 1777, or John Davis on 27 March 1781.

Mary was apprenticed to Richard Rondalls in 1773, and was probably buried unmarried on 24 March 1824 with her age given as 57.

## Chapter 5: Marriages from 1754 to 1774

### Introduction

#### *Sources:*

The significance of 1754 as the starting point of this chapter is that a new and uniform style was decreed for the recording of marriages from that point, and the Devon Family History Society (DFHS) has assembled and published full marriage lists for all parishes in the county starting in 1754. Although in theory every Devon marriage involving a bridegroom called Knapman (or Napman) should be included from this point on, I have found (and included here and in subsequent chapters) a few Knapman marriages that I have found which do not appear on the DFHS lists. Issues of legibility and careful storage were not magically resolved by decree!

Since marriages have always tended to take place in the bride's 'home' parish, these lists are extremely helpful in pinpointing those parishes where Knapman families were living.

FODA's Freeholder lists are also helpful in confirming who was farming where in a time before censuses.

#### *Context:*

The 1760s marked the start of the canal age: a short-lived period, but one that marked the start of the bulk movement of goods around the country, including agricultural commodities. This, combined with the technical advances associated with the agricultural revolution, helped to foster a more commercial farming sector.

Agriculture was also encouraged to become more efficient by the competition for labour provided by the new manufacturing industries. The year 1764 saw the invention of the 'spinning jenny', and the early steps of the development of water power in industry. One of the effects of this harnessing of water power was to bring down the cost of farming tools, and to increase their quality.

A general improvement in health and nutrition was reflected in the growing numbers of children born to families from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Weather:*

There were no particularly notable weather events in the 20 years covered by this chapter.

#### *Maps:*

The earliest detailed survey of Devon was carried out by Benjamin Donn, and published in 1765 (i.e. in the middle of the period covered by this chapter). I have included here five sections taken from his map. The first four are all at (or very close to) the same scale as each other, and show the large majority of the towns and villages where the families covered in this chapter (and in Chapters 4 and 6) lived. The fifth map is a plan of Stoke Damerel, which at that time was both quite compact, and separated from Plymouth by open countryside.

The original map (accessible on-line via Wikipedia's entry on Benjamin Donn) is broken into 12 'tiles', which affects the boundaries of the sections that I have chosen to show. Looked at as a whole, it is also an important resource for anyone seeking to understand which bridges had been built at that time, which in turn affected where the main roads ran, and therefore which parishes were (and were not) linked together by more than footpaths.

It is also interesting to see which villages were relatively substantial at that time, and which ones were much smaller.

I would not read too much into the fact that several farms are named on the map. The existence of a name proves that the farm was of non-trivial importance at that time, but the absence of a name should not be taken to mean the opposite. The first Ordnance Survey map of Devon (published in 1809) is more comprehensive in this regard.

## Map 1: South Tawton, Chagford and the northern edge of Dartmoor



Source: Benjamin Donn's 1765 Map of Devon

Map 1 includes the parishes of Throwleigh, Gidleigh, South Tawton (including South Zeal and Whiddon Down), Drewsteignton and Chagford, all of which were important to the descendants of William Knapman of Throwleigh. Then, as now, the main road from Exeter to Cornwall ran through Whiddon Down, as did one of the principal north-south routes (through North Tawton, Chagford and Moretonhampstead).

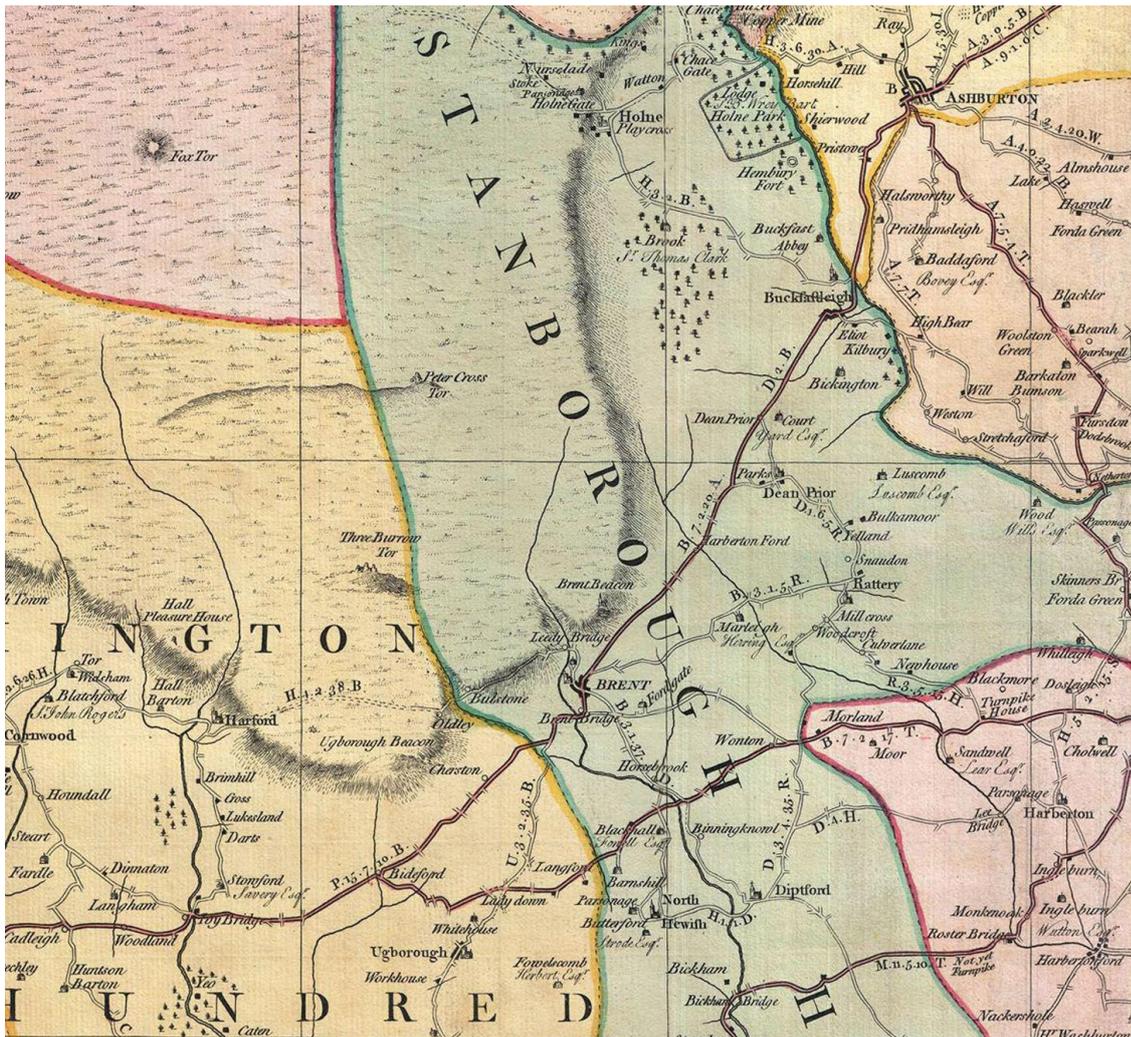
Map 2 includes Tedburn St Mary, Dunsford, Bridford and Christow (on the eastern edges of Dartmoor), as well as Newton St Cyres (between Crediton and Exeter) and Ide, Alphington and Kenn (to the south west of Exeter). Bovey Tracey, Teigngrace and Bishopsteignton can be seen towards the south, and the Teign estuary is only just off Map 2 (and can be seen on Map 4).

**Map 2: Exeter, Crediton and the eastern edge of Dartmoor**



Source: Benjamin Donn's 1765 Map of Devon

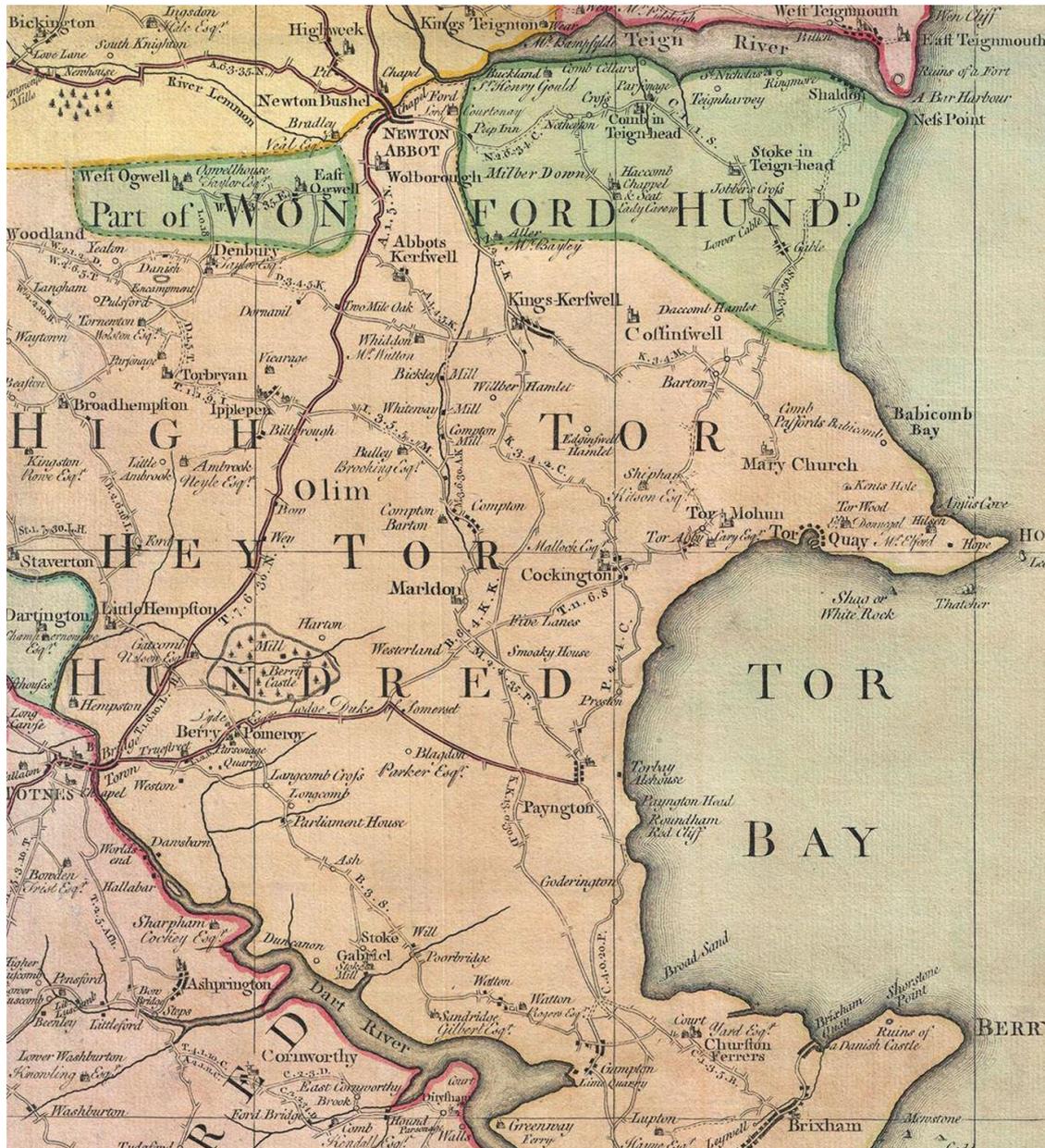
**Map 3: Ashburton, Brent and the southern edge of Dartmoor**



Source: Benjamin Donn's 1765 Map of Devon

Map 3 includes Holne and Rattery (both important to some of the earliest Knapman families) as well as Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Brent. Dartington and Totnes (which can be seen on Map 4) are just off Map 3, with Totnes being due east of Brent.

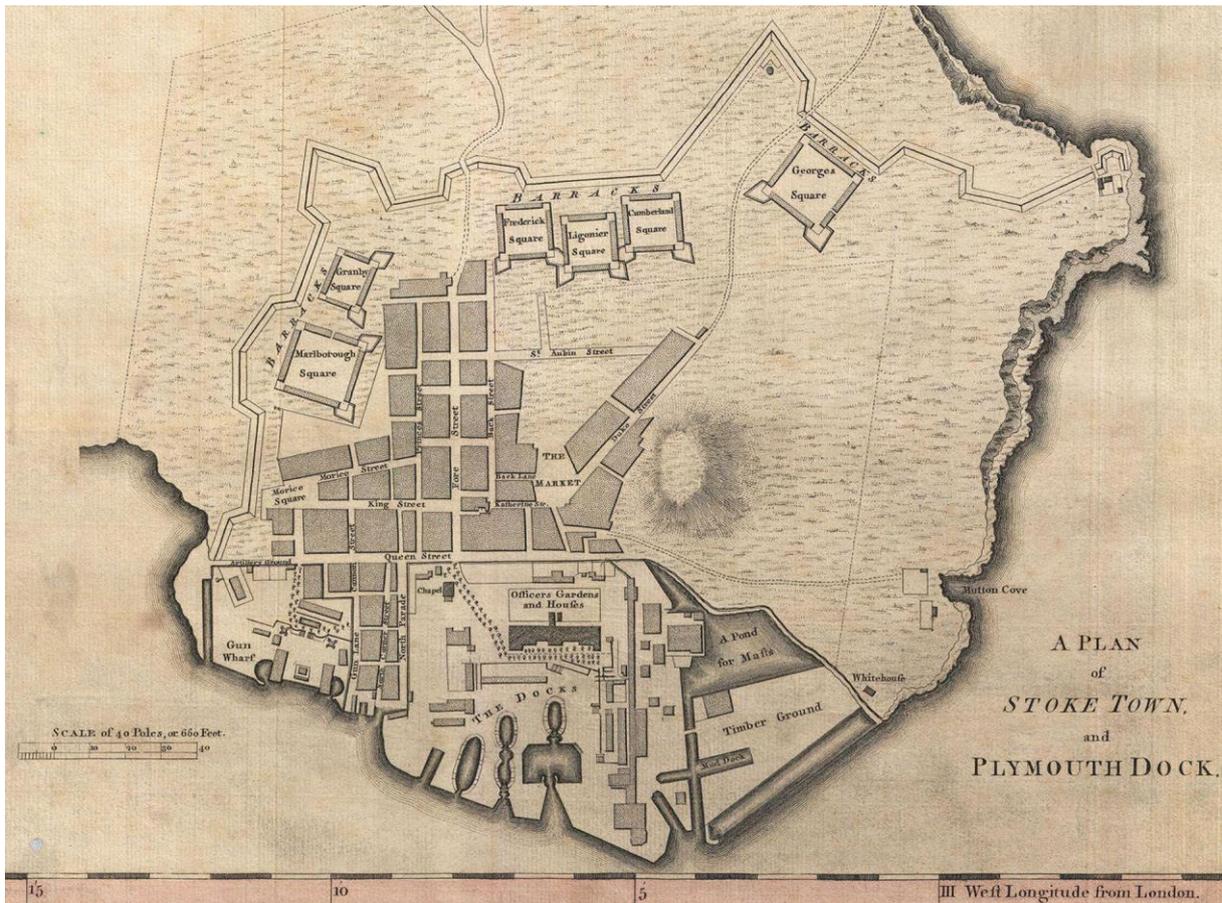
**Map 4: The Teign, Torbay, Totnes and the Dart**



Source: Benjamin Donn's 1765 Map of Devon

Later Knapman families spread all over the area covered by this map, from Stoke Gabriel (on the northern bank of the Dart estuary), Dartington and the Teign valley. It is notable that in the absence of a bridge over the mouth of the Teign, the area now occupied by Torquay was much less accessible.

## Map 5: Stoke Damerel (Devonport)

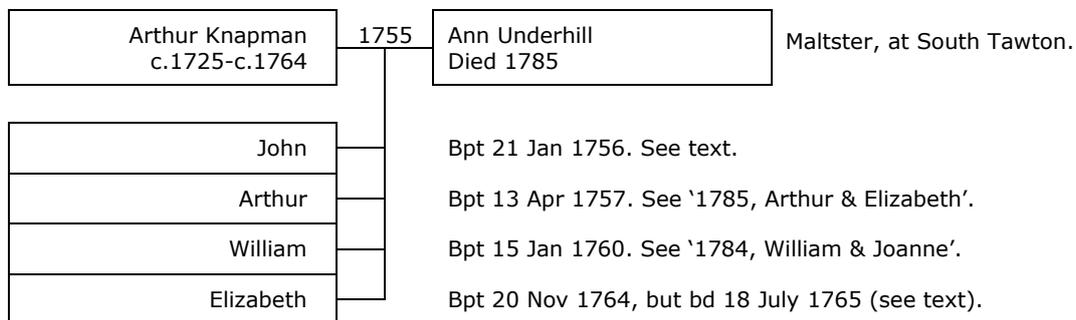


Source: Benjamin Donn's 1765 Map of Devon

As can be seen, in 1765 Stoke (Damerel) was really quite small. Anyone reading this document on screen should be able to zoom in and read all of the individual street names quite clearly.

### 1755, Arthur & Ann

Arthur Knapman married Ann Underhill at South Tawton on 7 January 1755, which is where their four children were all baptised. He was from Family '1718, John & Thomasin', and a maltster.



Arthur (the father) apparently died in 1764<sup>54</sup>, and left a will (one of so many 'lost' Devon wills) which was proved in 1765.

<sup>54</sup> His burial does not appear in the South Tawton burials register, but there was an affidavit in 1764 confirming that he was 'buried in woollen'.

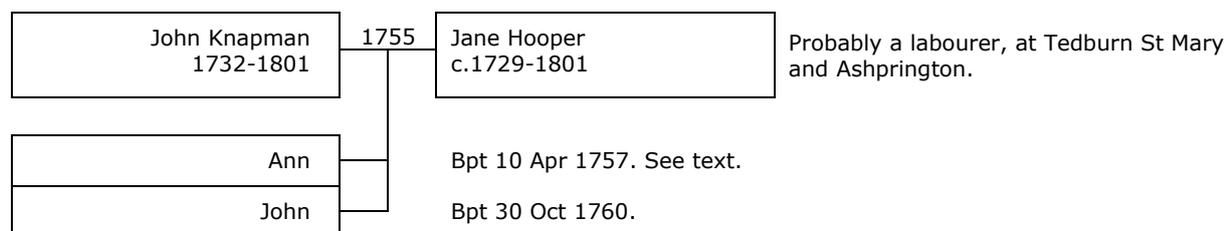
Their eldest son, John, who was aged 8 or 9 at the time of his father's death, appears to have joined the navy. His will, written in 1778 when he was serving as a seaman on HMS Terrible, just after the first battle of Ushant (in the English channel), is in the National Archives. In it he left everything to his mother, Ann Knapman of South Tawton. His will was proved by Ann on 17 June 1784, but I do not know when or where he had died. After the battle at Ushant, HMS Terrible, a 74-gun warship, fought in the battle of Cape St Vincent (off the coast of Portugal) in 1780, suffering six casualties. She was then sent to the West Indies before sailing north to fight in the battle of Chesapeake in 1781. During that battle HMS Terrible suffered four casualties, but was so badly damaged that she was scuttled by burning after the battle. If John was still serving on HMS Terrible at the time of his death, he may just as well have died of disease as been killed in action.

A child described as 'a child of Ann Knapman' was buried at South Tawton on 18 July 1765. This was probably their youngest daughter Elizabeth, but could conceivably have been another child born after Arthur's death.

Ann is almost certainly the person who was buried at South Tawton on 1 November 1785, and who left a will<sup>55</sup> which was proved in 1787. It is my working assumption that Ann split the family business between her surviving sons, Arthur and William.

### 1755, John & Jane

John Knapman married Jane Hooper (or Hopper) at Tedburn St Mary on 11 August 1755. He was from Family '1731, Edward & Elizabeth'. Their children were both baptised at Tedburn St Mary.



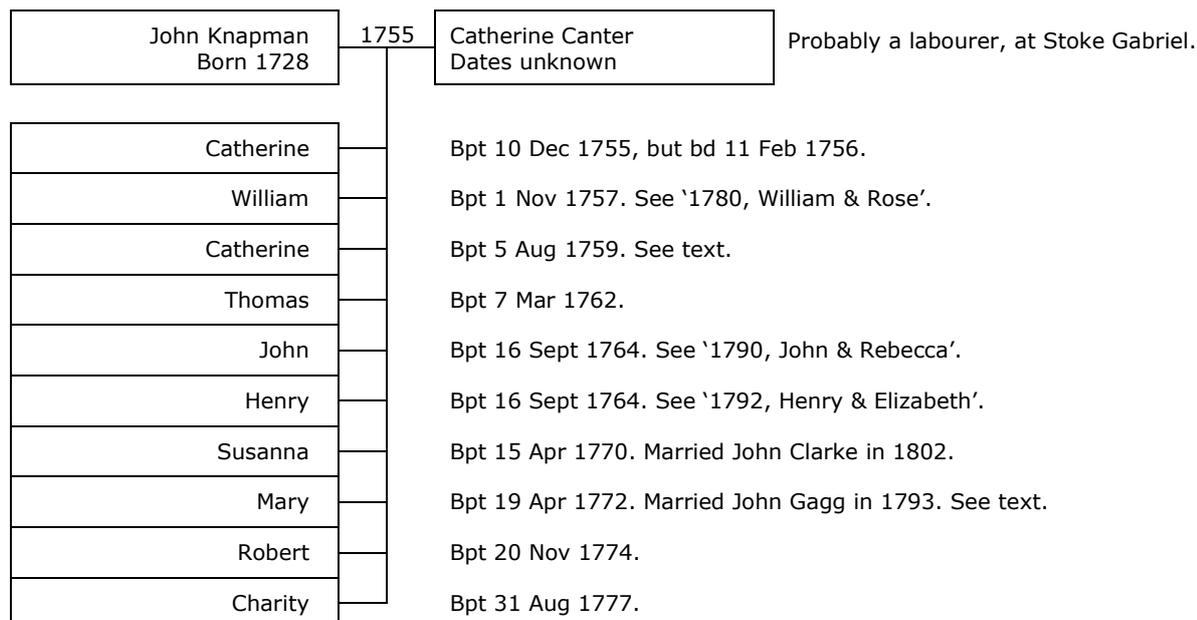
John and Jane both apparently died at Ashprington, Jane being buried there on 28 June 1801 with her age given as 72, and John on 9 July 1801 with his age shown as 70 (when perhaps 69 would have been more accurate).

Assuming that it was indeed her parents who had moved to Ashprington, it seems likely that Ann (recorded as Anne) married John Jerman there on 28 January 1781.

### 1755, John & Catherine

John Knapman married Catherine Canter at Stoke Gabriel on 5 September 1755. He was from Family '1720, William & Mary', and their family is shown below, with all of them being baptised at Stoke Gabriel.

<sup>55</sup> Ann's will is recorded in 'Calendars of Wills and Administrations' from Exeter (1559 to 1779 and 1540 to 1799) edited by Edward Alexander Fry and published in 1908, accessible on the internet. The will itself was almost certainly burned as a consequence of World War II bombing.



Catherine (the daughter) was apprenticed to Jacob Hannaford in 1772, suggesting that the family was not well off at that time.

Susanna married John Clarke at Berry Pomeroy on 7 November 1802.

Mary was the originator of a very interesting and tangled family, of potential interest to some Knapman researchers in both England and Australia, as set out in the three paragraphs that follow.

Mary married John Gagg at Stoke Gabriel on 19 March 1793. He was the son of John Gagg and Susanna née Snelling. The fact that they were not well off can be seen from the fact that in 1799, after John (the father) had died, Susanna was removed to Littleham when she was in need of parish relief. It is probable that John (the son) had also died by then, because he and Mary (née Knapman) only had two children (Henry, born 20 April 1794 and John, born 21 June 1796), suggesting that one of them died young. We also know that Mary was still living at the time of the 1841 census. Their elder son Henry married Joan Martin at Stoke Gabriel on 20 November 1821, and they had several children including Henry (born 21 December 1823, and apprenticed to Matthew Churchyard, a local yeoman farmer, in 1834), and Thomas (born c.1834).

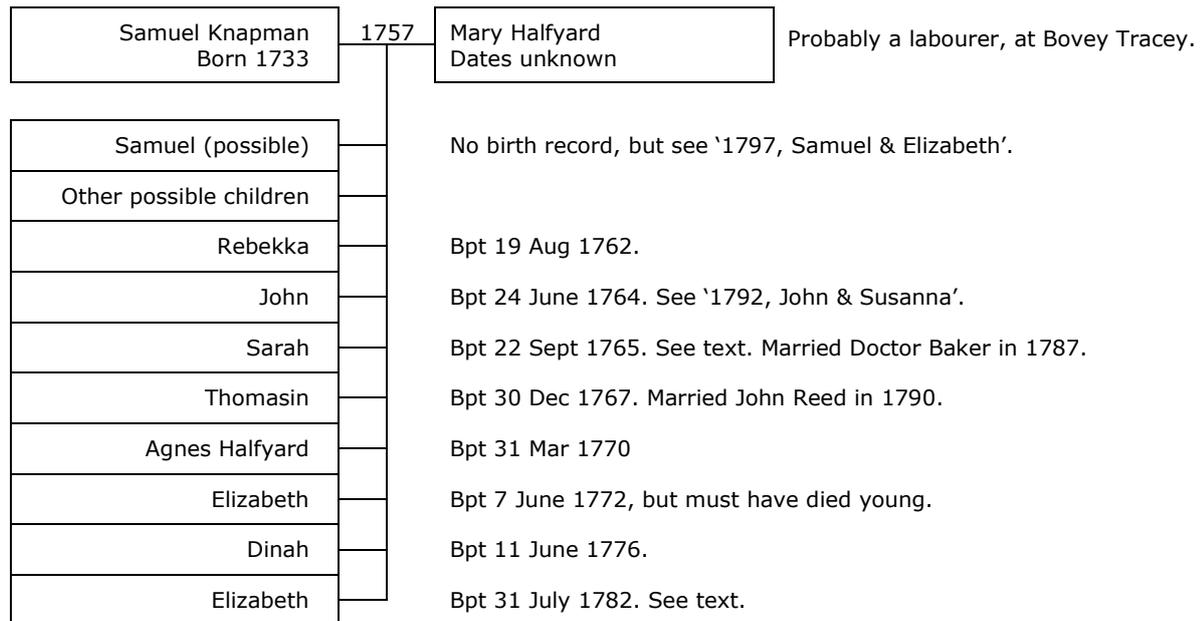
Henry Gagg married Elizabeth Egbert (possibly Edbert) at Stoke Gabriel on 20 February 1848, but at some point soon after this he seems to have changed his name to Henry Knapman, because after Elizabeth died (possibly in Stoke Damerel district in 1852) he, named as Henry Knapman, a widowed sawyer of 9 Nonley Street, Plymouth, was re-married to Jane Doidge at Plymouth St Charles on 20 March 1859. She was originally from Calstock, a short distance north of Plymouth. Although it is not absolutely certain that Henry Gagg and Henry Knapman were the same person, there is no later evidence for Henry Gagg, and no earlier evidence for Henry Knapman. Then in early 1860 Henry and Jane's only son was registered as Henry Martin Gagg Knapman, combining four names which appear to tie the two families firmly together. Both of his parents died when he was young, Henry of pneumonia on 20 April 1869, and Jane 3 years later. I have been unable to find the young Henry on the 1871 census, but on 4 December 1879 he left Plymouth on the Sir William Wallace, which took him to Australia, where he settled, married Anna Louisa Mitchell and had a large family at Mackay, Queensland. I am greatly obliged to his granddaughter Narell Schmidtke for sharing her research with me enabling us to put together a credible set of roots for his family.

Henry's younger brother Thomas (born c.1834), named as Thomas Knapman, married Catherine (Kitty) Hern in East Stonehouse district in 2Q1857. She was from Waterford in Ireland. Thomas worked as an agricultural labourer, and was living at St Budeaux in 1861 and had moved to Tamerton Folliott by 1871 (and was still there in 1881). Their family included Thomas (born c.1858), James (c.1860), John (c.1862), Mary Jane (c.1864), Louisa (c.1865), Henry (c.1870) and Edith (c.1879).

## 1757, Samuel & Mary

Samuel Knapman married Mary Halfyard at Bovey Tracey on 20 June 1757. He was from Family 'c.1724, John & Rebecca', and from Rebekka onwards, their children were all baptised at Bovey Tracey.

I understand from Bob Halfyard of Ontario (who has researched the Halfyard family, and published an account under the title 'Halfyard Heritage'), that Mary was the daughter of Richard Halfyard III, and sister of Richard Halfyard IV. When Richard III wrote his will on 29 January 1797 he left 30, 20 and 15 pounds to three of his other daughters, but just one shilling each to Mary and one of her brothers. Although the disparity in these sums might simply be a reflection of their relative need, the choice of such a small sum as a shilling hints at something else (see below).



Sarah was apprenticed to Richard Halfyard (a thatcher, and either Richard III or Richard IV, based on the nomenclature above) in 1774. The will of Richard III included the gift of a bible to each of his grandchildren "... *except my grandson Richard Halfyard and my granddaughter Sarah Knapman*". This hints at a falling out.

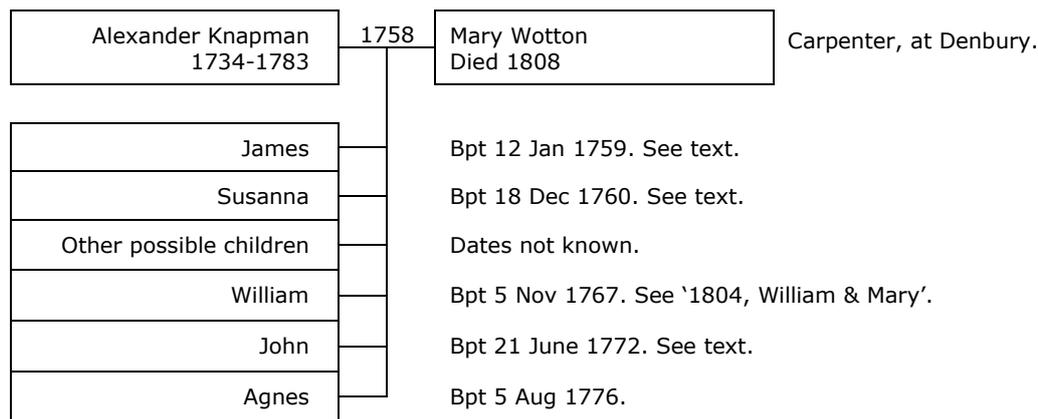
Sarah subsequently married Doctor Baker at Bishopsteignton on 5 December 1787 (Doctor being his name rather than his profession, I believe). I understand that Sarah's family by Doctor Baker survives to this day.

Thomasin married John Reed at Stokeinteignhead on 5 November 1790. There were then three marriages in Bovey Tracey involving brides called Elizabeth Knapman between 1793 and 1809, the third of which (to Annias Wiett on 31 July 1809) may well have been to this Elizabeth.

## 1758, Alexander & Mary

Alexander Knapman married Mary Wotton at Denbury on 12 November 1758. He was from Family '1724, James & Agnes'. Based on the evidence of the DFHS transcription of the Denbury marriage register, combined with information from the Denbury parish register and website<sup>56</sup>, they had at least five children, as follows, though there could have been others baptised in parishes other than Denbury in the early 1760s. The genuki website shows that Alexander was a carpenter, and that he was convicted of stealing some timber in 1783, for which he was imprisoned for two days and whipped.

<sup>56</sup> To find it, put 'Denbury memorial inscription' into any internet search engine.



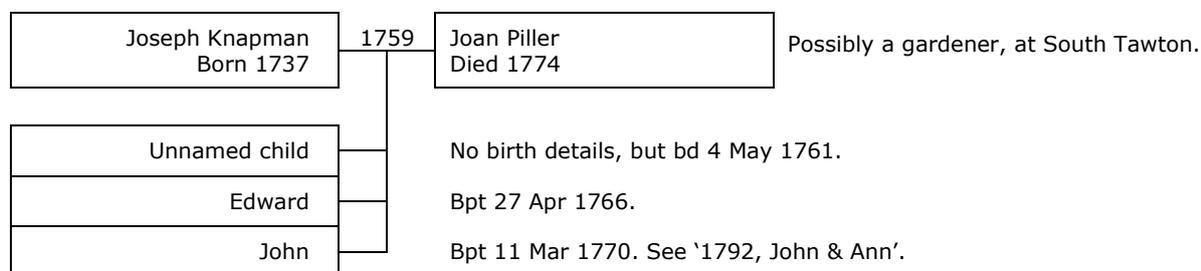
Alexander was buried at Denbury on 25 June 1783, leaving Mary with relatively young children to look after. She was buried on 12 November 1808.

I have found no further trace of their eldest son, James, after his baptism (though he probably survived childhood, because he does not seem to have been buried at Denbury). Although Susanna married John Chudleigh at Denbury on 21 January 1789, 4 years earlier she had had an illegitimate son called James (baptised 27 November 1785, with Susanna described in the baptismal register as 'poor'). See '1832, James & Betsey' for such details as I have been able to find about him and his two marriages.

John appears to have remained single, and was buried at Denbury on 1 January 1827.

### 1759, Joseph & Joan

Joseph Knapman married Joan Piller at South Tawton on 9 December 1759. He was probably from Family '1736, Edward & Jane'. It seems likely that they had at least one (unnamed) child, who was buried at South Tawton on 4 May 1761, presumably as an infant of a day or two old. Both Edward and John were baptised at South Tawton.

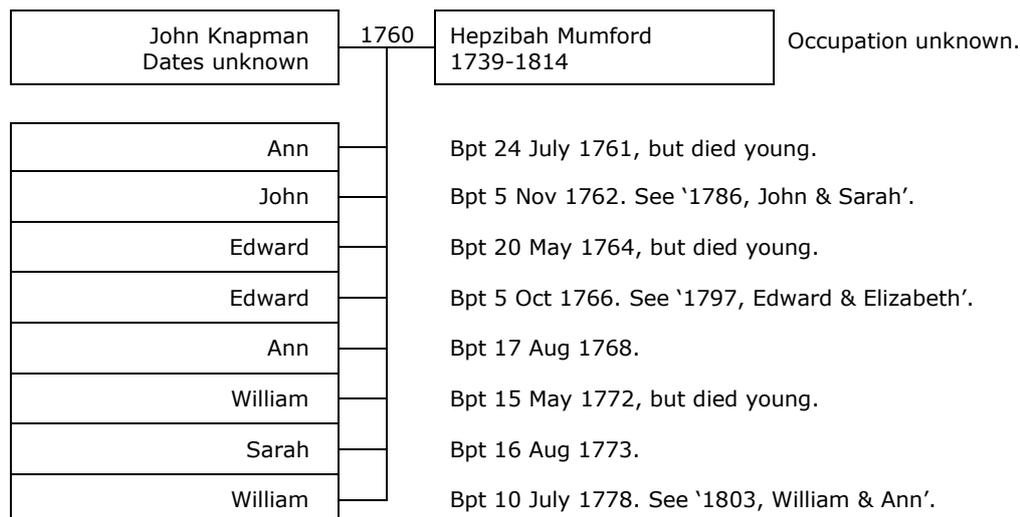


Joan was probably the person of that name who was buried at South Tawton on 12 May 1774.

Two Joseph Knapmans were buried at South Tawton, one on 22 September 1786 and the second on 20 May 1788, described as a gardener. Either of these two could have been the father from this family, and other was probably from Family '1743, Joseph & Mary'.

### 1760, John & Hepzibah

John Knapman married Hepzibah Mumford at Stoke Damerel on 7 July 1760. I do not know where John came from, though I rather suspect that he had links back to Throwleigh and/or South Tawton. John and Hepzibah had eight children, including three sons who survived childhood, as shown below.

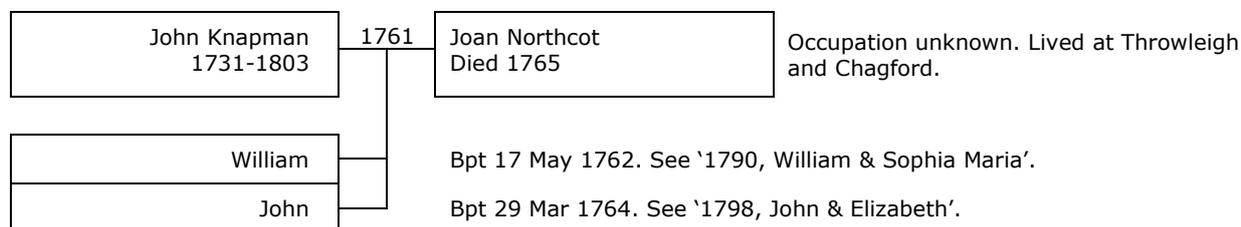


Hepzibah was buried at Stoke Damerel on 4 March 1814 with her age given as 75. There is also a baptismal record accessible via the IGI which shows that she was baptised in 1739, but does not name either her parents or the parish concerned.

John and Hepzibah's eldest son (John) was a clerk in the naval dockyards at Devonport in 1791, as was his brother Edward. William served in the navy itself as a purser and paymaster.

### 1761, John & Joan

John Knapman married Joan Northcot (or Northcote) at Chagford on 23 June 1761, with the family living at Throwleigh<sup>57</sup>. I believe that John was probably from Family '1719, William & Anne', and that their family was as shown below.



After Joan's early death (she was buried at Throwleigh on 30 July 1765) John was apparently re-married: see Family '1769, John & Joan' for details of his second marriage.

Although the sons from this marriage may not be the originators of the two families indicated above, they could well be, and for the time being at least I am assuming that they were.

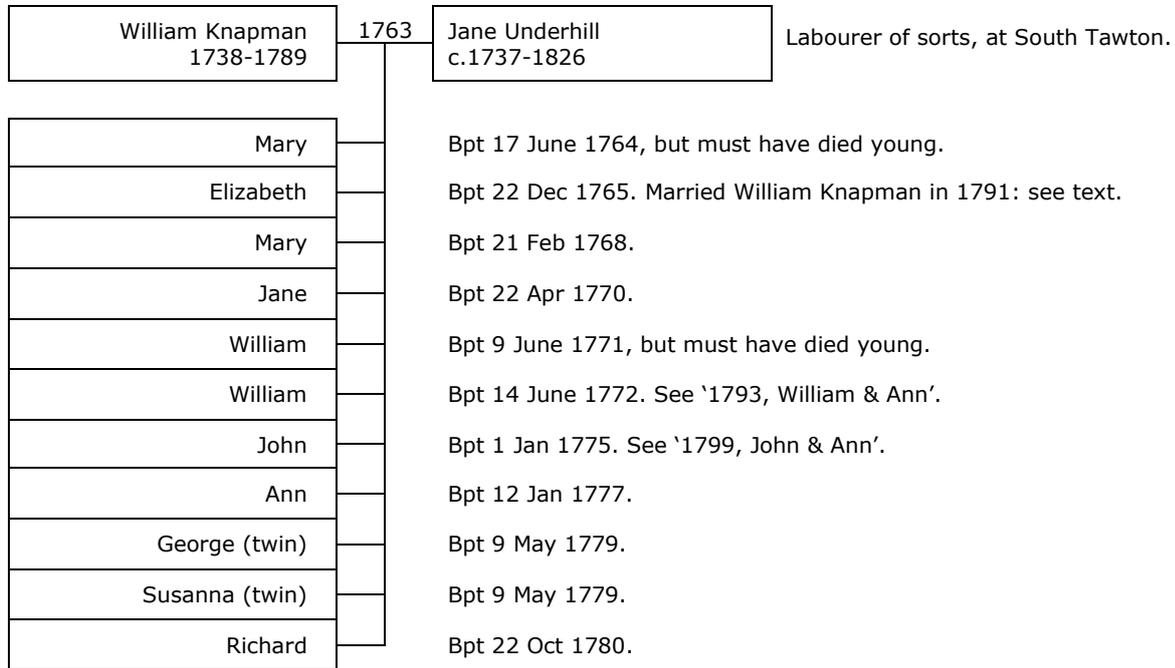
### 1763, Thomas & Joan

Thomas Knapman married Joan Harres (or Harris) at Stoke Gabriel on 15 February 1763. I have not worked out where he came from, and although they appear to have had a daughter who for some unexplained reason was baptised as Mary Knapman Harris later that same year, it does not appear that they had any children via whom the Knapman surname could have been carried forward.

<sup>57</sup> The DFHS has two records of marriages between John and Joan; one at Throwleigh involving Joan Northcote at Throwleigh on 12 April 1761, and the second at Chagford involving Joan Northcot on 23 June the same year. I believe that the first probably refers to the reading of banns, with the second being the actual marriage. Their first child (William) was then baptised in the church where they had been married, which was commonplace.

## 1763, William & Jane

William Knapman married Jane Underhill at South Tawton on 10 July 1763. I believe that he may well have been from Family '1736, William & Mary'. All of their children as shown below were baptised at South Tawton.



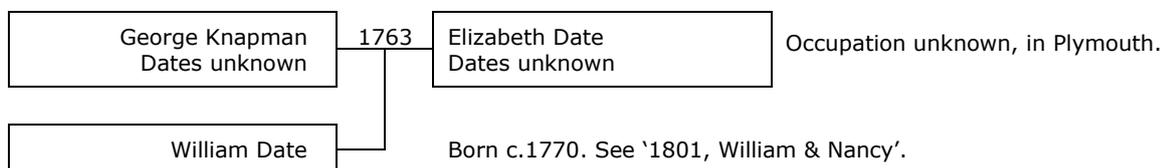
Given that John (his son) was apprenticed to Robert Powlesland when he was 11, it is unlikely that William was particularly well off, and it is probable that he was the pauper of that name buried at South Tawton on 29 August 1789, while his youngest children were still quite young.

Jane was almost certainly the person of that name buried at South Tawton on 20 May 1826, with her age given as 89.

Their daughter Elizabeth married William Knapman from Family '1724, James & Agnes'.

## 1763, George & Elizabeth

George Knapman married Elizabeth Date at Plymouth (Charles) on 18 November 1763. I do not know where George came from, but I am confident that the child shown below was his. There may well have been other children that I have not (yet) found.



## 1764, Edward & Mary

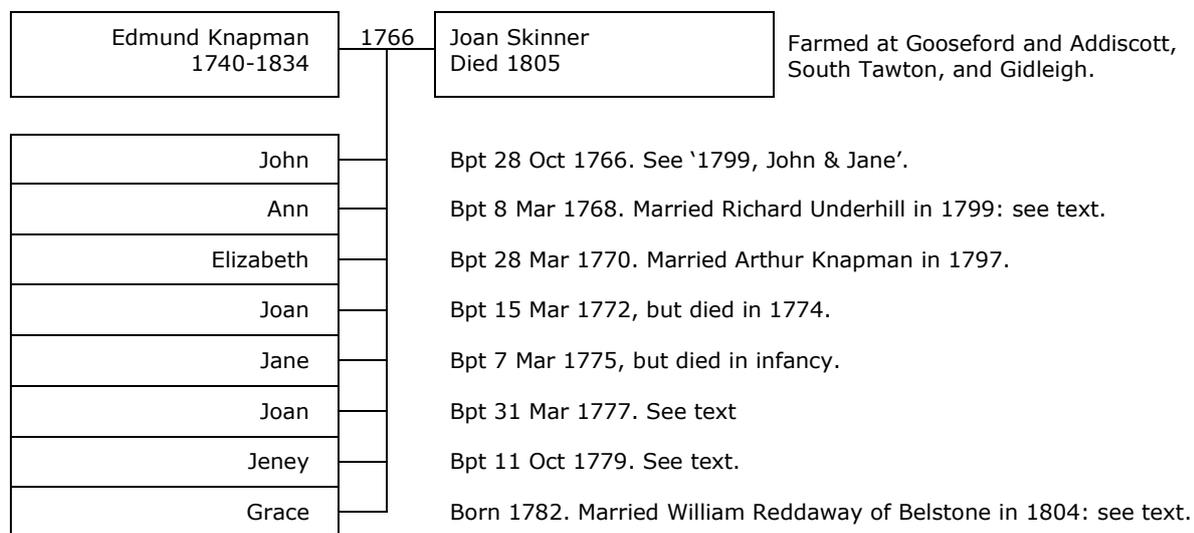
Edward Knapman married Mary Back at Crediton on 6 March 1764. He was from Family '1734, Edward & Gertude'. I have seen no evidence to suggest that they had any children, certainly in Crediton.

## 1764, William & Deborah

William Knapman married Deborah Pinsent at Bovey Tracey on 20 August 1764. He was from Family 'c.1724, John & Rebecca'. I have seen no evidence to suggest that they had children, certainly at Bovey Tracey.

## 1766, Edmund & Joan

Edmund Knapman married Joan Skinner at Throwleigh on 15 May 1766. He was from Family '1722, Edmund & Elizabeth'. Details of their marriage settlement, which confirms that Edmund had no surviving brothers, can be found in the 1905 Proceedings of the 'Transactions of the Devonshire Association' in the DHC. His main link in terms of residence and farming was to Gooseford, a hamlet in the parish of South Tawton, which can be found between Whiddon Down and Throwleigh. Complications arise from the fact that more than one farm is referred to as Gooseford. Other nearby hamlets and farms include Addiscott, to which he was also linked. However, based on the evidence of a 1792 apprenticeship record<sup>58</sup>, Edmund appears to have been farming (though not necessarily living) at that time at Moortown, in the parish of Gidleigh.



Edmund and Joan's family was as shown above, all of their children being baptised at South Tawton. When John was baptised, his father's name was wrongly recorded as Edward, but he was certainly Edmund's son.

I believe that Ann married Richard Underhill at South Tawton on 19 November 1799, and had a son (James) who was subsequently involved in a lawsuit connected to Moortown farm, Gidleigh<sup>59</sup>.

<sup>58</sup> DHC Ref 3600A-3/PO4/14.

<sup>59</sup> See The Western Times of 19 March 1853 for details. What it provides is a report of a complex lawsuit regarding 'Moor Down Farm, Gidleigh' (which I take to be Moortown), and the question of whether it had been properly sold / conveyed in 1850 from a party called Underhill to another party called Knapman (who I believe to have been the recently deceased John Knapman, 1766-1852). We know from the Tithe Apportionment process (carried out in 1843 in Gidleigh) that Moortown belonged at that time to James Underwood, and we know that James Underwood had been living there with the considerably older Ann Underwood (probably his mother, née Knapman, and the sister of John) at the time of the 1841 census. The lawsuit turned in part on the question of whether Underwood was sane or not when the sale was made. He apparently owed money to the party called Knapman, and to his own solicitor, and it appears that he had sold Moortown to an unnamed Knapman, but only received £40 of the sale value of £600, the rest being used to settle his debts. The will which Knapman had then left suggested to at least one of the parties to the lawsuit that he had only purchased a single life interest in the farm. An Edward Knapman was called as a witness, and described by the paper as Underwood's cousin (which he would have been if I am right about the identities set out here, being the Edward born in 1801). He confirmed that Underhill had stayed with him for a time (and the census returns for 1851 onwards show James Underwood lodging with a sequence of families, including in 1861 the family of Edward's half-uncle Dennis). The parties were all agreed that Underhill had spent time in a lunatic asylum, and that he drank heavily at times, but not agreed on whether he was in a position to agree to the sale of his farm when he did. The report does not provide the outcome of the case, but only one day's worth of evidence. There was a

Elizabeth married their neighbour and distant cousin Arthur Knapman of Well Farm (see '1797, Arthur & Elizabeth'). One of the two sisters baptised as Joan and Jeney was evidently known as Joanna. She (Joanna) and Grace both married into the Reddaway family of Belstone. Both married different husbands called William Reddaway, at South Tawton, within a matter of months in 1804. Grace certainly had a substantial family at Belstone.

After the death of Joan (the mother) in 1805, Edmund was re-married to Philippa Sampson (see '1807, Edmund & Phillipa).

I am greatly indebted to my distant cousin Barbara Shapland, who is descended from this family, for her help in untangling this part of the family.

### 1767, James & Mary

James Knapman married Mary Harres (or Harris) at Stoke Gabriel on 4 August 1767. When he had been baptised (at Stoke Gabriel on 30 January 1744) his mother's name was given as Mary, but no father was identified. Although it is possible that he was the youngest son of Family '1720, William & Mary', I think it is much more likely that he was the illegitimate son of their daughter Mary. If he was indeed illegitimate, his descendants will not be able to rely on Y-DNA testing to establish links to other branches of the wider Knapman family. All of James and Mary's children were baptised at Stoke Gabriel.

James Knapman c.1744-1818	1767	Mary Harres Born c.1750	Probably an agricultural labourer, at Stoke Gabriel.
James			Bpt 22 Nov 1767. See '1795, James & Rachael'.
Ann			Bpt 10 Sept 1769. See text.
Robert			Bpt 11 Oct 1772.
Mary			Bpt 19 Dec 1773, but died in 1778.
Jeney			Bpt 19 Mar 1775. Married Sampson Collins in 1796.
Joseph			Bpt 2 June 1776. See '1802, Joseph & Molly'.
Elizabeth			Bpt 21 June 1778. Married John Brimmicombe in 1799.
William			Bpt 20 Feb 1780. See '1801, William & Jane'.
Susanna			Bpt 15 July 1781.
Mary			Bpt 14 Sept 1783. May have married John Soper in 1802.
Sarah			Bpt 24 Sept 1786. Married William Head in 1809.

When James was buried (at Stoke Gabriel, on 3 November 1818) he was apparently living at Dartmouth.

Ann was apprenticed to Joseph Hannaford in 1782.

Elizabeth married John Brimmicombe in 1799 and had a large family. Her daughter Sarah became the mother of Family '1837, James & Sarah'. Jeney, Mary and Sarah all appear to have married as shown above.

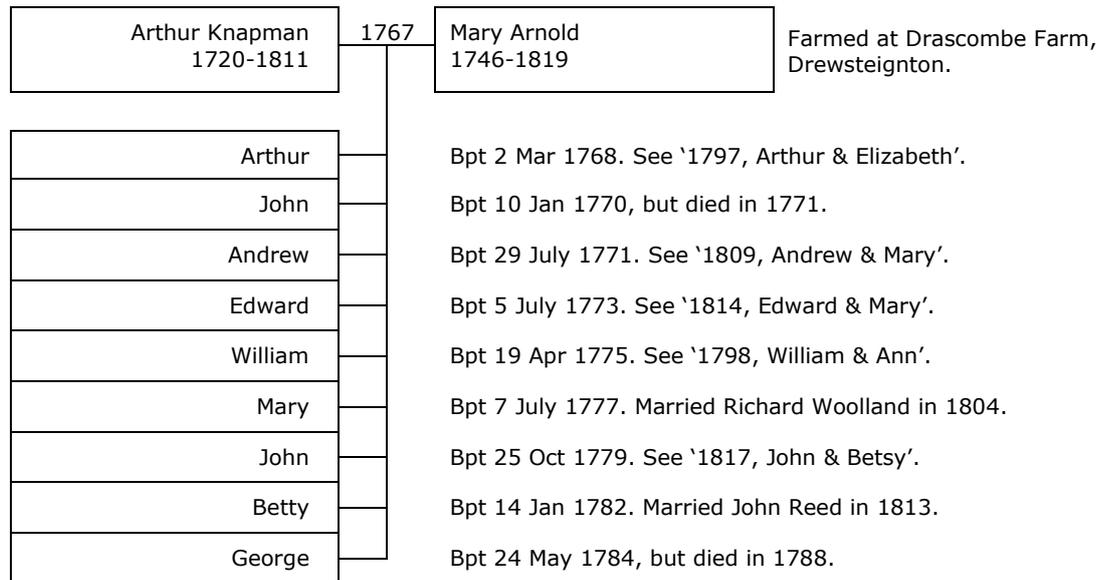
### 1767, Arthur & Mary

Arthur Knapman married the somewhat younger Mary Arnold at North Tawton on 19 October 1767. He was from Family '1715, Arthur & Elizabeth', and this was his second marriage (his first being

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further report on the case in the Western Times of 21 March 1857, showing that the farm had been rented out, and touching on the question of who should receive what benefit from this.

'1753, Arthur & Joan'. All of their children were baptised at Throwleigh, as detailed below. He is my direct ancestor, and more information is available on his descendants to those who would like it.



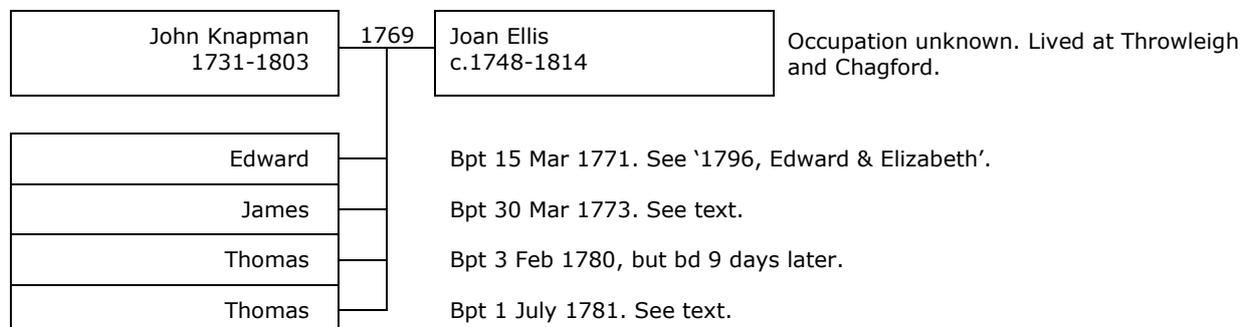
There are records that show that in 1798 Arthur Knapman took on apprentices for Drascombe Farm, Drewsteignton, a farm of about 200 acres, and a short way east of Whiddon Down. We know he had moved there after 1771, because another farmer had taken on an apprentice there in that year.

The Taunton Courier of 24 October 1811 noted the death of "... *Mr Arthur Knapman, a very respectable farmer from Drewsteignton, Devon.*" Assuming that the death had occurred only a few days earlier, he was 91 when he died. His will was proved on 20 December 1811, and appears to have been very simple.

Mary Knapman died on 22 December 1819 and the DFHS transcript shows that she was buried 3 days later, on Christmas Day, at Throwleigh, but shown as a resident of Drewsteignton.

### 1769, John & Joan

John Knapman married Joan Ellis in the Charles district of Plymouth on 10 July 1769. I believe this was John's second marriage (his first being '1761, Joan & Joan'), and although it is not obvious why he would have got re-married in Plymouth, it may have had something to do with his probable brother's presence there. He and Joan had four children, as shown below. Edward and James were baptised at Throwleigh; the two Thomases at Chagford.



If John was indeed the originator of both families, it has to be acknowledged that the two sets of sons appear to have fared quite differently in life. This could be explained by differences between the families of his two wives, though I have not yet investigated this line of argument.

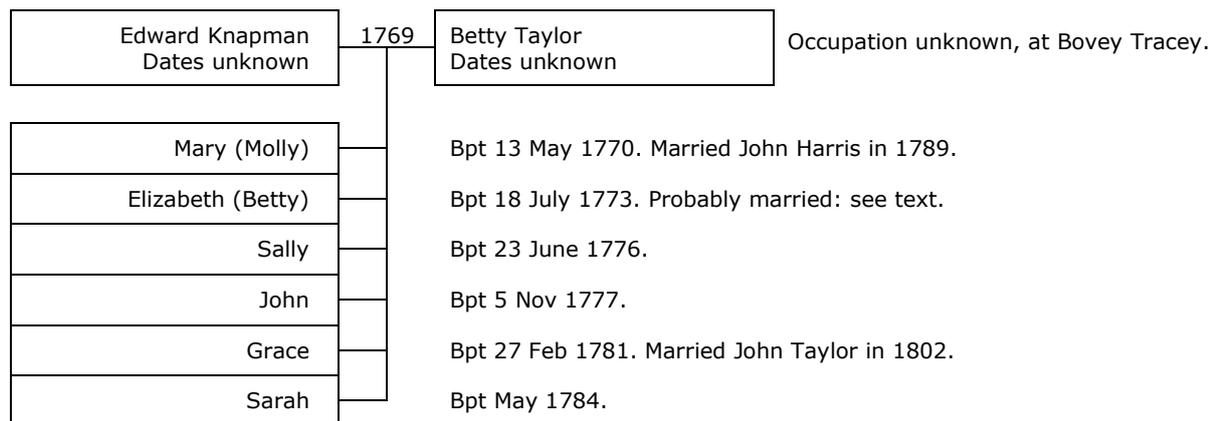
I believe that John (the father) was the person of that name who was buried at Chagford on 4 April 1803, though this may not be correct. Joan was very probably buried at Throwleigh on 19 June 1814 with her age given as 66, and described as 'of Chagford'.

James may be the person of that name buried at Chagford on 25 May 1812. Alternatively, he could be the originator of Family '1795, James & Sarah'.

The second Thomas may well have been buried at Chagford on 6 April 1799, though there is a chance that he was the originator of Family '1810, Thomas & Mary'.

### 1769, Edward & Betty

Edward Knapman married Betty (Elizabeth) Taylor at Bovey Tracey on 17 November 1769. He was probably from Family 'c.1724, John & Rebecca'. All of their children were baptised at Bovey Tracey.



The marriages of Mary (Molly) and Grace were to John Harris at Bovey Tracey on 3 Mar 1789, and to John Taylor at Bovey Tracey on 2 Aug 1802, respectively.

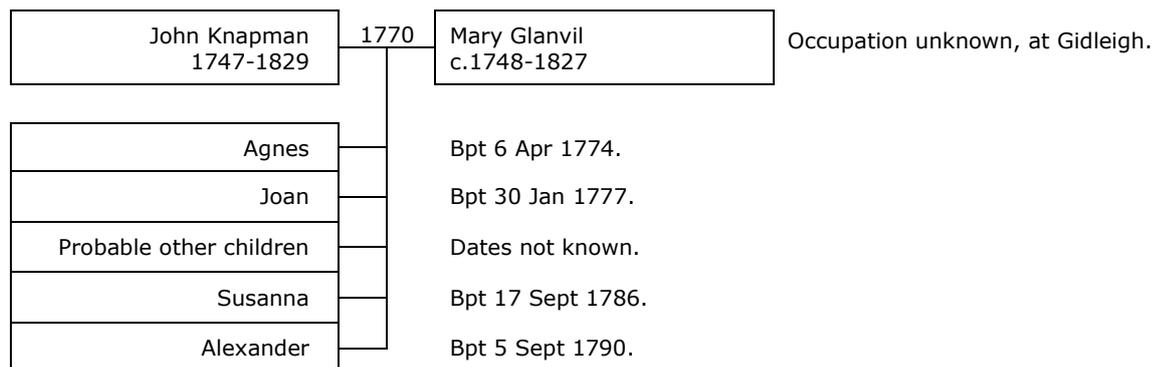
Elizabeth (Betty) may well have married, but there were three marriages involving brides named Elizabeth Knapman at Bovey Tracey between 1793 and 1809: to John Windsor on 5 February 1793, to George Gidley on 27 February 1798, and to Annias Wiett on 31 July 1809 (though I believe this one probably involved Elizabeth from Family '1757, Samuel & Mary').

### 1770, William & Martha

William Knapman married Martha Emmott at Woodland on 5 April 1770. I am uncertain where William came from, and so far as I can see they did not have any children via whom the Knapman surname could have been carried forward. Circumstantial evidence suggests that William died relatively soon after his marriage, and that Martha was re-married at Ipplepen on 9 January 1776 to Thomas Eddy, a sailor.

### 1770, John & Mary

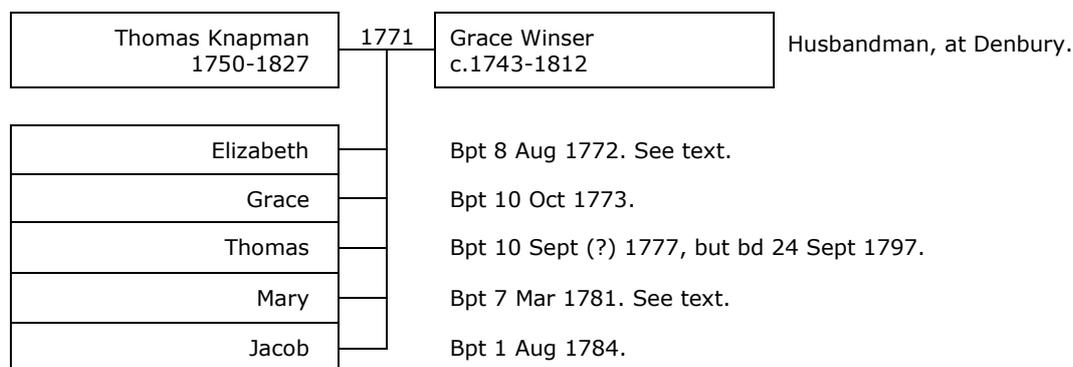
John Knapman married Mary Glanvil at Chagford on 9 May 1770. He was from Family '1724, James & Agnes', and they evidently lived for some time at Gidleigh, where the four children shown below were all baptised. However, it seems quite likely that there were other children born between Joan and Susanna baptised somewhere else.



They appear to have been buried at Drewsteignton: Mary on 23 June 1827 with her age given as 79, and John on 6 May 1829 with his age confirmed as 82.

### 1771, Thomas & Grace

Thomas Knapman married Grace Winser at Denbury on 17 November 1771, with Thomas described as a 'husbandman'. He was from Family '1745, Thomas & Judith', and their children, all of whom were baptised at Denbury, were as follows.



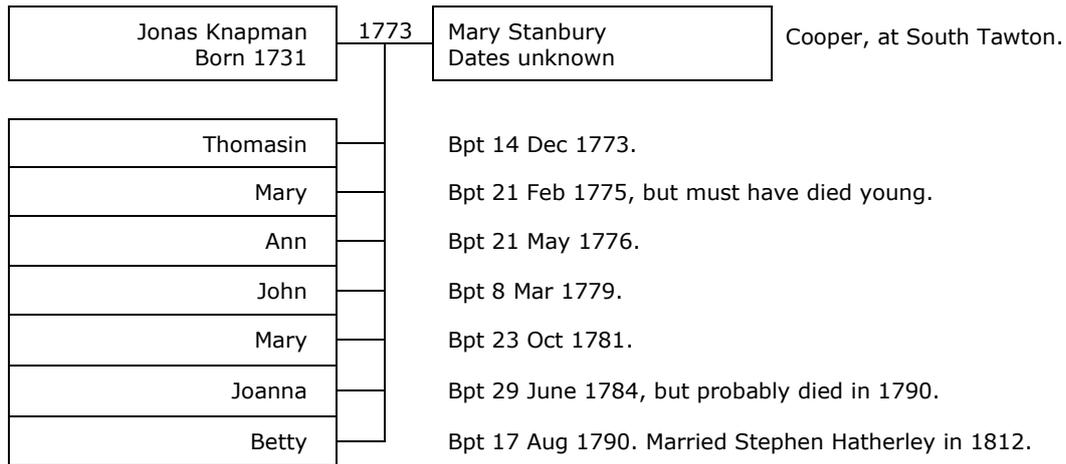
Grace (the mother) was buried at Denbury on 1 January 1813 with her age given as 69, followed by Thomas on 28 October 1827, aged 77.

Likely marriages for Elizabeth and Mary (both at Denbury) are to William Picker on 25 May 1795, and to Thomas Hill on 16 January 1800, respectively.

### 1773, Jonas & Mary

Jonas Knapman married Mary Stanbury at South Tawton on 20 July 1773. I believe that he was from Family '1718, John & Thomasin', though this should not be regarded as proven. However, Jonas was a cooper, a trade which fits well with the brewing practised by several other family members, and he named his eldest daughter Thomasin. The evidence for his occupation comes from the 'Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices and Indentures, 1710 to 1811'<sup>60</sup>, which shows that he took on two paying apprentices at South Tawton, in 1759 and 1777. Jonas and Mary's family was as follows, with all of the children baptised at South Tawton.

<sup>60</sup> Accessible via the ancestry.co.uk website.



Betty's marriage to Stephen Hatherley was at Chagford, where they had five sons and two daughters.

## Chapter 6: Marriages from 1775 to 1799

### Introduction

#### *Sources:*

By the period covered by this chapter information from Parish registers can (in some parishes) be systematically supplemented by records relating to apprenticeships and other 'poor relief' events. Apprenticeship records are of interest for the information they provide about both the families of the apprentices (generally poor) and the families to which they were attached (generally more prosperous, and often described in terms of the occupations that they practised and where they lived).

Freeholder registers (see the previous two chapters) also provide helpful information in some instances.

The period covered by this chapter spans the years 1788 to 1791. What is extraordinary about this period is that it marks the point at which there was a step-change in the frequency of marriages. In the 140 years from 1650 to 1789 I have found 135 marriages involving bridegrooms called Knapman or Napman: a rate of almost exactly one marriage per year (the decade-by-decade count ranges from 5 to 14, with 10 of the 14 decades having between 9 and 12 such marriages). By complete contrast, between 1790 and 1839 there were 132 such marriages: almost three times the previous rate, and the change is not gradual, it happens almost overnight, and in four of the five decades there were either 27 or 28 Knapman marriages.

Two main influences seem to be at work here: one social and the other bureaucratic. On the social side there was an increase in the rate at which children were surviving, and in the rate at which those survivors were marrying. On the bureaucratic side, it seems highly likely either that several pre-1790 marriages were not recorded (or that those records do not survive), or possibly that they were never formalised.

This chapter also includes three Devon marriages which can be found via parish registers but which do not appear on the DFHS list (they are '1786, John & Sarah', '1789, William & Elizabeth' and '1792, George & Elizabeth'), and one ('c.1788, Thomas & Elizabeth') which probably took place in Devon.

#### *Context:*

George III had been on the throne for 15 years (from 1760) by the start of the period covered by this chapter, and remained on it for 21 years after it closed (until 1820). His reign was characterised by further developments in industry (e.g. the development in 1775 by Watt & Boulton of improved steam power), as well as by wrenching political changes (1776 saw the American Declaration of Independence, while 1789 saw the French revolution, and the subsequent rise of Napoleon).

#### *Weather:*

The closing quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century saw a whole series of relatively severe weather events which will have created particular difficulties for farmers, and which will have tended to deplete stocks of foodstuffs, making prices more volatile.

There was a major snow storm in Devon over the night of 5/6 January 1776. This was followed by hard frosts in February, with the result that some snow was still lying in March.

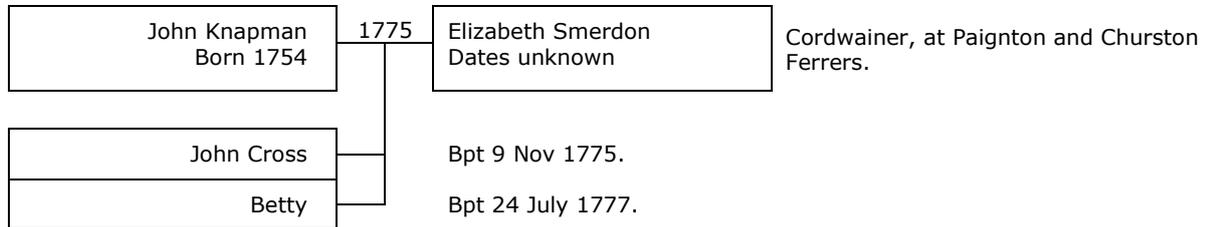
Then in 1787 there was a frost in June, following hail and sleet storms. These will have had particularly serious consequences for arable farmers. Two years later, in 1789 there was another Thames 'ice fair' in London, and the following year Devon experienced deep snow as a consequence of a storm on 10/11 April 1790.

In 1798 it rained almost every day in July, which would have caused havoc with haymaking. This was followed by frosts in November. In 1799 snow was widespread from January to March.

These adverse weather conditions, combined with disruptions to international trade as war loomed, contributed to the 'Great scarcity' of 1799 to 1801, which hit poor families particularly hard. It is probably not a coincidence that the families towards the end of this chapter are noticeably smaller on average than those at the beginning.

## 1775, John & Elizabeth

John Knapman married Elizabeth Smerdon at Paignton on 20 August 1775. He was from Family '1753, Robert & Priscilla'. They only appear to have had the two children shown below, both baptised at Paignton.



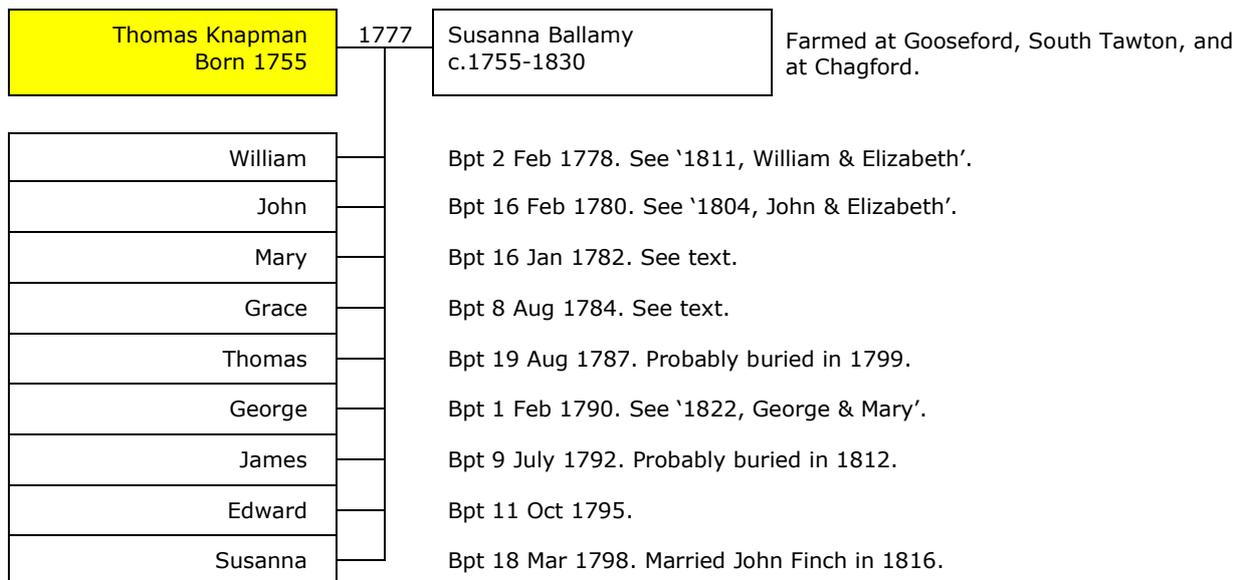
Paignton parish records accessible via the National Archives website show that in 1776 John, Elizabeth and John Cross (then aged 4 months, and named after his grandmother Priscilla, née Cross) were removed from Paignton to Churston Ferrers. I am uncertain how their link to Churston Ferrers had been established. Certainly they appear to have moved back to Paignton prior to Betty's baptism, and then in 1787 the parish records for Paignton record a child being apprenticed to John Knapman, cordwainer (i.e. a leather worker, possibly shoe maker).

I have not seen burial records for Elizabeth, John Cross or Betty, but one, two or all three of them may have died within a few years either side of 1790. Alternatively, John may simply have abandoned them. Certainly it seems that John moved to Gosport in Hampshire, leaving his children to be brought up either by Elizabeth (if he abandoned her), or possibly taking them with him (if they survived).

His second marriage is covered below under '1803, John & Grace'.

## 1777, Thomas & Susanna

Thomas Knapman married Susanna Ballamy at South Tawton on 9 September 1777. He was from Family '1745, William & Grace', and they had a large family, as follows, all of whom were baptised at South Tawton. The family does appear to have lived in Chagford parish at some point.



We have confirmation (from, among other sources, a report on one of Thomas' former apprentices, that can be seen via the National Archives' website, and which is reported in more detail in connection with Family '1834, Joseph & Mary Ann') that Thomas was the father of William Knapman of North Hill, Chagford (and later of Yellam, Chagford). Susanna, who also took on an

apprentice at Gooseford in 1786, died in 1830, with her age given as 75, suggesting that she had been born in about 1755. By 1841 Thomas was living with his son William and family, confirmed as a widower.

Their eldest daughter Mary may well have married John Endacott on 14 February 1808, and her younger sister Grace may well have married William Webber on 14 August 1804. Both of these marriages took place at Chagford, and Grace was described as a 'sojourner, of South Tawton', while William Webber was 'of Drewsteignton' and also a sojourner in Chagford.

Both Thomas and James appear to have been buried at Chagford.

Susanna married John Finch, a local blacksmith, at South Tawton on 16 April 1816, and the 1841 census shows that they had a substantial family at Whiddon Down.

### 1777, John & Mary

John Knapman married Mary Jordan at South Tawton on 13 October 1777, and had a large family, as shown below. He was from Family '1736, Edward & Jane'. Their children were all baptised at South Tawton.

John Knapman Born 1753	1777	Mary Jordan Dates unknown	Occupation unknown, at South Tawton.
John			Bpt 8 Nov 1778, but died in 1780.
John			Bpt 3 May 1780. See '1804, John & Frances'.
Edward			Bpt 17 Mar 1782. See '1805, Edward & Mary'.
Thomas			Bpt 7 Sept 1783.
Richard			Bpt 12 Sept 1784. See '1808, Richard & Grace'.
William			Bpt 1 Oct 1786, but must have died young.
Joseph			Bpt 6 Apr 1788. See '1816, Joseph & Susanna'.
William			Bpt 15 Aug 1790. See '1814, William & Mary'.
Joanna			Bpt 25 Nov 1792. See text.
Mary			Bpt 24 Feb 1793. Married Charles Gillard in 1820: see text.
Ann			Bpt 16 Aug 1795.
George			Bpt 10 Sept 1797.

When Joseph, Joanna and Mary were baptised, John was described in the parish register as a pauper, showing that his fortunes were at a low ebb. John and Mary had both died by the time of the 1841 census<sup>61</sup>.

I am by no means sure that the marriages indicated above for John, Edward and Joseph were definitely linked to this family, but in all three cases I think it is somewhere between highly likely and probable, rather than just possible. The apparent age difference between George and his namesake in Family '1814, George & Agnes' is too great for them to be treated credibly as the same person without some further supporting evidence.

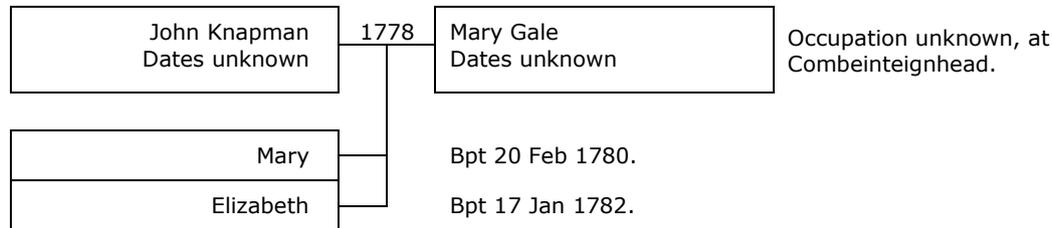
It is possible (no more than that) that Joanna was the person of that name who married John Brand at St George's, Hanover Square (London) on 25 June 1820. Whoever that Joanna was, she was able to write her own name clearly.

<sup>61</sup> There were two 'candidate' Knapman burials in Drewsteignton: Mary on 23 June 1827 with her age given as 79 and John on 6 May 1829 with his age given as 82. As well as not being in South Tawton, the difference between John's true and apparent ages would be about 6 years, and Mary would have been clearly older than his true age, so I have not allocated those burials to this couple.

I understand from my distant cousin Barbara Shapland that Mary moved to Plymouth, where she married Charles Gillard on 3 July 1820, the Gillards being another South Tawton family.

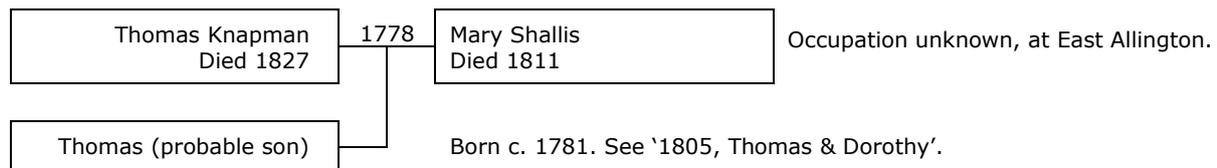
### 1778, John & Mary

John Knapman married Mary Gale at Combeinteignhead on 5 March 1778. I have not worked out where John came from. The two daughters shown below were baptised at Combeinteignhead, and there could have been other children born elsewhere that I have not spotted.



### 1778, Thomas & Mary

Thomas Knapman married Mary Shallis at East Ogwell on 20 September 1778. He was from Family '1746, Arthur & Susanna'. Although I have not found any baptismal evidence, they may well have had a son called Thomas, as shown below.

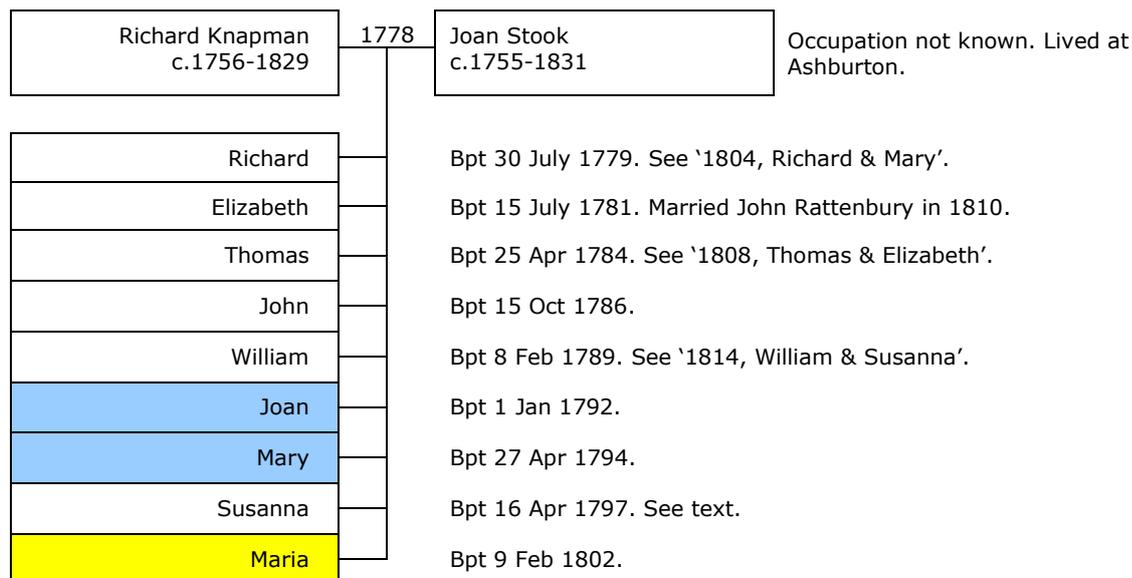


Thomas (the father) was buried at East Allington on 28 October 1827 with his age given as 77 (which appears to be an over-estimate).

### 1778, Richard & Joan

Some of the following information has been kindly provided by Brenda Bunkham, who has researched this family, from which her husband is descended.

Richard Knapman married Joan Stook of Widecombe-in-the-Moor at Ashburton on 12 October 1778. He was from Family '1745, Thomas & Judith', and they had the following family, all baptised at Ashburton.



Richard and Joan were both buried at Ashburton, Richard on 30 March 1829, and Joan on 15 May 1831, with their ages given in the register as 73 and 76 respectively.

Elizabeth married John Rattenbury at Ugborough on 4 February 1810.

I believe that her sisters Joan and Mary both remained single. I have not found either of them on the 1841 census, but an unmarried shopkeeper called Joan Knapman, born c.1793 at Ashburton, can be seen at the time of the 1851 census living in West Teignmouth, and when she died on 3 January 1883 she named William Knapman, a piano packer of 153 Camden Street in North London as her executor. He was the son of her brother William.

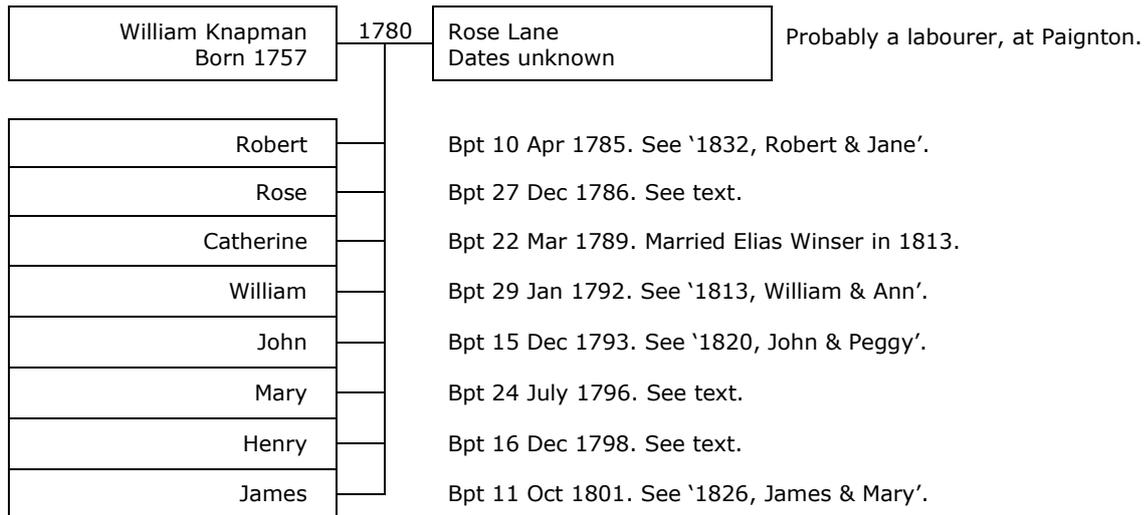
The 1861 census shows Mary (then aged c.67) living at West Teignmouth with her widowed sister Elizabeth Rattenbury (aged c.79), both of them shown as having been born at Ashburton.

Susanna appears to have had an illegitimate daughter called **Mary Anna** (baptised at Buckfastleigh in 1816), who was a servant at Ashburton at the time of the 1841 census.

In 1841 Maria may have been working as a servant to a draper on Bridge Street, Newton Abbott (Wolborough parish), but in 1851 she was working as a servant at East Teignmouth with her place of birth shown as Ashburton, and her age as c.46. Since I think that she may well be the Maria Knapman who was reported in the Western Times of 27 February 1847 to have worked for 30 years for Mr Jordan of Teignmouth (probably William Jordan, a local lawyer), her presence in Newton Abbot in 1841 may be a mistake.

## 1780, William & Rose

William Knapman married Rose (or Rosamund) Lane at Paignton on 6 August 1780. He was from Family '1755, John & Catherine', and they had the family shown below, all of whom were baptised at Paignton.



Robert was apprenticed in 1794 to Rev. Finney Belfield of Paignton, as was Rose, in 1799, to Philip Angel of Stoke Gabriel. She may well be the Rosamund Knapman who married Edward Bully at Brixham on 27 October 1811. William was then apprenticed in 1801. All of these events point towards the family not being well off, and William probably being a labourer.

Mary was apprenticed to John Distin junior in 1807. A Mary Knapman then had an illegitimate son called James Webber Knapman who was born at Paignton on 27 August 1816 (see '1837, James & Sarah'). Although I cannot be absolutely sure that the mother was William and Rose's daughter, she does seem to be the strongest candidate by some way.

Henry Knapman of Paignton (probably William and Rose's son) was also the subject of a bastardy order<sup>62</sup> following the birth of a child to Mary Parker on 10 November 1823.

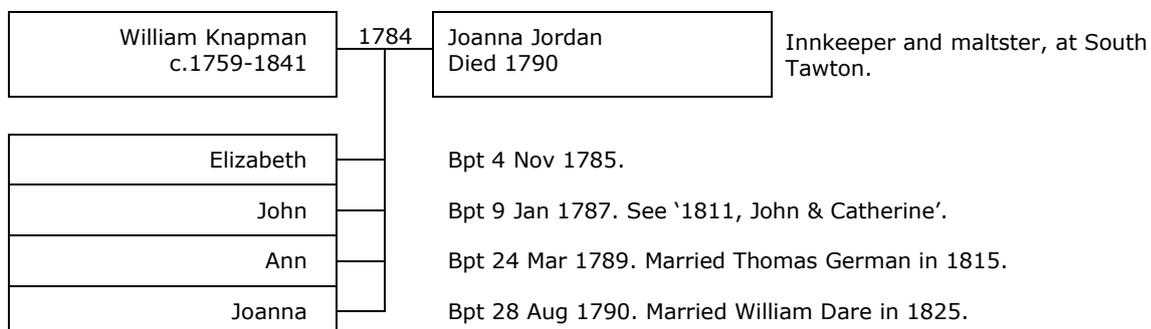
James was apprenticed in 1810 to James Hanny.

### 1782, William & Rosamond

William Knapman married Rosamond Lewis at Plymouth St Andrew on 9 March 1782. I do not know where he came from, and so far as I am aware they had no family by whom the Knapman surname could have been carried forward.

### 1784, William & Joanna

William Knapman married Joanna Jordan at South Tawton on 15 June 1784. He was from Family '1755, Arthur & Ann', and their children were all baptised at South Tawton.



William can be seen (via the National Archives website) taking on leases and apprentices in South Zeal, between 1795 and 1831. Several of these records name the King's Arms Inn and Bright's

<sup>62</sup> DRO Ref 1/PO 62/26.

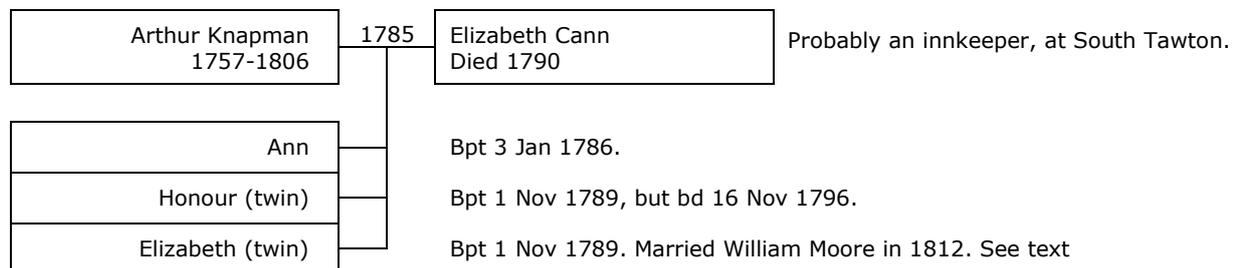
Tenement, and one in 1831 involved an agreement between William (maltster) and John Knapman (victualler, and presumably his son) and a property called Stocklands.

Joanna appears to have died in 1790, presumably as a consequence of complications arising from the birth of their youngest daughter, also called Joanna. (Two Joannas were buried at South Tawton in 1790: one on the same day that the younger Joanna was baptised; the other was 10 weeks later, on 9 November. However, we know that the infant Joanna survived, because her father's 1839 will shows that she subsequently married William Dare, an excise officer from Totnes. The second death was probably that of William's cousin, the daughter of his uncle Jonas.)

After Joanna's death, William was re-married, the second marriage being dealt with under '1795, William & Agnes', as is his will, which provides further evidence about John, Ann and Joanna.

### 1785, Arthur & Elizabeth

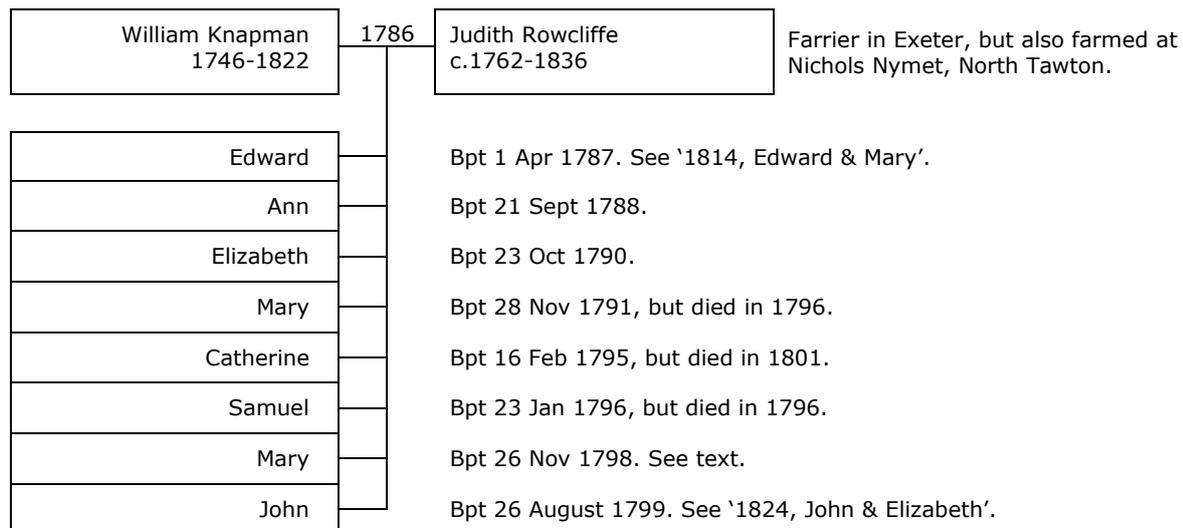
Arthur Knapman married Elizabeth Cann at South Tawton on 4 January 1785. He was from Family '1755, Arthur & Ann'. Their daughters were all baptised at South Tawton.



Arthur died in 1806, and at the time of the 1841 census his widow **Elizabeth** (née Cann) was living either with, or next door to, William and Elizabeth Moore, Elizabeth being her daughter, who had married William Moore, another South Tawton innkeeper, on 21 April 1812.

### 1786, William & Judith

William Knapman married Judith Rowcliffe at North Tawton on 12 June 1786. He was from Family '1743, William & Ann', and had been about 14 when his father died. He and Judith had the family shown below.



William took on a large number of apprentices over the period 1786 to 1801. One of them (Mary Hodge) named him as the father of her child in 1795, though this does not constitute proof that he was the true culprit, possibly just the target with the best combination of opportunity and money. We also know (from William's will: see below) that as well as farming at North Tawton he practised

as a farrier in Exeter. His two sons, Edward and John, were also farriers and veterinary surgeons: Edward in North Tawton, and John in Exeter.

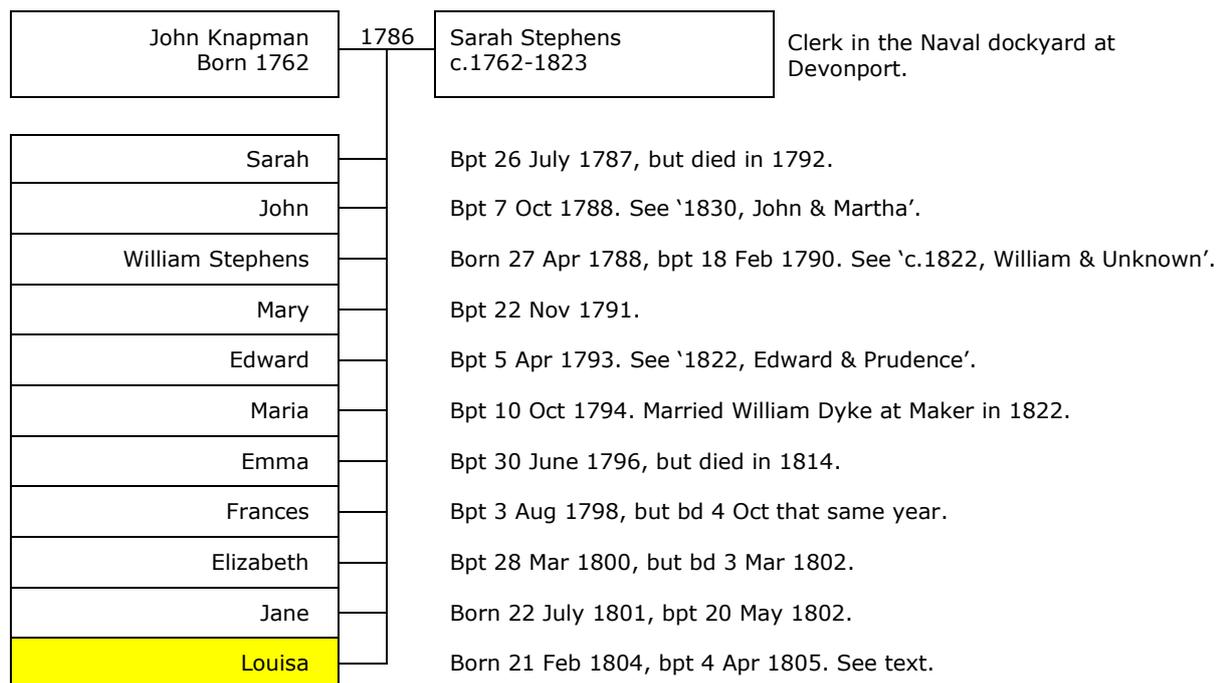
An unofficial census of the parish of North Tawton which was carried out in 1802<sup>63</sup> shows William farming at a property called Nichols Nymet, with his age given as 'about 50', which was an underestimate. He was described as 'yeoman, served in Militia by substitute'. This probably means that he had paid someone else to serve on his behalf, which was not uncommon. However, in this case I wonder if in fact he had opted to serve on someone else's behalf, which would have provided his widowed mother with some income, and could have been the mechanism via which he learned his trade of farrier (not to be confused with blacksmith, and a precursor to the profession of veterinary surgeon). Apart from William and Judith, four of their children (Edward, Ann, Elizabeth and John) were also recorded on the 1802 census. I do not know where Mary was at that time.

When William wrote his will (on 22 September 1821: it is in the DHC) he described himself as a farrier, and of Exeter, suggesting that he had a business there, but lived in North Tawton. He died on 23 March 1822. He named his son Edward and Samuel Symons of Alphington as his executors, with everything to go to Judith. She died in 1836, with her age at burial given as 74.

We know from the will of her cousin Edward (the son of Family '1788, Edward & Mary) that Mary had moved to Teignmouth by the 1830s.

### 1786, John & Sarah

John Knapman married Sarah Stephens at Stoke Damerel on 22 June 1786. He was from Family '1760, John & Hepzibah', and Sarah was the daughter of William Stephens, a surgeon (or doctor) of Devonport<sup>64</sup>, and his wife Mary. John and Sarah had the following family, all baptised at Stoke Damerel.



Sarah was buried at Stoke Damerel on 2 April 1823, aged 61.

According to a report in the Hampshire Chronicle of 23 January 1792, John and Sarah's eldest daughter, also Sarah, had died following an accident in the home one week earlier, in which she was badly burned.

<sup>63</sup> See the North Tawton page of the genuki website for details.

<sup>64</sup> Source: *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Fourth Series, Ed. W Bruce Bannerman (accessible on-line via Google Books).

John and Edward both went into the Royal Navy at the age of about 10 or 12, and William Stephens went into the Royal Marines<sup>65</sup>. All three had active careers: John and Edward both fought as Midshipmen at the battle of Trafalgar, though Edward was only about 12 at the time. John was in the 'Téméraire', which was in Nelson's formation, immediately behind the 'Victory', while Edward was in the 'Spartiate', which brought up the rear of the same formation. However, it was Edward who was wounded. Their service careers are set out on page 619 of the 'British Naval Biographical Dictionary, 1849', which can be viewed in full via Google Books.

We know from that write-up that both John and Edward rose to the rank of Lieutenant before leaving the Navy (though in both cases their service records in the National Archives, which I have not looked at, give their rank as Commander). We also know that both of them were later imprisoned for debt (at St Thomas' gaol, Exeter), because there are two separate notices viewable via the on-line London Gazette, showing that John's petition to have his examination with creditors was published in the issue dated 25 August 1818, followed by Edward's on 6 July 1819. Both were described as being formerly of Tamerton Foliot, which is a village on the northern edge of Plymouth. After what may have been minor blips in their careers, both joined the Coast Guard service, and both got married (see below).

Aspects of William Stephens' career can also be found by putting his full name into any internet search engine with or without the word 'Lissa', the naval battle where he was wounded in 1811 when serving on the 'Volage'. We also know<sup>66</sup> that he enlisted on 1 November 1803, progressed to the rank of Lieutenant on 17 January 1806, and spent slightly over a year (from 14 July 1820 to 11 September 1821, associated with HMS Vigo) on St Helena, guarding Napoleon<sup>67</sup>, before being promoted to Captain on 31 July 1826 and Major on 28 November 1854, long after he had retired. I believe that he retired in August 1838, on full pay, being based at Chatham in Kent immediately prior to that.

Their sister Mary may be the unmarried Mary Knapman who left a simple will (accessible via the National Archives website) written on 18 February 1820 but not proved until 2 May 1829, by Catherine Dyer Gill, wife of John Gill of Devonport dockyard. He was presumably from the same family as her aunt Ann (née Gill, wife of her father's younger brother William).

At the time of the 1841 census Louisa, the youngest child of this family, was living in Norfolk, near her brother John. She was described as a dressmaker, aged c.35, in a household headed by a teacher. A decade later she was described on the census return as deaf, and she had moved in with John and his family, at Bait Hill.

## 1788, Edward & Mary

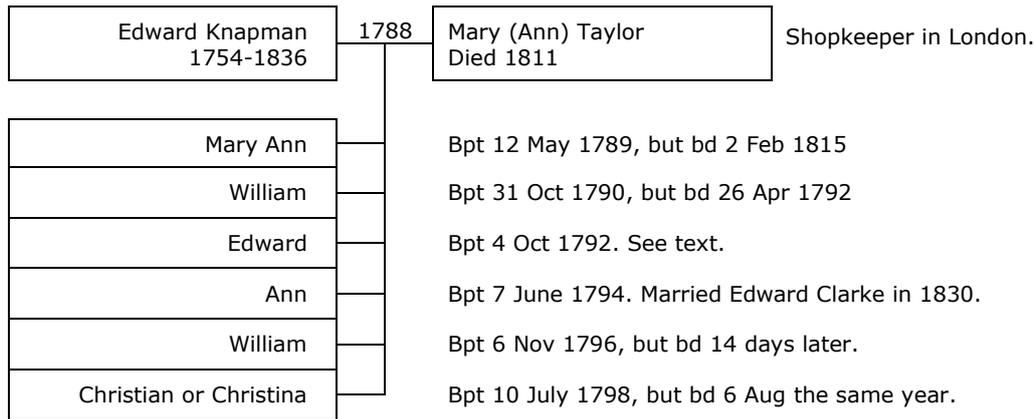
Edward Knapman married Mary Taylor at St Martin's in the Fields on 27 March 1788. He was from Family '1743, William & Ann', and had moved to London where he was variously described as a grocer, tea dealer, cheesemonger and chandler. Their family is shown below, with all of the children having been baptised at St Andrew's, Holborn. In two instances the mother's name was given as Mary Ann rather than just Mary when a child was baptised, and in most instances when a child was buried the family's address was given as Lamb's Conduit Street.

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<sup>65</sup> Inexplicably, William Stephens in the Stoke Damerel baptismal register as having been baptised a second time on 24 November 1803, 3 weeks after he had enlisted in the marines.

<sup>66</sup> Source: The New Annual Army List and Militia List for 1869, accessible on-line via Google Books.

<sup>67</sup> Source: 'A St Helena Who's Who' by Arnold Chaplin, 1914, accessible via the archive.org website. A report on an 1879 lawsuit regarding his will (see below under Family 'c.1822, William & Unknown') states that he had also been serving on the Bellerophon at the time of Napoleon's original surrender to British forces, which took place on that vessel.



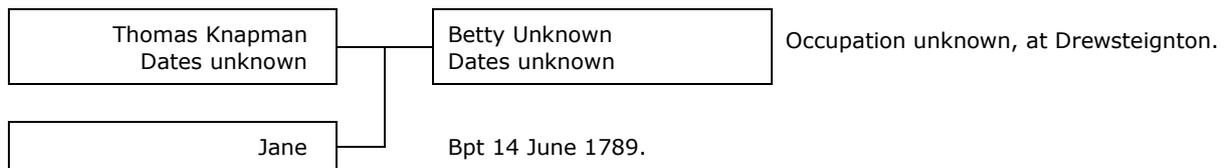
Mary Ann (the mother) was buried at St Andrew's Holborn (like several of her children) on 14 April 1811. When Edward (the father) died (in 1836) he was living at 6 Lamb's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury. When he wrote his complex (and very hard-to-read) will<sup>68</sup> on 27 September 1834, he only mentioned one of his children, namely Ann, who had married Edward Clarke of Fleet Street at St Andrew's, Holborn on 20 July 1830. His son Edward was still alive, but actually pre-deceased his father. The younger Edward died aged 42 on 11 December 1834 and was buried 6 days later, described by 'The Gentleman's Magazine' for January 1835 as "... *E Knapman jr, Esq of Lamb's Conduit Street, for 20 years one of His Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms*". He had resigned that position not long before (and we know this because another person was nominated to replace him on 27 November 1834).

Edward senior's will left money to his nephew Edward Knapman of North Tawton (see Family '1786, William & Judith'), and also mentioned Mrs Janet Saunders of Russell Street, St Sidwell (Exeter)<sup>69</sup>. Edward junior's will<sup>70</sup> (written on 6 December 1834, proved on 29 January 1835), left property to his cousins Edward and Mary Knapman of North Tawton and Teignmouth respectively, as well as to his sister Ann, his cousin William Robert Taylor of Holt in Norfolk, and various friends and neighbours.

It appears almost certain that the surname in his branch of the Knapman family died with Edward senior. He was buried at St Andrew's, Holborn on 5 July 1836, with his age given as 82.

### c.1788, Thomas & Elizabeth

I have not found the marriage record, but Thomas Knapman apparently married a wife called Elizabeth (Betty), and they had the daughter shown below, who was baptised at Drewsteignton.



### 1789, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman married Elizabeth Dicker at Drewsteignton on 24 February 1789. He was very probably from Family '1736, Edward & Jane'. However, William was then buried at Drewsteignton just over a year later, on 8 April 1790. Elizabeth (with her status specified as widow in the marriage register) then married George Howard at Drewsteignton on 26 December 1797.

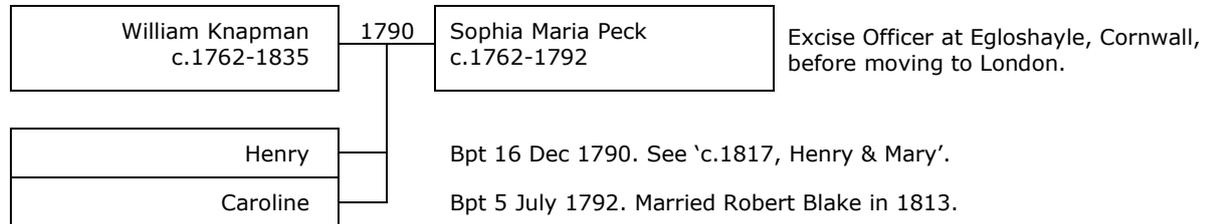
<sup>68</sup> Accessible via the National Archives website (Ref PROB 11/1865).

<sup>69</sup> I do not know who she was, but Edward's brother John married Ann Saunders, and named his brother-in-law, whose name he spelled George Pyke Sanders (of, I believe, North Tawton), as his executor.

<sup>70</sup> Accessible via the National Archives website (Ref PROB 11/1841).

## 1790, William & Sophia Maria

William Knapman married Sophia Maria Peck at West Buckland (near Taunton) on 14 January 1790. He was probably from Family '1761, John & Joan', and he either was already, or soon became, an Excise Officer. William and Sophia Maria moved to Egloshayle in Cornwall where their children were both baptised, as shown below.



Unfortunately, Sophia died during Caroline's birth, and was buried at Egloshayle, aged 30, on 7 July 1792. Life for William must have been very difficult, and was then made much more so when in June 1793, just a year after the death of his wife, he was attacked by a mob in the course of carrying out his duties. The full account of this event can be found on the [oldbaileyonline.org](http://oldbaileyonline.org) website, which reports his full testimony from his appearance as a witness on 15 January 1795 at the trial of John Hawkey. Hawkey was found not guilty, largely (it would appear) on the grounds that the evidence was circumstantial rather than definitive. The year before (in 1794) William had himself been accused of stealing barley and malt, quite possibly as an act of revenge by one of his attackers, but he too was acquitted at his trial.

William evidently moved to London, and lived in the area now known as Pimlico and Belgravia. He was living in Pimlico<sup>71</sup> when his daughter Caroline got married to Robert Blake of Clement's Inn, at St George's, Hanover Square on 11 November 1813. We know from information published<sup>72</sup> after his death that he had been "... *one of his Majesty's Deputy Marshalls* ...". Information accessible via the [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) website suggests that he held that position from 1807 until his death, from which point his widow (Sarah: see below) received a pension.

Late in life William was re-married, and the details are covered below under '1833, William & Sarah'.

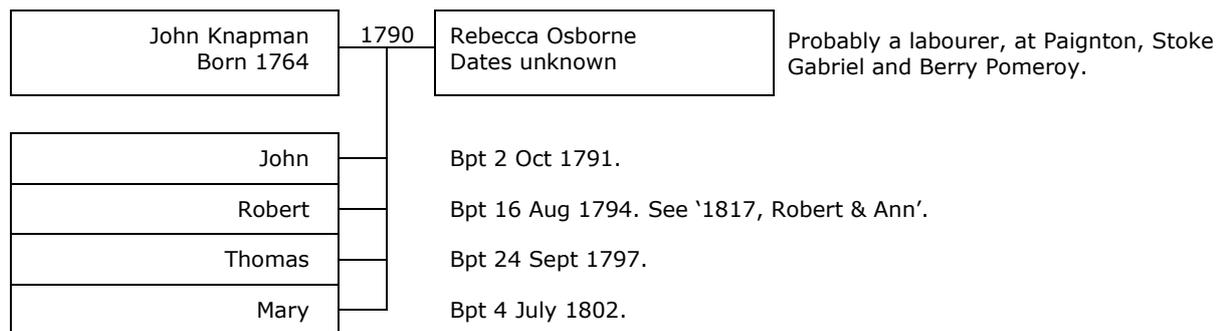
I am obliged to Geoff Blake, a descendant of William's daughter Caroline, for sharing with me the evidence that her son (Robert Blake, born in 1781) subsequently had a coat of arms drawn up which incorporated the arms granted to the original William Knapman of Throwleigh. Although this coat of arms was not 'approved' by the College of Arms, and does not prove definitively that this branch of the family was descended from William of Throwleigh, it strongly supports the contention that the link back to Throwleigh was believed by William Knapman (the Excise man) and his grandson (a lawyer) to be true.

## 1790, John & Rebecca

John Knapman (recorded as Napman) married Rebecca Osborne at Berry Pomeroy on 16 February 1790. He was from Family '1755, John & Catherine', and their family is shown below. John was baptised at Paignton, Robert at Stoke Gabriel, and the other two at Berry Pomeroy.

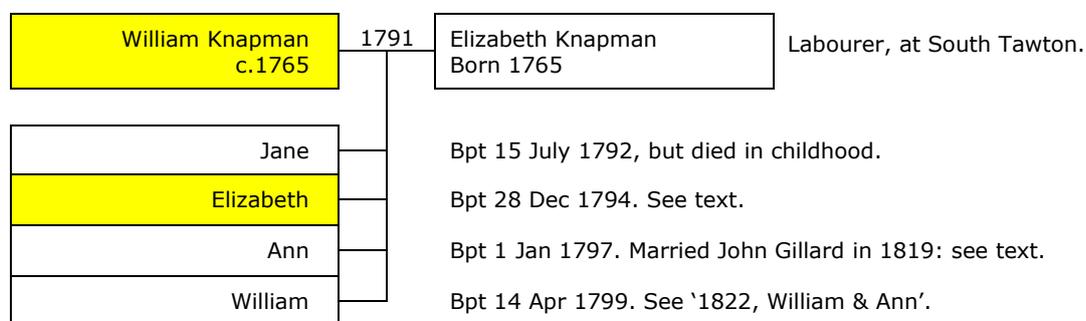
<sup>71</sup> Source: The Monthly Magazine dated 1 January 1814, accessible on-line via Google Books.

<sup>72</sup> Source: The Gentleman's Magazine Vol.158 page 442 of September 1835, accessible on-line via Google Books.



## 1791, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman, the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Knapman (and a grandson of Family '1724, James & Agnes), married Elizabeth Knapman (from Family '1763, William & Jane') at South Tawton on 28 August 1791. Given his illegitimacy, William's subsequent family will not be able to use Y-DNA testing to confirm their paternal line back to earlier Knapmans. William was described as a pauper when their first child, Jane, was baptised in 1792.



Jane was almost certainly one of two persons of that name (the other one being from Family '1799, John & Jane') buried at South Tawton, on 15 November 1801 and 4 February 1802.

Elizabeth evidently did not marry, but appears to have had three illegitimate children. Although I cannot be sure about this, she is by some way the most likely candidate to have had an illegitimate daughter called **Ann**, baptised at South Tawton on 27 July 1823. The mother (Elizabeth) was described in the South Tawton parish register as a 'harlot', which is a rather stronger term than was usually used ('single woman', 'base child', or similar). The father may well have been William Bickle: certainly he was named as the putative father at a bastardy hearing. Then on 14 January 1827 she appears to have had a second illegitimate child, William, who died in childhood, and was buried on 15 May 1831. Then on 26 December 1833, **Grace**, the illegitimate daughter of a servant called Elizabeth Knapman was baptised at Gidleigh.

Elizabeth was working as a servant at the vicarage in Belstone in both 1841 and 1851 (with her place of birth confirmed in 1851 as South Tawton). In 1861 she was either staying or living with her sister, Ann Gillard and her husband, John (see below), recorded as a washerwoman. In 1841 Elizabeth's daughter Ann was working as a servant at Fatherford Farm, Okehampton, for an unrelated Knapman family (see Family '1814, Edward & Mary'), and Grace, shown as having been born in c.1830, was an apprentice at the Sticklepath Inn in Sampford Courtenay (adjacent to South Zeal). I believe that Grace married George Holmes in 1852, and that she can be seen on the 1881 census living at Bovey Tracey with her 88-year-old mother Elizabeth (shown as an annuitant, born in South Tawton) living with her, George and their children.

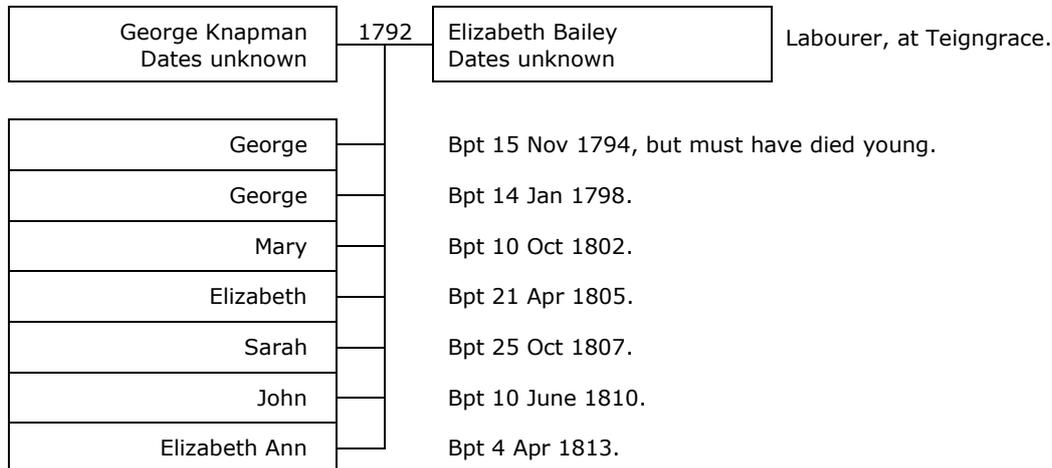
At the time of the 1841 census William (the father of this family) was living either with or next door to his daughter Ann and her husband John Gillard<sup>73</sup>, who she had married on 9 May 1819, and three of their children. Tragically, John and Ann Gillard had lost five children in 1833, aged 11, 9, 7

<sup>73</sup> I am obliged to my distant cousin, Barbara Shapland, who has Gillards as well as Knapmans in her family tree, for supplying the crucial information which enabled me to sort out this family's links back to the original William Knapman of Throwleigh.

and 2, and an infant. By contrast, Ann lived to be 96 (being buried at South Tawton on 12 April 1893).

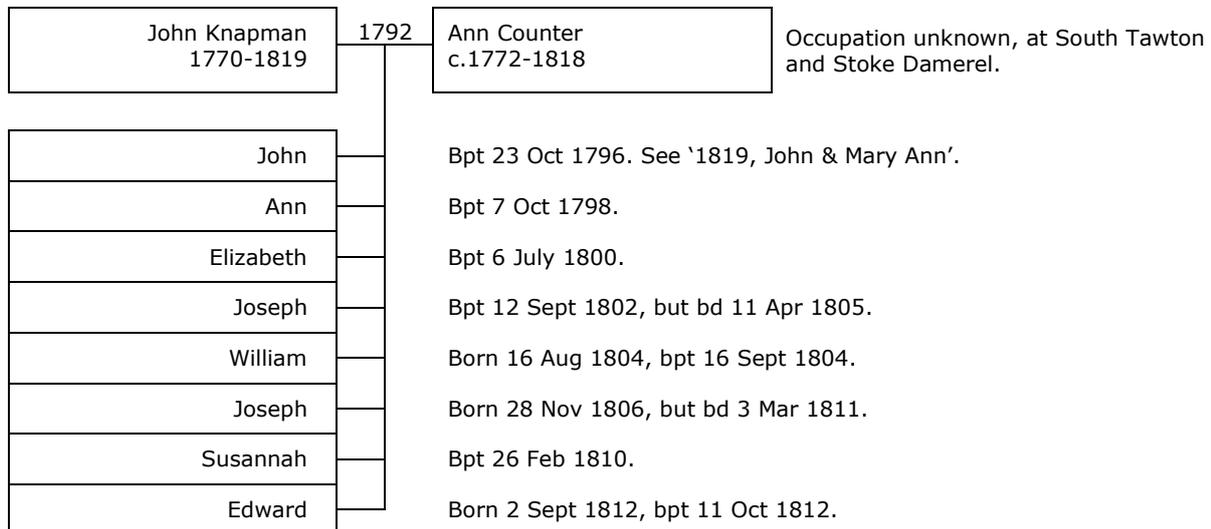
### 1792, George & Elizabeth

George Knapman married Elizabeth Bailey at Teigngrace on 21 March 1792. All of their children were baptised at Teigngrace (but I have found no evidence of any burials there, even though their first son George must have died young). George (the father) was described in the baptismal register as a labourer in 1813.



### 1792, John & Ann

John Knapman married Ann Counter at South Tawton on 26 August 1792. He was probably the younger son from Family '1759, Joseph & Joan', and their family is shown below. They evidently moved away from South Tawton soon after the birth and baptism of their eldest son, John, and settled at Devonport. Their other children were baptised at Stoke Damerel.

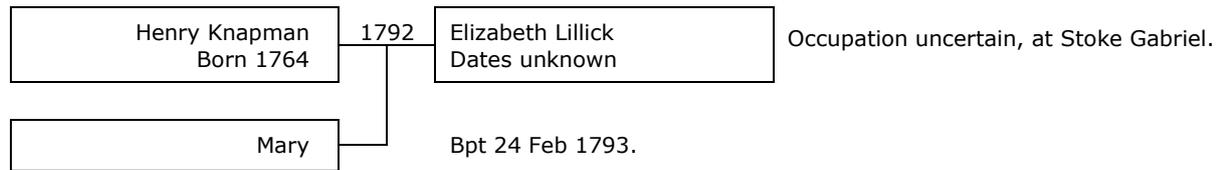


A 45-year-old Ann Knapman was buried at Stoke Damerel on 29 March 1818, followed by a 49-year-old John on 3 October 1819, at which time their youngest children were still under 10.

### 1792, Henry & Elizabeth

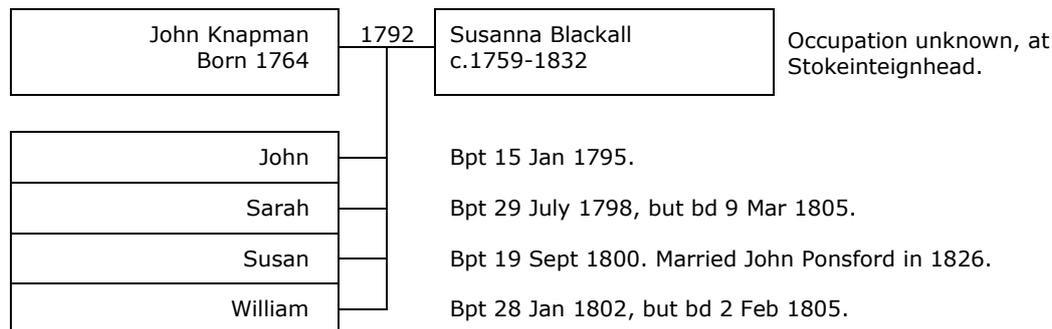
Henry Knapman married Elizabeth Lillick at Berry Pomeroy on 17 September 1792. He was from Family '1755, John & Catherine'. So far as I am aware they only had one child, as shown below,

baptised at Stoke Gabriel, meaning that the Knapman surname was not carried forward via this family.



### 1792, John & Susanna

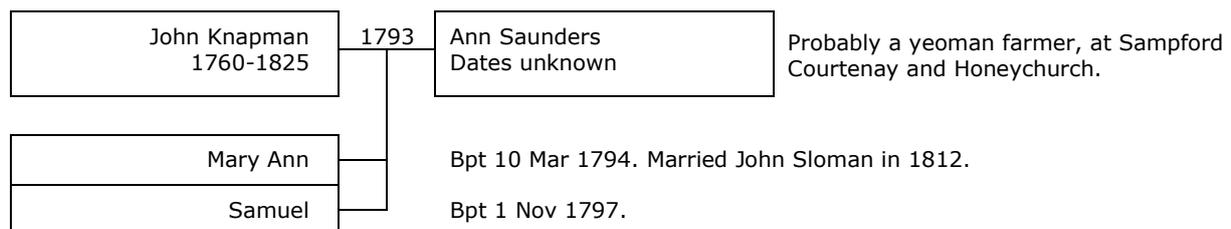
John Knapman married Susanna Blackall at Stokeinteignhead on 26 December 1792. He was from Family '1757, Samuel & Mary'. The children shown below were all baptised at Stokeinteignhead.



Susanna appears to have been buried at Stokeinteignhead on 24 January 1832, aged 73. Susan's marriage to John Ponsford was at Stokeinteignhead on 2 March 1826.

### 1793, John & Ann

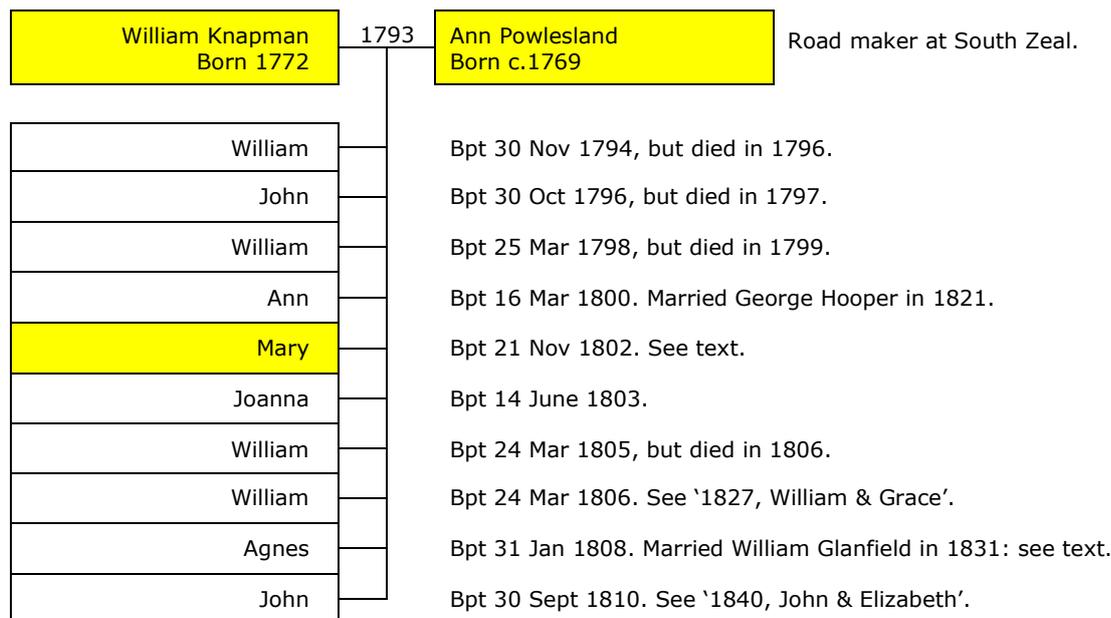
John Knapman married Ann Saunders at Chulmleigh on 11 February 1793. He was from Family '1743, William & Ann'. Mary Ann was baptised at North Tawton, and Samuel at Sampford Courtenay. It is possible that there were other children that I have not identified.



When John wrote his will (available in the DHC) in 1825 he was living and farming at Honeychurch. It does not mention Samuel, who it is probably safe to assume had died by then. John left everything to Ann and (after her death) to Mary Ann, who had married John Sloman at Sampford Courtenay on 28 February 1812, and her five children (Mary Ann, John, Mark, Betsy and George). John died on 6 November 1825, and the surname Knapman died with him in this branch of the family.

### 1793, William & Ann

William Knapman married Ann Powlesland at South Tawton on 29 December 1793. He was very probably from Family '1763, William & Jane', and he and Ann probably had all of the children shown below. However, it is possible that some of the later children could have been born to Family '1803, William & Ann' instead. On balance, however, I do not think so.



William, described as a 'road maker', and Ann were living at South Zeal at the time of the 1841 census, without any children present.

As can be seen, William and Ann had four sons baptised as William. The fourth of these was quite probably the William who was apprenticed in 1813, aged 8, to James Pitts for Lower Addlehole. If I am right about his marriage, then at the time of the 1851 census he was working in a quarry (which is one reason for believing that he was from this family).

At the time of the 1841 census, Mary Knapman, a 48-year-old bedridden pauper, was living with William and Agnes Glanfield at South Zeal. He was a mason and she was a weaver. I believe they were sisters from this family.

### 1794, James Doubtfire and Mary

This marriage is included because although it was the bride rather than the groom who was called Knapman, some descendants of this marriage used the Knapman surname rather than Doubtfire.

James Doubtfire, a widower, married Mary Knapman at Bath Abbey on 23 April 1794. I do not know where she came from, but she may have been his mistress before they were married, because their probable son (see below) was born in 1781. We know from various legal reports<sup>74</sup> that James' 1823 will left property in Stoke Damerel and Brixton (London) to Mary, and that she in turn left property to "... *John Knapman and James Doubtfire, otherwise Knapman*" in her will, which was written in 1834, shortly before she died.

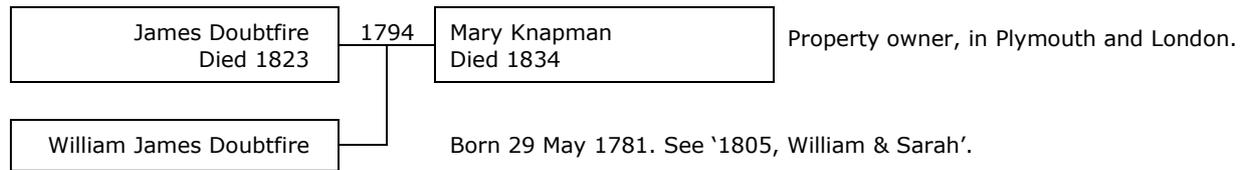
I thought for some time that John and James were Mary's sons, but it now seems slightly more likely that John was her brother, and James was her eldest grandchild. Her (possible) brother John's will can be found on the National Archives website (with his surname spelled Napman, and described as 'gent of St Marylebone'). That will was written on 28 January 1836 and proved on 29 April 1837. The writer was blind, and his will does not mention a wife or children<sup>75</sup>. The main surname that appears in connection with the nephews, nieces and great nephews who were among the beneficiaries under his will is Jarman.

'James Doubtfire, otherwise Knapman' was probably her oldest grandson (see Family '1805, William & Sarah') who had been born well before his parents' marriage. His father, and Mary's presumed son, was William James Doubtfire Knapman, who was baptised at Stoke Damerel on 17 November 1804 at the age of 23. (However, it must be recognised that his parents were identified in the baptismal register as William and Mary rather than James and Mary. The register also

<sup>74</sup> Some of these reports can be accessed by entering 'James Doubtfire' in the search engine of Google Books. Other reports can be found on the National Archives website.

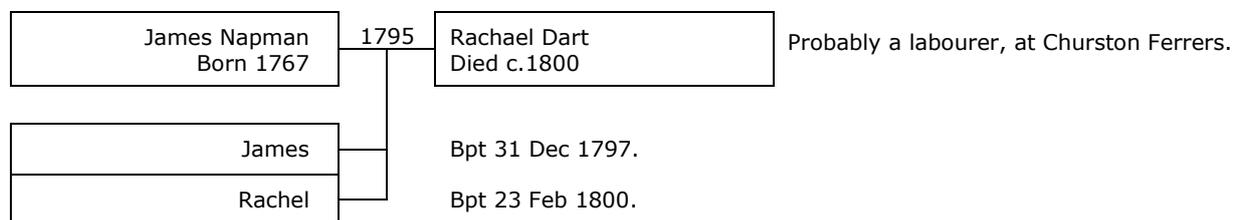
<sup>75</sup> Elizabeth Napman, who had been buried at the same church on 21 December 1822 aged 70 could well have been John's wife.

confirms that his date of birth was 29 May 1781). He was a sailor and then a draper, and his marriage is covered below.



### 1795, James & Rachael

James Napman married Rachael Dart at Churston Ferrers on 12 March 1795. He was probably from Family '1767, James & Mary', and they had two children baptised at Churston Ferrers, as shown below. Rachael may well have died at around the same time as her daughter's birth, and James' possible second marriage is covered under '1801, James & Agnes'.



### 1795, John & Jane

John Knapman married Jane Pearce at Stoke Damerel on 29 April 1795. I do not know where he came from, and so far as I am aware they had no children via whom the Knapman surname could have been carried forward.

### 1795, Thomas & Isabella

Thomas Mapman (possibly a mis-recording of an otherwise unknown surname) married Isabella Lomarx at Eccles St Mary (on the south west edge of modern Manchester) on 17 February 1795. A Joseph Knapman was buried there on 19 April 1804, but whether he was related to Thomas and Isabella is uncertain. Prior to that, in the same church on 2 January 1772, Ann Napman is reported to have married William Britain.

I am unsure whether any of these individuals were really called Knapman, and if they were whether they were related back to one of the Devon families. However, so far as I can see they did not establish the surname in Lancashire.

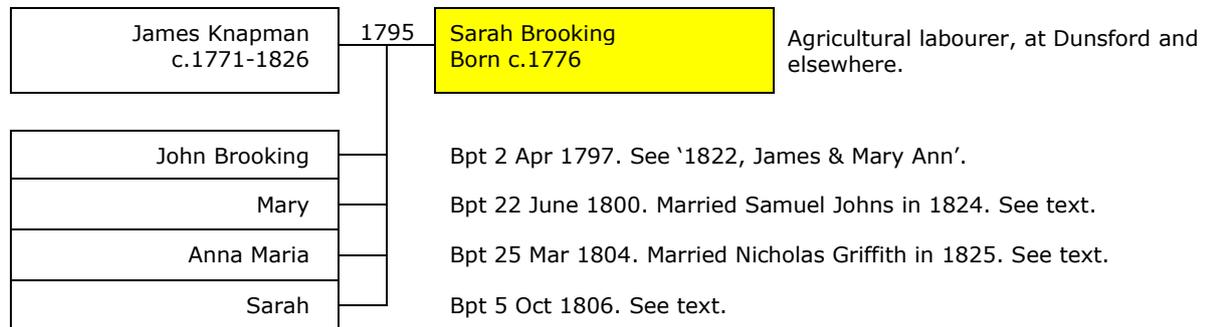
### 1795, James & Sarah

James Knapman married Sarah Brooking at Dunsford on 16 August 1795. It is possible (but very far from proven) that he was a grandson of Family '1731, Edward & Elizabeth', via their son Edward (born 1742), though I have been unable to find any documentary evidence to support such a link. Their children were baptised at Dunsford.

The baptismal register covering the period of James and Sarah's marriage is available via the Dunsford page of the genuki.org website, as is the outcome of an unofficial census of Dunsford taken in 1821<sup>76</sup>. Other information is available from apprenticeship records (accessible via the

<sup>76</sup> There were two other Knapman girls in evidence on the 1821 census, but they were the illegitimate daughters of mothers called Susanna and Elizabeth, who may well have been James' sisters. Susanna's daughter was called Ann, baptised 4 September 1808; and Susanna had also had an older son called William, baptised 18 June 1797 (see below). Elizabeth's daughter was called Agnes, baptised 4 March 1810; she too had a second illegitimate child, called Mary and baptised 27 August 1815, who had probably died by 1821. William, Susanna's son, is very probably the person who has a record linked to the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, which states that he was admitted to the Register of Pensioners on 30 August 1826, aged 27, having served in the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot for 9 years, and giving his place of birth as Dunsford. The reason for his discharge was

National Archives website). It is noticeable that the children were placed with relatively well off families, which would be more consistent with the parish helping a family that had suffered bad luck rather than one that was serially feckless (which in turn would be consistent with James having lost his father in infancy, as I speculate above).



John Brooking's age was given as 8 when he was apprenticed to John Bennett in 1805; Mary was 10 when placed with John Seward of Town's End Farm, a large local landowner and apparently brother of the vicar of Dunsford; and Anna Maria was 9 when apprenticed to Nicholas Tuckett.

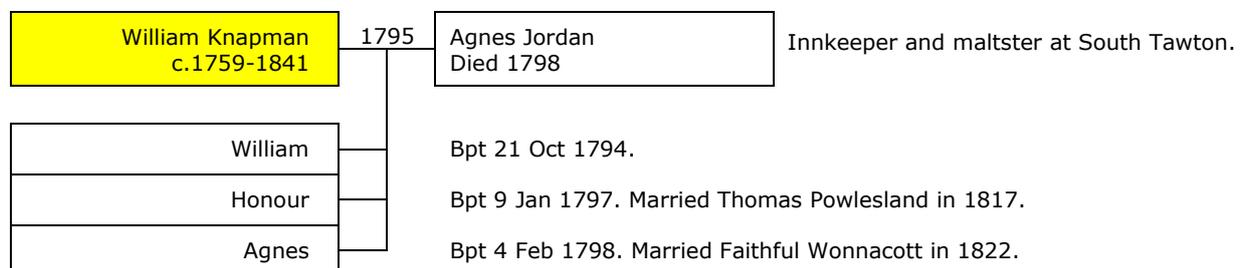
Neither James nor Sarah nor John Brooking were living in Dunsford when the unofficial census was taken in 1821. Mary and Anna Maria were with the families to whom they had been apprenticed, and Sarah was living at Owl-hole Farm with a family headed by two bachelor farmers and their sister, and described as an 'inmate', which I cannot explain. James died aged 55, and was buried at Dunsford on 11 April 1826, recorded as a resident of Uptons.

Mary married Samuel Johns (a labourer) at Dunsford on 28 January 1824, and Anna Maria married Nicholas Griffith (also a labourer, also at Dunsford) on 6 March 1825.

### 1795, William & Agnes

William Knapman married Agnes Jordan at Stoke Damerel on 14 December 1795. I believe that William was from Family '1755, Arthur & Ann', with this being his second marriage (his first being '1784, William & Joanna'). I also believe that Agnes was Joanna's sister.

Their marriage took place well after the birth of their son William (who does not appear to have survived to adulthood). Some parishes would not allow widowers to marry their sisters in law, and William and Agnes may have had to go to Plymouth having been refused locally. The baptismal register for South Tawton records the three children shown below, with their mother being buried on the same day as her third child (also Agnes) was baptised: an unhappy echo of William's first wife, Joanna. (It is William's will, which is available in the DHC, which confirms that his daughter Agnes survived and married.)



William died on 23 October 1841, shortly after the Census of that year. His will, written on 15 June 1839, left Crockers Tenement (which included the King's Arms in South Zeal) to his son John (by his first marriage), along with a field called Whiddons Close. He left his interest in the London Inn (also in South Zeal) to Honour, by then widowed, and resident there. After her death it was to pass

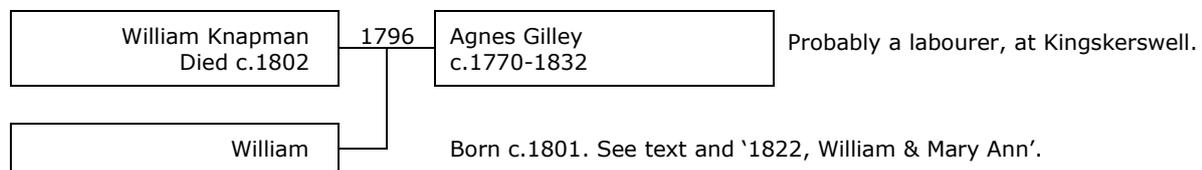
'epileptic fits commencing in New South Wales'. I do not know where he was in 1841, but he may well have died by then. He had probably been in Australia at the time of the 1821 census.

to her son Thomas (subject to his paying £1 to each of his siblings). He left other property (Brights Houses, Signs House and some fields, all in South Tawton) to his daughters Joanna Dare (from his first marriage) and Agnes Wonnacott, and he left some cash and rents to a grandson called William German, who must have been the son of his daughter Ann (by his first marriage) and her husband Thomas. He also mentioned William Knapman, the son of his own son John (by his first marriage), but made no mention of his son William (see above), who had presumably died by then. Nor did his will suggest that William had had any children.

It does not appear that the Knapman surname survived via this family.

### 1796, William & Agnes

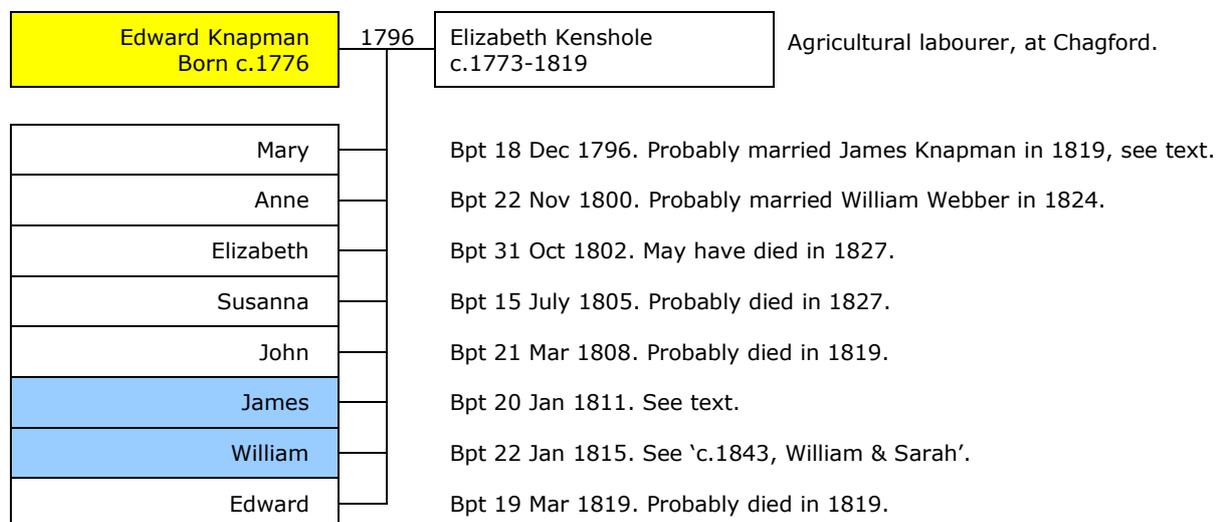
William Knapman, described in the marriage register as a 'sojourner', married Agnes Gilley at Kingskerswell on 25 February 1796, and their son William was born there in about 1801. William (the father) must have died soon thereafter, because Agnes was re-married to John Cheeseworth (also a sojourner) on 25 November 1803. I have seen an on-line family tree which shows that they had at least two children, and that Agnes was buried at Ipplepen in July 1832. I assume that the burial register (which I have not seen) provides the source for her estimated year of birth.



There is a note related to the apprenticeship of William (the son) which can be found via the National Archives website. Written in 1822, it states that he was born in Kingskerswell, and that "... when aged 9 yrs (he) was bound apprentice by parish indenture there to Samuel Ducler, (and) served out his apprenticeship. (He) agreed by indenture to serve William Gifford of Kingskerswell, mason, (for) 4 yrs at 1s per week for 1st yr, rising to 2s per week for the last 2 yrs, (with) victuals and lodgings the whole term (provided). The 4 yr term will expire next Feb. He married on 18 Jan 1822 in Coffinswell parish church, has lodged since then in Coffinswell, (and) continued to work for William Gifford". William stuck with the career of stone mason.

### 1796, Edward & Elizabeth

Edward Knapman married Elizabeth Kenshole at Chagford on 15 May 1796. Although far from proven, it is possible that he was from Family '1769, John & Joan'. If that is correct, then he had been born in 1771, whereas his year of birth was estimated at c.1776 at the time of the 1841 census, by when he was living on his own in Chagford. We know from the parish register that he and Elizabeth had had a large family, all baptised at Chagford, as set out below.



Elizabeth (Edward's wife) was probably the Elizabeth Knapman who was buried, aged 46, on 11 April 1819, with her address given as Great Week. Another Elizabeth Knapman was buried on 12 April 1827 with her age given as 24, and this may well have been their daughter. Her sister Susanna is probably the person who had been buried aged 21 a month earlier, on 8 March.

Mary's probable marriage to James Knapman is dealt with under '1819, James & Mary'.

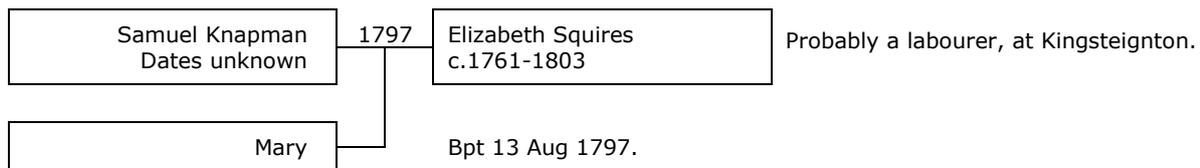
James was apprenticed in 1821. Although the marriage that I have linked to William might not be his, on balance it seems likely.

### 1796, Edward & Sarah

Edward Knapman married Sarah Boyes at East Ogwell on 24 November 1796, by which time he was almost 40. He was from Family '1746, Arthur & Susanna', and they do not seem to have had any children. Sarah was buried at East Ogwell on 18 March 1838, with her age given as 66, and Edward was buried there getting on for 4 years later (on Christmas day 1841), with his age shown as 83, and his address at the time of death as Harbertonford. The 1841 census confirms that he was indeed living there 6 months before his death, with his nephew John Knapman (an edge tool manufacturer) and his family.

### 1797, Samuel & Elizabeth

Samuel Knapman married Elizabeth Squires at Kingsteignton on 18 April 1797. The witnesses were Susanna Soper and Diana Watts. I think he was probably from Family '1757, Samuel & Mary'. So far as I know they only had one child, baptised at Kingsteignton (with her surname spelled Napman). Elizabeth was buried at Kingsteignton on 17 June 1803 with her age given as 42.



### 1797, Arthur & Elizabeth

Arthur Knapman married Elizabeth Knapman at South Tawton on 12 June 1797. He was from Family '1767, Arthur & Mary', and he took over Well Farm, South Tawton, for which he took on apprentices between 1826 and 1831. His wife Elizabeth was his fifth cousin once removed, being from Family '1766, Edmund & Joan'. Their children were baptised at South Tawton with the exception of Mary (baptised at Throwleigh).



At the time of the 1841 census (after Elizabeth's death, which probably occurred in 1822), Arthur was at Well Farm with his second son (also called Arthur). Arthur (the father) died on 4 December

1855 after a short illness<sup>77</sup>, and in his will he left pieces of land and individual fields to each of his three sons, and money to his daughters Mary Sampson and Elizabeth Lethbridge.

In 1841 census John was helping his brother-in-law Caleb Sampson at Sessland Farm, South Tawton. Caleb died later than year.

At the age of 57 Arthur (the son) married the 32-year-old Mary Cornish at Highampton on 6 or 7 February 1857 (the register was changed, but it is not clear which way). They had a daughter (Mary Louisa Cornish) the following year, but Mary (the mother) died on 4 March 1858. Arthur was then re-married to her younger sister, Elizabeth Blatchford Cornish, in Exeter district in 1Q1859, and had three further children (Sarah Elizabeth in 1859, Arthur Cornish in 1862, and Henry Cornish in 1865). Elizabeth Blatchford Cornish had also had an older daughter (Janet Lucy) who had been baptised at Highampton on 9 September 1855, described as her illegitimate daughter. There is no indication who the father was, but the 1861 census return named Arthur as her father, but still gave her surname as Cornish (whereas later she adopted the Knapman surname). Arthur died at Pulworthy, on 27 April 1867, but shares a headstone in South Tawton churchyard with both Mary and Elizabeth (who survived him for many years). The Knapman surname was carried forward a further two generations at least by Arthur's family, but not via John's (see below). Their older brother Edward's family is covered below as '1828, Edward & Rebecca'.

Arthur's younger brother John married a sister from the same family, Louisa Cornish, in Okehampton district in 4Q1852, and farmed at Torhill, Drewsteignton. They had one child, John Henry Arthur, in 1856. He in turn married, but apparently did not have children.

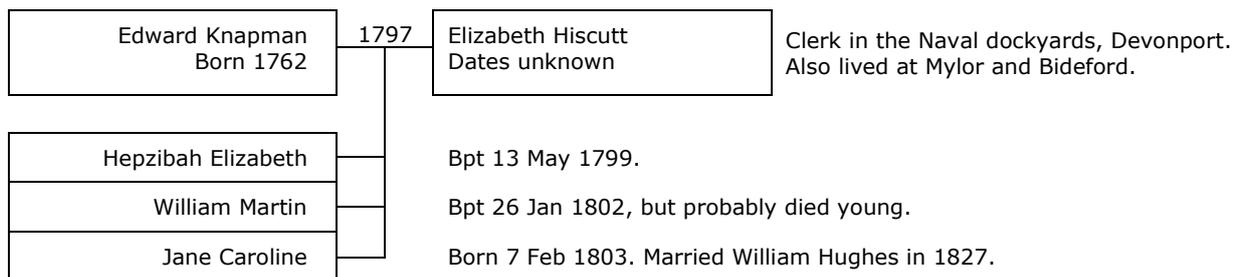
### 1797, John & Ann

John Knapman married Ann Williams at Plymouth St Andrew's on 21 August 1797. I do not know where he came from, and so far as I am aware he did not have any children via whom the Knapman surname was carried forward.

### 1797, Edward & Elizabeth

Edward Knapman married Elizabeth Hiscutt at Stoke Damerel on 24 December 1797. He was a clerk in the Naval dockyards, and from Family '1760, John & Hepzibah'. Elizabeth was the daughter of Silas Hiscutt, and I am obliged to Bill Bawden, his descendant, for confirmation of several of the facts below which I had deduced, but had not proved. The Hiscutt family had strong links to both Bideford and Stoke Damerel, and included Excise officers, and a key source of family facts is evidently Silas' will (which I have not seen).

Their first two children were baptised at Mylor, which lies between Falmouth and Truro, with Jane Caroline being baptised at Stoke Damerel on 28 September 1810, aged 7.



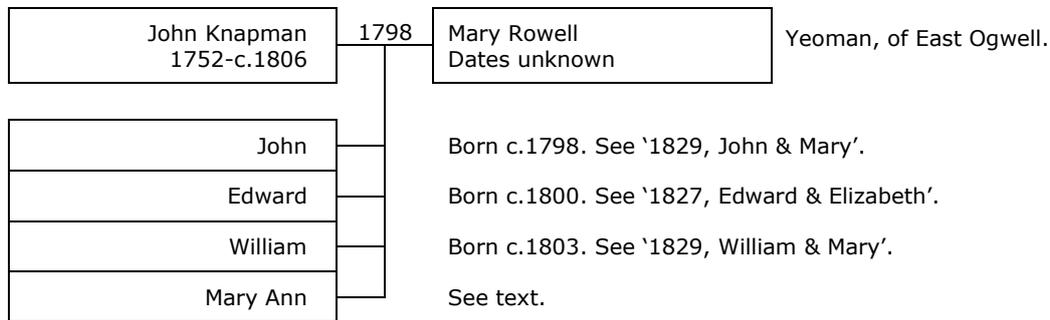
William Martin appears not to have survived, not being mentioned in his grandfather Hiscutt's will, unlike his sisters.

Jane Caroline married William Hughes at Southampton All Saints on 16 January 1827, described as 'of Bideford'. He was the son of Rev. Sir Robert Hughes and his wife Bethia (née Hiscutt, and the sister of Jane Caroline's mother). William Hughes became an attorney, and his family can be found on thePeerage.com website.

<sup>77</sup> Source: The Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 8 December 1855.

## 1798, John & Mary

John Knapman married Mary Rowell at East Ogwell on 6 May 1798. He was from Family '1746, Arthur & Susanna', and they had the family shown below.

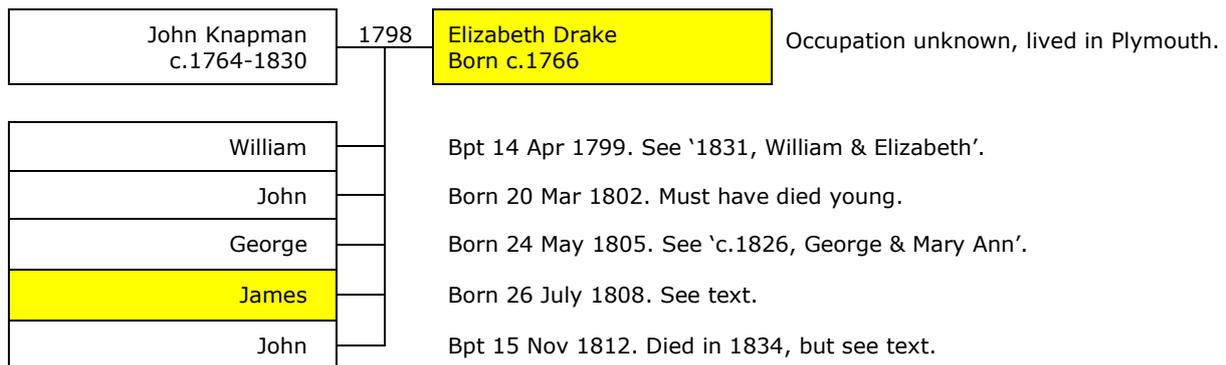


John was described as a yeoman of East Ogwell when he died, about 8 years after his marriage. Although we do not have his actual will, the probate record is accessible via the National Archives website. This shows that his executors were his brother Edward, and what looks very like Michael Powell but is presumably Rowell. This document makes no mention of his wife Mary, suggesting that she was already dead. It made provision for each of his four children to receive £100 on reaching the age of 21, and left the balance (which did not amount to £200, based on the fact that the entire value of the estate was estimated as less than £600) to help pay for their costs prior to that point. They are listed below in the order in which he named them, with birth years taken, where possible, from later census returns.

It is possible that Mary Ann may be the same person as the Ann Knapman who married William Saunders at St George's, Bloomsbury (where her brother Edward was by then living) on 16 April 1829. Certainly I am unaware of any other convincing 'candidiates' to be that Ann if she was not this Mary Ann, but that hardly constitutes positive evidence.

## 1798, John & Elizabeth

John Knapman married Elizabeth Drake at Stoke Damerel on 9 May 1798. It is possible, but far from certain, that he was from Family '1761, John & Joan'. They lived on Ordnance Lane, at least for a time, and had at least four sons who survived as shown below, all baptised at Stoke Damerel.



The address of John (the father) was also given as Ordnance Lane when he was buried on 22 December 1830, with his age given as 66, suggesting that he was born c.1764<sup>78</sup>, which would be consistent with his being from Family '1761, John & Joan.' Although Elizabeth's age was given as c.40 on the 1841 census return, the 1851 census suggests the more credible c.1776, and gives her place of birth as Shaugh Prior, a parish a few miles north east of Plymouth.

<sup>78</sup> There is circumstantial information which hints that John may have had a brother called Edward, who was buried at Stoke Damerel on 25 April 1820 aged c.54 (i.e. born c.1766). There were also four children (Ann, Edward, Elizabeth and another Edward) who were buried in Stoke Damerel and Plymouth (Charles) over the period 1814 to 1819, who could be from Edward's family.

Ordnance Lane was also given as the parents' address when James and John were born. John's 1834 burial record also gives his address as Ordnance Lane, providing clear evidence for his link to this family<sup>79</sup>.

At the time of the 1841 census James was a labourer living on Ordnance Street, with his widowed mother Elizabeth. By 1851 he was a brewer, and he and Elizabeth were living at 33 William Street. James died on 4 March 1864 at Granby Street, Devonport, and his will was proved by his brother George.

### 1798, William & Ann Bartrum

William Knapman married Ann Bartrum at St George's, Exeter on 20 May 1798. He was a butcher, and from Family '1767, Arthur & Mary'. After her very early death he was re-married her sister: see '1807, William & Mary'.

### 1799, William & Susanna

William Knapman married Susanna Davis at St George's, Hanover Square on 19 December 1799. He was described in the marriage register as 'of St Andrew's, Holborn' while Susanna was 'of this parish'.

I have been unable to work out where William came from, but whatever his origins he was the steward to the household of George Wyndham, third Earl of Egremont, whose households included Petworth in Sussex. Susanna was the housekeeper of his London house at No.4 Grosvenor Place. Her will (which is also accessible via the National Archives website) was proved in 1832, and William apparently died at very much the same time. Her will suggests very strongly that they did not have any surviving children.

### 1799, John & Mary

John Knapman married Mary Beavis at Broadhempston on 31 January 1799. I have not yet worked out where he came from. Their children were all baptised there, as follows.



Their son James was apprenticed to Philip Forster, a yeoman from Staverton, in 1807. George Beavis was then apprenticed to William Venning of Broadhempston in 1811, as was William in 1819. At the time of the 1841 census John, evidently a widower, was living at Broadhempston with his youngest daughter Mary. I have not managed to find James in either 1841 or 1851, nor have I found any evidence of William as an adult. I suspect that they both died relatively young.

### 1799, John & Ann

John Knapman married Ann Cutmore at Ashprington on 2 April 1799. He was apparently originally from South Tawton, and very likely from Family '1763, William & Jane'.

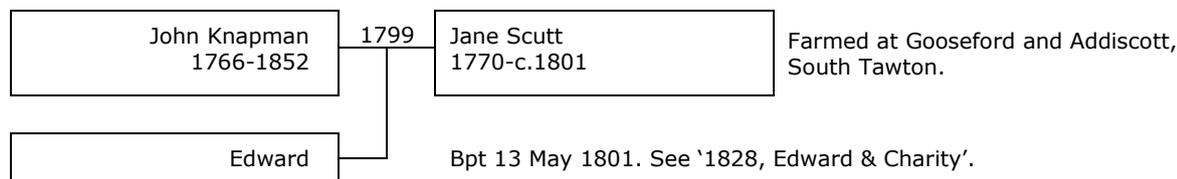
<sup>79</sup> It is possible, but by no means proven, that John had married a wife called Elizabeth not long before his death, and had a son called John George who was baptised at Morrice Street Wesleyan chapel on 7 April 1834 having been born on 16 October 1833. I have seen no further evidence of John George, and suspect that he too died prior to the 1841 census.

Much of what is known about John comes from a statement that he made in 1816<sup>80</sup>, by when he was about 41, in connection with a settlement examination. The text of this statement, kindly provided to me by Vincent Duggleby, states that "... he has heard and believes that he was born in South Tawton, that when he was about eleven years of age he was bound an apprentice to one Robt Poseland (sic) with whom he served out his time in the said parish. Then he came to Blackawton and lived by the week nearly a year with Mr Hind. Then removed to Ashprington and lived with several masters as a weekly servant for three years but did not live with any of them twelve months. Then married and lived with his wife 12 years until her death in Ashprington but had no children. Soon after the death of his first wife he hired himself to Mr Foss as a yrly servant and lived with him one full year under that living in Ashprington. Then married a second time and has lived ever since in Ashprington except during one year when he went with his wife and family to Stoke Fleming in the service of Mr Southcote and has done no other act to the best of his knowledge by which he can have gained any other settlement".

John's second marriage is covered below under Family '1812, John & Frances'.

### 1799, John & Jane

John Knapman married Jane Scutt at Manaton on 8 December 1799. He was from Family '1766, Edmund & Joan', and she was the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Scutt of Manaton. It is from their son Edward that Barbara Shaplend, who has provided me with so many very useful pieces of information about the Knapmans in general, and this family in particular, is descended.



Unfortunately Jane died in 1801 or 1802 (there were two burials of Jane Knapmans at South Tawton, on 15 November 1801 and 4 February 1802, one of which must have been this Jane).

An unexplained finding is that when Edward was baptised (at South Tawton), John was described in the baptismal register as a pauper, despite being the son of a farmer, who was a farmer himself later.

<sup>80</sup> DHC Ref 2027A-2/PO6/27.

## Chapter 7: Marriages from 1800 to 1819

### Introduction

#### *Sources:*

This period includes the year (1813) from which very largely complete baptismal and burial records for all Knapmans baptised and buried in Devon are available from the DFHS (as well as marriage records, for which the compilation lists start in 1754). Although equivalent records are not available for the years before 1813, the parishes in which baptisms and burials are found over the period from 1813 to 1820 are very substantially the same as those where they were occurring between 1800 and 1812, making it easier to find the relevant original parish registers.

Nevertheless, this chapter includes two Devon marriages ('1801, James & Agnes', and '1804, Richard & Mary') which do not appear on the pre-1837 DFHS compilation list.

Census records also become much more important as a source of information in this chapter, because many of the families traced here were still in family units in 1841.

Where sons born to families in this chapter were married after the 1851 census (and therefore outside the full scope of this document), I have generally indicated briefly within this chapter who I believe that they married, where and when, and what children I believe that they had.

#### *Context:*

This period was greatly affected by the Napoleonic wars. Nelson's naval campaigns culminated in the battle of Trafalgar (1805), though the land war continued until the battle of Waterloo (1815).

As well as drawing young men away to fight in the army and navy, the conflict disrupted international trade, which had direct impacts on British farming. At a time when imported food was less reliably available, prices for home-grown produce were notably higher. As soon as the war ended, Parliament passed the Corn Laws (in 1815), which kept the price of wheat artificially high for a significant further period. The certainty of high prices favoured grain production over livestock, and ensured that agricultural rents remained high.

The stirrings of a wider social reform movement were starting to be felt. The abolition of slavery across the British Empire (in 1807) took many years to bring about lasting change, but it marked a new direction of travel as far as social reforms were concerned.

#### *Weather:*

The rector of Denbury, John Nance, recorded the following in the parish register. "*In the year 1800 no rain fell in this parish, except a very few drops on July 14<sup>th</sup>, from May 24<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup> – neither did the oldest men ever remember so hot a summer.*" The weather reported would clearly have affected an area wider than just Denbury.

In 1808 there were severe hail and thunder storms on 15 July leading to crop losses. The following year (1809) saw significant snow falls on 20 April.

Overall this period was marked by generally cold winters, with the last Thames 'ice fair' being held in 1814.

In 1815 one of the largest volcanic eruptions of recent times occurred at Tambora in Indonesia. The dust which was hurled into the atmosphere absorbed or reflected a significant proportion of the sun's energy, leading to the 'year with no summer' in 1816, which further restricted supplies of food.

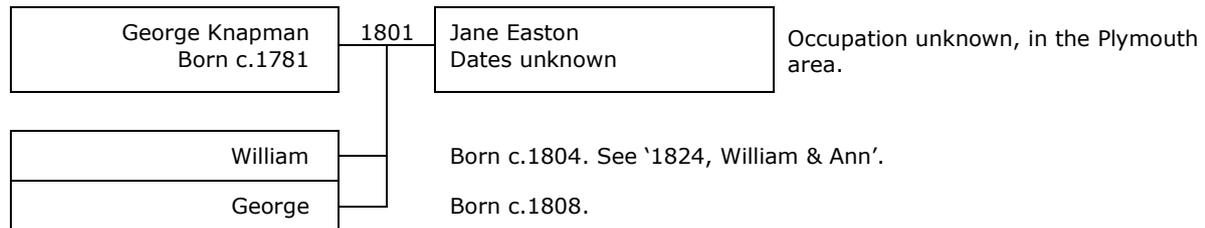
### 1801, George & Jane

George Knapman married Jane Easton at Stoke Damerel on 13 May 1801. I have not worked out where he came from, and the information shown here should be treated with some caution<sup>81</sup>. Their

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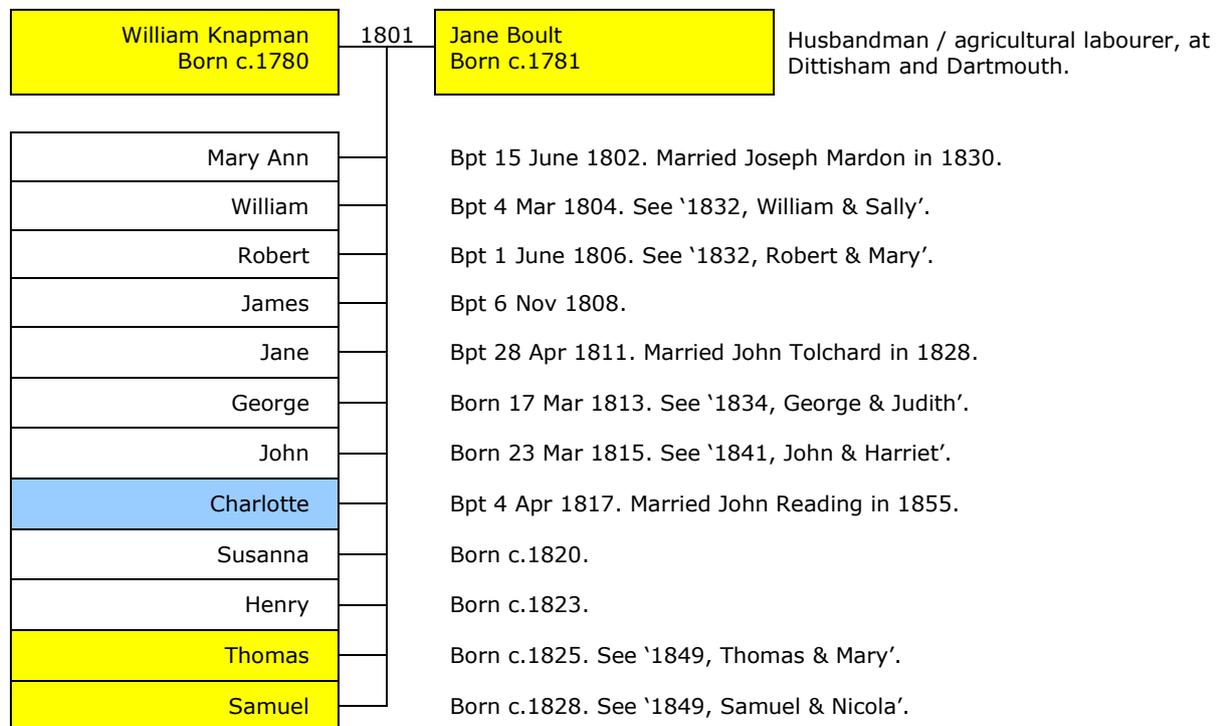
<sup>81</sup> There is an on-line family tree for the Brooks family which agrees, certainly as far as William and George are concerned. It also shows that George and Jane had a daughter called Agnes in c.1810, but I believe that the Agnes referred to is probably Agnes Hutchings Knapman, from Family '1801, William & Nancy', whose 1809 baptismal record names her parents.

probable son William is shown on later documents to have been born in Saltash rather than Plymouth.



### 1801, William & Jane

William Knapman married Jane Boulton at Cornworthy on 11 October 1801. He was from Family '1767, James & Mary'. Mary Ann was baptised at Cornworthy, followed by seven children at Dittisham. On at least two occasions he was described in the Dittisham register as a husbandman. In about 1820 they moved to Dartmouth, where their remaining four children were born. Their family was as follows.



As far as I know George was the only child from this family to be apprenticed, in 1823, aged 10.

At the time of the 1841 census, William and Jane were living in the Townstal area of Dartmouth, and William was described as an agricultural labourer. John and his new wife Harriet (whose name was wrongly transcribed as Hannah on the census return) were living with them, as were Thomas and Samuel, the two youngest children. William, Robert and George, all of whom were married by then, had all settled nearby with their families. The details of the sons' families may not be complete, but they do appear to me to be broadly correct. They had a tendency to spell their surname (or to allow it to be spelled for them by others) as Napman, but there is no doubt that the correct spelling was Knapman.

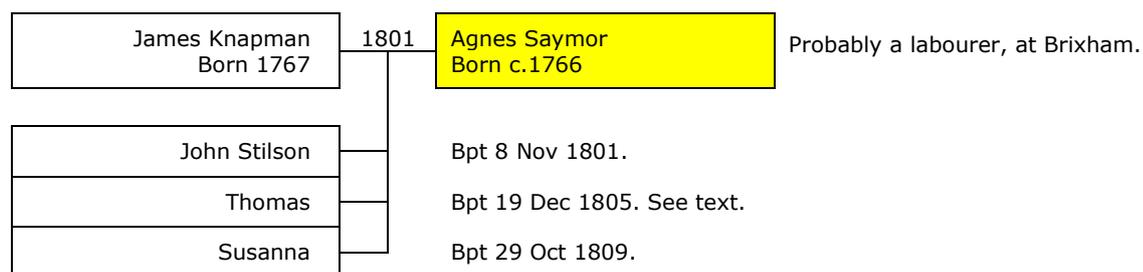
Jane and her husband evidently moved to Holne at one time: that is where their daughter Charlotte Knapman Tolchard was baptised, on 1 May 1836.

By 1851 William, by then widowed, was living with Thomas, a lime burner at Warfleet, Dartmouth, and his wife Mary.

I have not found Charlotte in 1841, but by 1851 she was in Plymouth, working as a servant, and on 6 May 1855 she married John Reading, a white metal worker, at Sheffield Parish Church. They lived in Sheffield, and the 1861 census gives her place of birth as Dartmouth. They do not appear to have had any children.

### 1801, James & Agnes

James Knapman married Agnes Saymor at Brixham on 28 May 1801. I believe that he was probably originally from Family '1767, James & Mary', and that this was his second marriage (his first being '1795, James & Rachael'). The children shown below were baptised at Brixham. John Stilson's middle name may have been Stitson (the parish register is unclear).



By the time of the 1841 census, Agnes was a widow, living alone at Brixham.

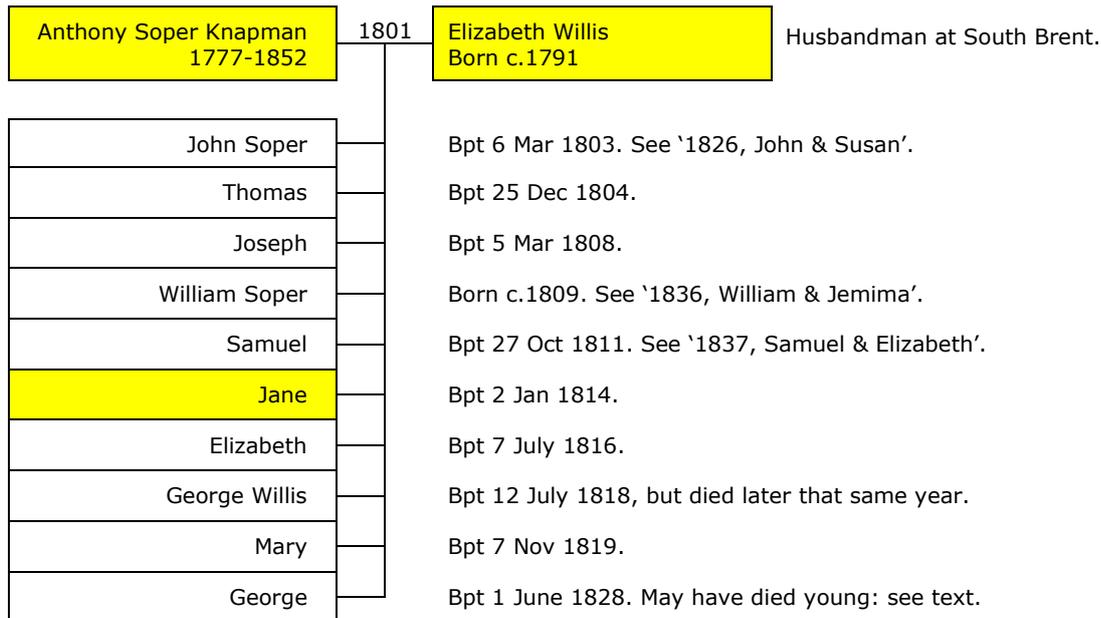
Although the link is by no means proven, it is possible that Thomas became a sailor and settled in Australia. Certainly a sailor of that name was recorded as a crew member on the 'Gulnare' when it sailed from Hobart to Sydney in 12 March 1833<sup>82</sup>.

### 1801, Anthony & Elizabeth

Anthony Soper Knapman, identified as a husbandman, married Elizabeth Willis at Harberton on 24 November 1801. He was the illegitimate son of Susanna Knapman, the only granddaughter that I know of from Family '1721, James & Elizabeth'. This does mean that any Y-DNA testing to establish family links to other Knapmans would not be effective between this branch of the family and other related groups. There were several families of Sopers in and around South Brent at this time, one of whose sons was presumably the father of either Susanna or Anthony Soper. On 3 May 1789, by which time Anthony Soper was 12, his mother married John Gullott of Ugborough. I owe much of this information to the researches of Ray Anstis of Maidenhead, who is descended from this family.

In this family Soper has frequently been given to children as a middle name, and the family was closely associated with South Brent over the period covered by this document. After their first child (John Soper) was baptised at Harbertonford, his siblings' baptisms all took place at South Brent. However, there are parts of the microfiche of the South Brent baptismal register for this period which are illegible, which means that there is doubt about exactly how many children Anthony Soper and Elizabeth had. Nevertheless, although I have not seen clinching evidence I am confident that William Soper was their son. When Jane and Elizabeth were baptised the family was living at Kerswell, after which they moved to Charford and then Brent Mill.

<sup>82</sup> Source: Website of the Archives Office of Tasmania ([portal.archives.tas.gov.au](http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au)). The archive reference number is CUS33/1/2 p12.



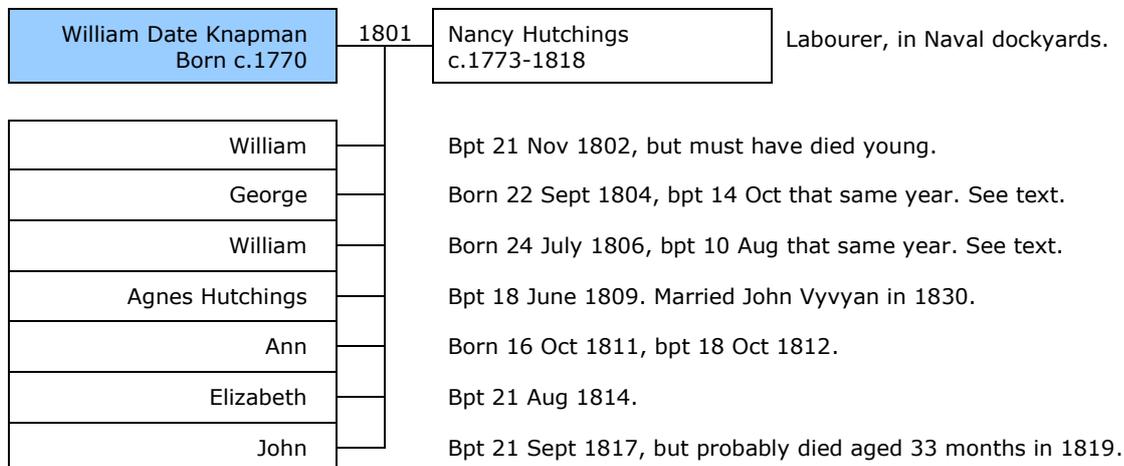
At the time of the 1841 census Anthony Soper and Elizabeth were living at Triland, South Brent with Jane. I have not managed to trace either Thomas, Joseph or George further. In the case of George, there must be a fair chance that he had died by 1841 since he was not at home with his parents.

Anthony Soper was buried at South Brent on 20 May 1852, recorded in the register as Anthony Natman Soper.

There are two unexplained burials in the South Brent parish register which presumably have some link to this family. On 5 December 1848 Mary Ann Knapman was buried, aged about 8, having died in the Totnes Union workhouse. She may well have been an illegitimate granddaughter of Anthony and Elizabeth, but whether she was born before or after the census of 1841 I cannot be sure. Then on 15 February 1882 Elizabeth Knapman was buried with her age given as about 46, which would suggest that she was born in about 1836. I have been unable to link her to any of the subsequent generations, either by birth or marriage, or to find her on the 1881 census, and her identity remains a mystery (to me, at least).

### 1801, William & Nancy

William Date Knapman married Nancy (Ann) Hutchings at Stoke Damerel on 24 December 1801. He was from Family '1763, George & Elizabeth'. All of their children were baptised at Stoke Damerel except Elizabeth, who was baptised at the Morrice Street Wesleyan Chapel, Devonport.

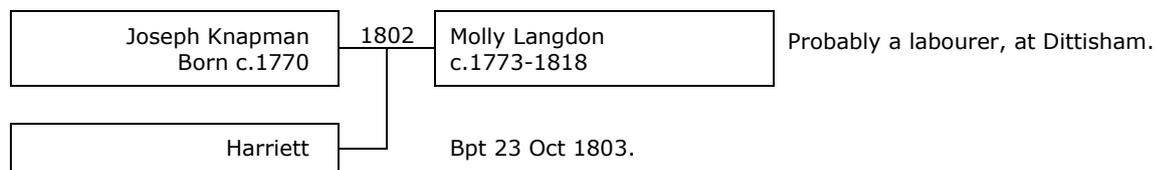


Nancy was probably the person of that name who was buried aged 45 in 1818. Although I have seen no evidence of either of the two Williams on the 1841 census returns, we know that William Date was still alive, because at the time of the 1851 census he was living in Stoke Damerel with his daughter Agnes, her husband John Vyvyan (who she had married in 1830, and who was described as a town crier), and their family. His age was given as c.81, suggesting that he had been born in about 1770.

George may well also have died young. A George Knapman was buried at Stoke Damerel on 20 August 1808, but his age was shown as 2, whereas 'our' George would have been almost 4. However, there were no other Knapmans called George baptised at Stoke Damerel between 1804 and 1808.

### 1802, Joseph & Molly

Joseph Knapman married Molly Langdon at Stoke Gabriel on 17 August 1802. He was from Family '1767, James & Mary'. I have only found evidence for one child of this marriage, as shown below (baptised at Dittisham).

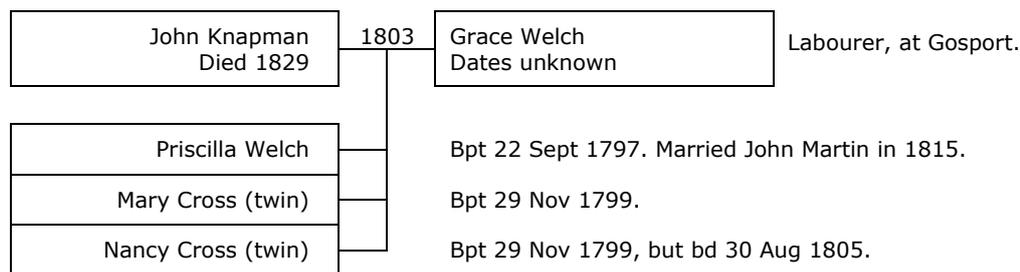


I have not yet been able to trace Joseph or his family further.

### 1803, John & Grace

John Knapman married Grace Welch at St Mary's Portsea on 20 December 1803. He was originally from Family '1753, Robert & Priscilla', and this was his second marriage (his first being covered as '1775, John & Elizabeth').

By the time they were married, John and Grace already had the three children shown below (all baptised at Gosport). It is possible that he had to wait for Elizabeth (or for Grace's first husband) to die first. Whatever the case, the transcript of the parish register, which is available via the Hampshire Genealogical Society, shows that both of them were described as widowed by 1803. The evidence of the three girls' names strongly suggests that John was indeed linked to the Cross family (John's mother's maiden name being Priscilla Cross), and that I have not conflated two unrelated John Knapmans.



The only piece of evidence that does not fit well concerns John's death, which occurred when he was a resident of the Alverstoke poor house. When he was buried on 19 March 1829 his age was given as 63, whereas (if I am right about his origins) he was actually 74.

Nancy Cross was buried at Holy Trinity, Gosport, and Priscilla Welch married John Martin at Alverstoke (the next parish to Gosport) on 26 June 1815.

This family had nothing to do with the Grace Knapman who married Edward Gowland at Alverstoke on 18 February 1797, but may have been connected in some way to the Richard Knapman who was buried at Portsea on 21 June 1807.

## 1803, William & Ann

William Knapman married Ann Knott at South Tawton on 2 May 1803. I have been unable to work out where he came from, but I do not believe that they had any children via whom the Knapman surname was carried forward (though see Family '1793, William & Ann', which could in reality have been two families, with some of the children being from this marriage).

## 1803, William & Ann

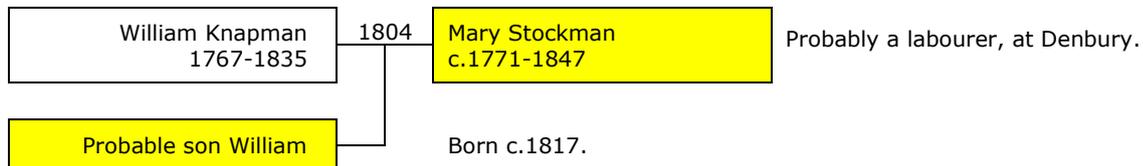
William Knapman married Ann Gill at Stoke Damerel on 30 September 1803. He was a paymaster and purser in the navy, and from Family '1760, John & Hepzibah'. Ann's mother was called Mary.

**William** was recorded on the 1841 census as a retired naval man living on half pay at 25 George Street, Stoke Damerel with **Ann**. There was no evidence of any surviving children when they wrote their wills (see below), both of which are accessible via the National Archives website.

Several newspapers had carried reports in 1840 which confirm that William had been the purser on HMS Rodney, which had sailed from Plymouth some time before, and had been in the eastern Mediterranean when William was invalided. The Morning Post of 25 February 1840 reported that he would shortly take passage from Malta to London. He wrote his will on 12 October 1845, and died on 7 December 1849. Ann was still there in 1851, a 76-year-old widow described as blind, and an annuitant and fundholder. She added a codicil to her will a month after William's death, and although I am uncertain exactly when she died, her will was proved on 22 April 1852. Their wills confirm the lucrative nature of the purser's position in the navy at that time, and show that William had amassed a substantial body of savings (several thousand pounds in all) by the time he retired. Their money was left to siblings, nephews (and in particular John's son Edward) and nieces (including John's daughter Louisa), which is how we can be absolutely sure that William was from Family '1760, John & Hepzibah'.

## 1804, William & Mary

William Knapman married Mary Stockman at Denbury on 3 February 1804. He was from Family '1758, Alexander & Mary'. Other than their very probable son shown below (his estimated year of birth being based on the evidence of the 1841 census, when he was recorded at Shale Farm, Denbury), I have not discovered whether they had other children.



The family headstone in Denbury churchyard shows that William (the father) died on 15 December 1835, but Mary (described as 'independent') was still in Denbury at the time of the 1841 census. She was buried at Denbury on 28 September 1847 with her age given as 76.

## 1804, Richard & Mary

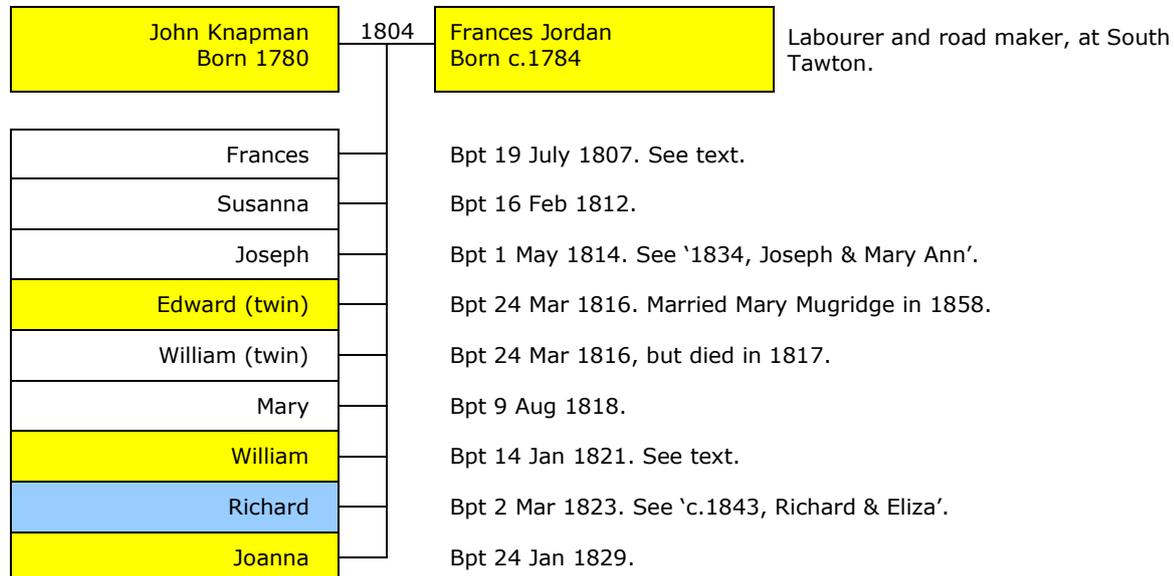
I understand from Brenda Bunkham, who has researched this family, that Richard Knapman married Mary Cator in 1804. This marriage does not appear on the DFHS list, and I do not have further details. He was from Family '1778, Richard & Joan', and so far as I am aware they had no children.

Richard may be the person, described as a labourer, who was accused of riot and assault in 1838<sup>83</sup> after the 'Ashburton riots' (though he would have been almost 60 by then). It appears that he was caught up in an affray linked to a hotly-contested election, and was accused of hitting someone over the head. However, when the case came to trial, the focus was so resolutely on the candidate and his political supporters who were accused of fomenting the riot, that the authorities evidently forgot even to inform Richard that the trial was to take place, and that he should attend. The case was dismissed.

<sup>83</sup> Source: The Western Times of 4 August 1838.

## 1804, John & Frances

John Knapman married Frances Jordan at South Tawton on 1 April 1804. He was from Family '1777, John & Mary', and she was quite probably related to his mother. In 1841 he was described as a 'road maker', but when their children had been baptised, he was simply described as a labourer. His wife was variously named as Frances and Fanny, with no pattern evident.



As noted below, most of their children were apprenticed at various stages, suggesting that the family was in precarious economic circumstances over an extended period of time.

The parish register shows that the family moved about a lot, mainly if not wholly within the parish of South Tawton. Their address was given as follows in the baptismal register: South Tawton itself when Joseph was baptised, Lovaton (Edward and the second William), Longdown (Mary and the third William), South Tawton (Richard) and Ramsley (Joanna). It was also at Ramsley that Frances' illegitimate daughter Ann was born in 1827 (and baptised on 25 March of that year). William Yeo was named as the father at a bastardy hearing. Ann was very probably the person who was working as a servant for the Brock family in Drewsteignton at the time of the 1841 census<sup>84</sup>.

Joseph was apprenticed to Thomas Knapman of Gooseford (see Family '1777, Thomas & Susanna') in about 1823, but actually worked for his son William at North Hill, Chagford until he was 20. We know this because of an account (accessible via the National Archives website) of an examination when he was subsequently injured, and removed from Chagford back to South Tawton, his home parish, after his marriage.

Edward was apprenticed to Thomas Sanderson for West Week in 1825, and Mary to John Baker for Great Itton in 1828. The third William was apprenticed twice, first to John Ocock Lee for Tolley's Ash in 1830 with his age shown as 9, and then in 1832 (with his age shown as 12) to William Rowe of Hittisleigh. He is probably the 16-year-old apprentice of that name who was reported in the Western Times of 4 August 1838 as having run away from John Rowe of Berry Down, Gidleigh, though by 1841 he was back with William Rowe at Hittisleigh, on a farm called Thornberry. Richard was also apprenticed to Thomas Sanderson, for Oxenham, in 1832.

Joanna was the only member of the family still living with her parents at the time of the 1841 census, who by then were living at South Zeal.

I have not managed to find Richard in 1841 or 1851, but he does appear later (see below).

<sup>84</sup> This Ann may also be the person of that name who married Samuel Finch, a wheelwright and engineer from South Tawton, in 1852, though this is by no means sure. Another possible 'candidate' bride for that marriage can be found in Chapter 10, working in Drewsteignton. In later years Samuel's wife gave her name as Mary Ann rather than plain Ann.

Edward evidently survived, because he can be found on the 1851 census living with his widowed mother Fanny in South Zeal (as were other lodgers), described as an agricultural labourer. She was described at that time as a 67-year-old pauper, with her place of birth shown as Bradninch. It seems highly likely that in 1841 Edward had been the agricultural labourer living on his own at Higher Drewston, Chagford. In 1851 Joanna (with her place of birth confirmed as South Zeal) was a servant at East Teignmouth.

Edward married the Cornish-born Mary Chestey Mugridge in Stoke Damerel district in 4Q1858. They can be seen on the 1861 census return<sup>85</sup> living at 43 Key Street, Stoke Damerel, with Edward working as a dock labourer, and with a 10-month-old daughter called Maria, born in Devonport, who I believe may well have died later that same year. At the time when the census was taken, the family was being visited by Eliza Knapman, the wife of Edward's brother Richard (see Family 'c.1843, Richard & Eliza') and her son Richard.

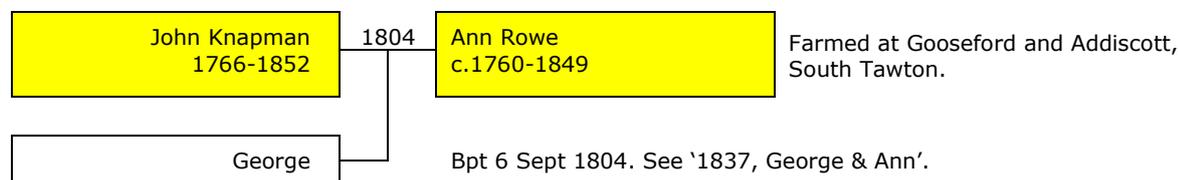
Edward died on 14 June 1880 aged 64 (according to his impressive headstone in the Stoke Damerel burial ground at Milehouse<sup>86</sup>, followed on 14 January 1912 by the 83-year-old Mary Chestey. A niece called Dinah Davey (c.1859 to 1908) shares their headstone, but whose daughter she was is unclear. Mary Chestey's place of birth was given as Helston on the 1861 and 1871 census returns, but Okehampton in 1881 when she was a widowed lodging house keeper at 86 James Street, Stoke Damerel.

### 1804, Richard & Ann

Richard Knapman married Ann Potter at South Tawton on 7 June 1804. I am uncertain where he came from, but reasonably sure that he had no children via whom the Knapman surname was carried forward.

### 1804, John & Ann

John Knapman married Ann Rowe at South Tawton, on 12 July 1804. He was from Family '1766, Edmund & Joan', and this was his second marriage (his first being '1799, John & Jane'). Very soon thereafter their son George was baptised at South Tawton.



John and Ann were living at Addiscott at the time of the 1841 census. Ann died<sup>87</sup> on 12 June 1849, followed by John 3 years later.

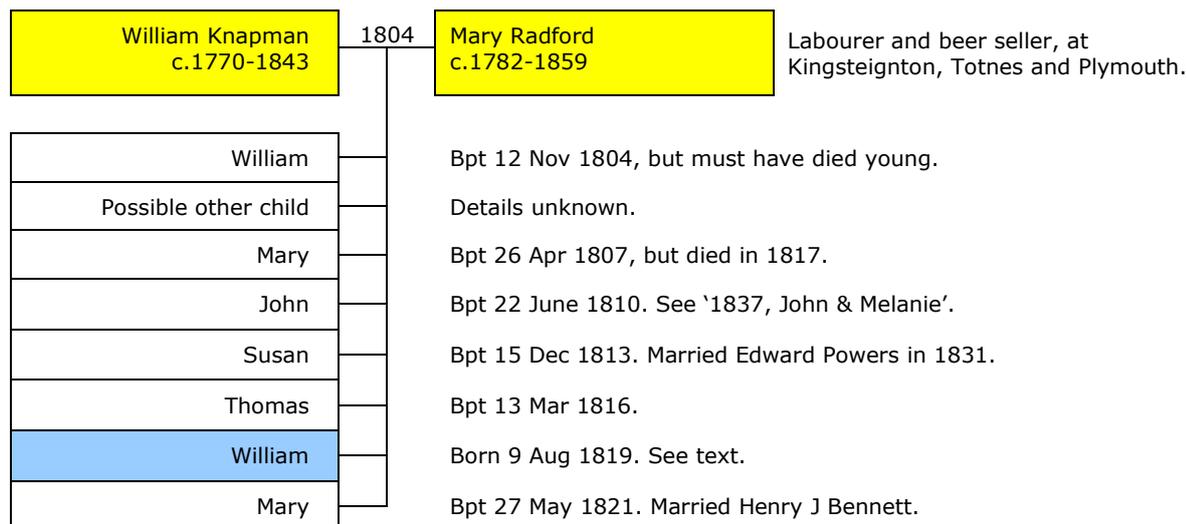
### 1804, William & Mary

William Knapman married Mary Radford by licence at Harberton on 26 October 1804. He was very probably from Family '1758, Alexander & Mary', and she was from Tiverton. William (the son) was baptised at Harberton and Mary (the daughter) at Kingsteignton. The other children were all born at Totnes.

<sup>85</sup> The 1861 census return gives Edward's place of birth as Southampton, which I can only interpret as a mis-rendering of South Tawton, because there is virtually no chance that Southampton is correct.

<sup>86</sup> This can be viewed via the [plymouth.gov.uk/archivescatalogue](http://plymouth.gov.uk/archivescatalogue) website by putting 'Knapman' into the search box.

<sup>87</sup> I owe this information to Barbara Shapland, who has a copy of the death certificate which gives the cause as 'paralyses', and gives Ann's age as 89. John and George were both present at the time.



A significant element of what we know about this family, including the fact that there were four children born before Susan, comes from an undated deposition made in about 1837<sup>88</sup>. It tells us that Mary had married William, and that at that time they were living apart. She was in Exeter (St Mary Major), and although she confirmed that William was not with her, she stated that she believed he was alive. She also confirmed that they had eight children, including Susan (the main focus of the deposition), born in Totnes. I believe their family was either as shown above, or very close to it.

The desposition states that about 14 years earlier (i.e. in about 1823) William had "... *rented a house in Half Moon Street for £24 a year, he was licensed to sell beer and cider for 4 or 5 years, Susan lived there for 3 years before her marriage to Edward Powers, an Irishman, at Christmas 1831<sup>89</sup>, she has 4 grandchildren, William 7, Edward 5, Mary Jane 4 and George 2, William and Edward were born in Totnes, the others in Plymouth. ... About 7 or 8 months after the marriage she took a dwelling house for them from Mr Coombe (and) Powers lived there for 3 years as a baker, (but) he was not a good manager and she (i.e. Mary) moved in with them ...*". She (Mary) then says that "... *in 1835 she went to Plymouth, leaving her husband in Totnes, and looked after the 2 older children, (while) Susan travelled the country with her husband now a hawker. ... After 6 months she (i.e. Susan) returned to her mother and Mary Jane was born, Susan rented a room in Russel Street, her husband returned and they lived together for 2 years, Edward travelling from time to time. ... He then took the Painters Arms in Rack Street for 3 months, (and) during this time Mary lived in rooms in Plymouth and William in Totnes. ... (Then) 1 year ago she left Plymouth and with Susan and Edward came to Exeter, renting rooms by the week until Susan and Edward deserted their children. ... She applied for relief from St Mary Major, and the children were sent to the work house*".

Pigot & Co's 1830 directory (available via the genuki website) shows that William was indeed a shopkeeper on Kingsbridge Inn Street, Totnes in 1830, and he appears to have died in the Totnes workhouse, being buried on 28 December 1843 with his age given as 73. However I have found no trace of him there at the time of the 1841 census, and I believe that he was very probably the William Knapman who can be seen living on his own and supporting himself as a labourer in the Pembrokeshire parish of St Mary, with his year of birth estimated as c.1771. Mary (the mother) appears to have been living alone, and supporting herself as a nurse, at the time of the 1841 census, in the Exeter parish of St Mary Major.

Mary (the daughter) was a dressmaker, and married a ropemaker from Cullompton called Henry J Bennett. Their marriage may have taken place in Exeter district in 4Q1849 with Mary's name mis-transcribed, but this is far from certain. At the time of the 1851 census Henry and Mary, and their 1-month-old son Henry J, were living in the Exeter parish of St Mary Major with her mother (also Mary) and one of Susan's children. Mary (the mother) was by then confirmed as widowed, and supporting herself as a grocer on Preston Street.

<sup>88</sup> DHC Ref 1579A-0/24/40/19.

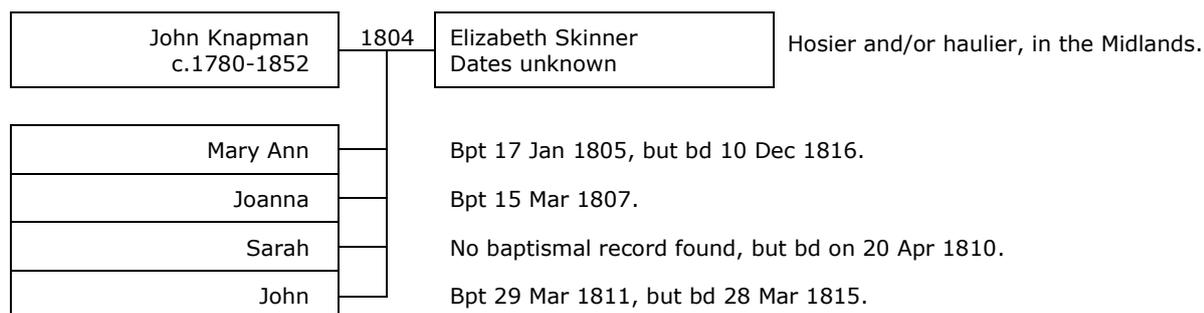
<sup>89</sup> The marriage took place at Totnes on 1 December 1831.

Mary (the mother) was very probably the person of that name described in the Western Times of 23 September 1854 as a cider seller of Preston Street, who had recently been charged with keeping open too late. The report indicates that she had been in charge of the shop for 26 years (i.e. since c.1828), and states that she had never had problems before, and that she had honestly thought she was allowed to stay open until midnight, whereas a recent change in the law had in fact changed that. A witness characterised the house as 'well kept', and there is some indication that part of the purpose of the prosecution was to clarify the law. No fine was levied, she was simply given a warning. A further report in the Western Times of 2 June 1859 stated that Mary Knapman, a widow of 77 and a cider house keeper on Preston Street, had been found dead in her bed by her lodger, Mary Payne. The death was attributed to natural causes.

It is possible, but certainly not proven, that William and Mary's son William became a sailor, because a seaman called William Knapman, who had just arrived on the John Boulton from Liverpool, died of fever in a quarantine hospital in Montreal, Canada on 6 August 1846. His age was given as 25 rather than 27, but this William is probably the strongest 'candidate' for that death, and he was not picked up by the 1841 census, which would be consistent with his being away at sea at that time.

### 1804, John & Elizabeth

John Knapman married Elizabeth Skinner at Warmington in Warwickshire (about 5 miles north west of Banbury) on 11 November 1804. He was quite probably<sup>90</sup> from Family '1777, Thomas & Susanna', and they had four children as shown below. Mary Ann and Joanna were baptised at Warmington, and Mary Ann was buried at Bromsgrove, as was Sarah. John was both baptised and buried at Bromsgrove.



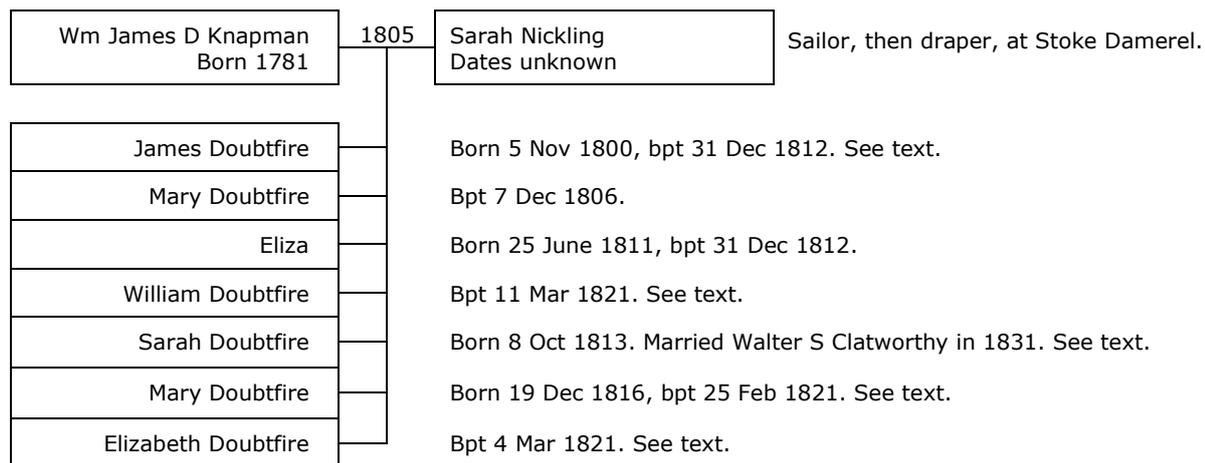
Elizabeth must have died soon after John's birth, because John was re-married relatively soon thereafter (see '1814, John & Ann').

### 1805, William & Sarah

William James Doubtfire Knapman married Sarah Nickling at Stoke Damerel on 1 January 1805, having been baptised there on 17 November 1804 at the age of 23. I believe that he was from Family '1794, James & Mary', though his baptismal record names his father as William Knapman rather than James Doubtfire. He was a sailor and then a draper.

The story of his origins are complex (see above), and although his wider family left no trace under the name Knapman at the time of the 1841 census, they were present in Stoke Damerel both before and after the census of that year. They have also left a substantial trail in the National Archives due to their taste for litigation.

<sup>90</sup> A John Knapman was buried at Chagford on 4 April 1803 and this could also have been this John. However, in either event he does not appear to have had surviving children who carried the Knapman surname forward.



Their eldest son James Doubtfire's date of birth (5 November 1800) can be seen on the record of his baptism (which took place at Stoke Damerel on 31 December 1812)<sup>91</sup>, and shows that although he was apparently illegitimate when he was born, he was baptised as a Knapman, reflecting his parents' status when he was baptised.

The four youngest children were all baptised on different dates in 1821.

William Doubtfire was baptised at Plymouth St Andrew on 11 March 1821. His year of birth can be estimated as about 1809, based on the evidence of later census returns, but in reality he was probably born after Eliza. Sarah Doubtfire, who was born in 1813, was baptised at the same place and time as William.

Mary Doubtfire, who was born in 1816, was also baptised at Plymouth St Andrew, but 2 weeks before William Doubtfire and Sarah Doubtfire. The youngest child, Elizabeth Doubtfire, was baptised on the intervening week, also at St Andrew. Neither William James Doubtfire nor Sarah appear on the 1841 census.

The lawsuits for which evidence can be seen on the National Archives website (over the period 1835 to 1837) were between William Doubtfire alias Knapman on one side (presumably the son of the draper and ex-sailor), and John Edward Elworthy, John Knapman<sup>92</sup>, James Doubtfire (or Knapman) and Walter Seymour Clatworthy (the defendants apparently including at least one brother-in-law). The absence from the 1841 census of William Doubtfire Knapman (the litigant) may be because a William Doubtfire was tried in Devon and sent to prison on 5 April 1841. I have not investigated this further, but assume that the lawsuits and this unfortunate conviction were concerned with inheritances. In 1851 he was living in Stoke Damerel under the surname Doubtfire, with his age shown as c.42, and with a wife called Jane who had been born at Anthony, Cornwall in c.1821.

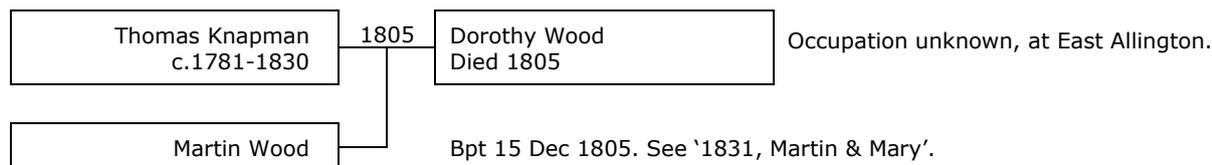
In any event, it is not clear that anyone from this family carried the Knapman surname forward into later generations.

### 1805, Thomas & Dorothy

Thomas Knapman married Dorothy Wood at East Allington on 29 January 1805. I think he was probably from Family '1778, Thomas & Mary'. Unfortunately Dorothy died within the year, almost certainly as a consequence of complications related to the birth of her only son, and was buried in the parish of Charleton (a short distance to the south west) on 31 December 1805. Martin Wood was baptised at East Allington.

<sup>91</sup> Hugh Wallis, the on-line parish clerk for Stoke Damerel, reports that there was an extraordinary rush of baptisms late in 1812 (literally hundreds in the period between Christmas and New Year) prompted by rumours that baptisms were to become obligatory, and that fees were going to rise. Errors were made as a consequence.

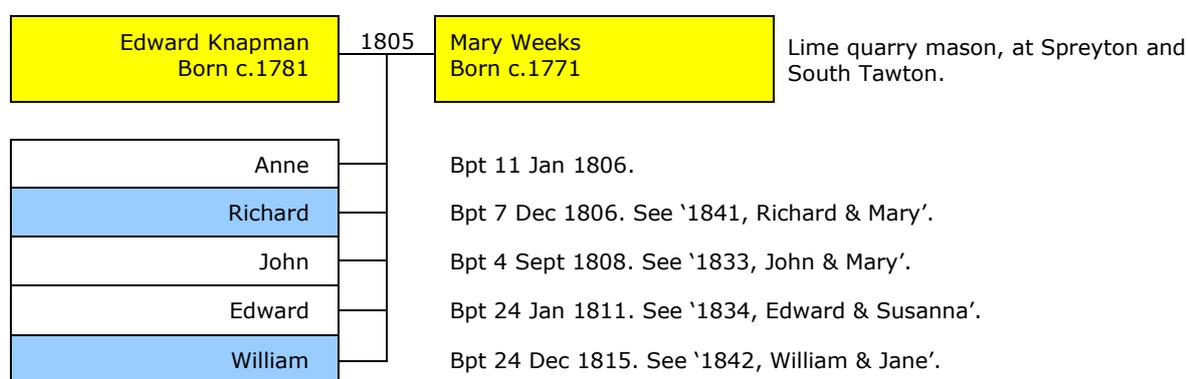
<sup>92</sup> I suspect, but certainly cannot prove, that this John Knapman was his great uncle: see Family '1794, James & Mary' for further information, and speculation.



Thomas' very probable second marriage is covered below under '1810, Thomas & Joan'.

### 1805, Edward & Mary

Edward Knapman married Mary Weeks at Spreyton on 10 October 1805. He was from Family '1777, John & Mary'. It was at Spreyton that their first child was baptised. Although it may seem unlikely (based on geography and dates), I am confident (based on multiple pieces of evidence set out below) that they were also the parents of Richard, who was baptised at Dartmouth St Clement. Their other children were baptised in South Tawton, as shown below.



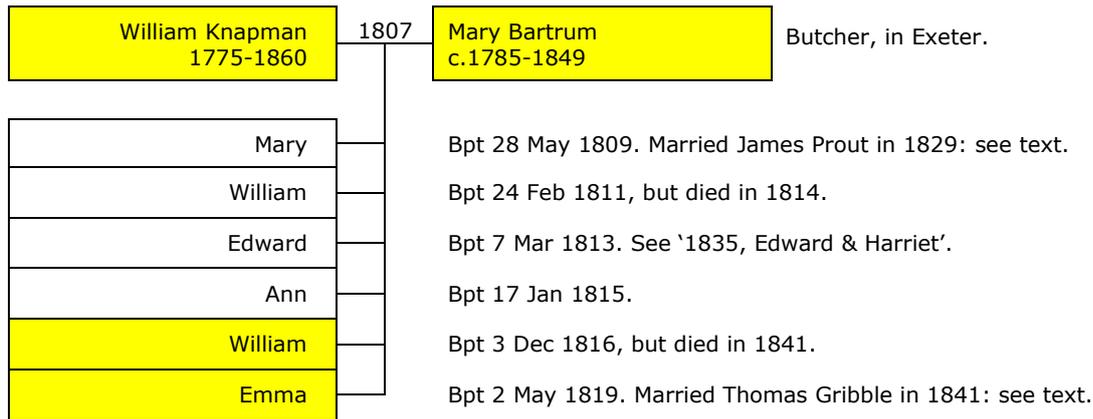
At the time of the 1841 census Edward and Mary were living at South Zeal, where Edward was recorded as a lime quarry mason (which I take to mean limestone quarry mason), with a child called Richard, who I believe to have been their grandson (though, since family relationships are not given on the 1841 census returns, this is inevitably a bit speculative. Nevertheless, on balance, I think that there is a better than even chance that the following details are essentially correct, even if they are not complete).

Mary had died before the 1851 census, at which point Edward (described as a widower and former agricultural labourer) was lodging with his youngest son William (also an agricultural labourer) at Little Allison in South Tawton, close to the parish boundary with Spreyton. William's marriage is covered later, as are those of his older brothers.

### 1807, William & Mary

William Knapman married Mary Bartrum in the Exeter parish of St Mary Arches on 6 June 1807. He was originally from Family '1767, Arthur & Mary', and this was his second marriage (his first being '1798, William & Ann', to Mary's sister).

William was a butcher in Exeter, and all of their children were baptised in the parish of Exeter St Olave (and it is possible that in addition to the six shown below there may have been two others: John born c.1814 but buried on 8 April 1815 in St Olave, and Andrew born c.1817 but buried on 7 April 1819 also in St Olave). White's directory for 1850 gives the address of his shop as Smythen Street.



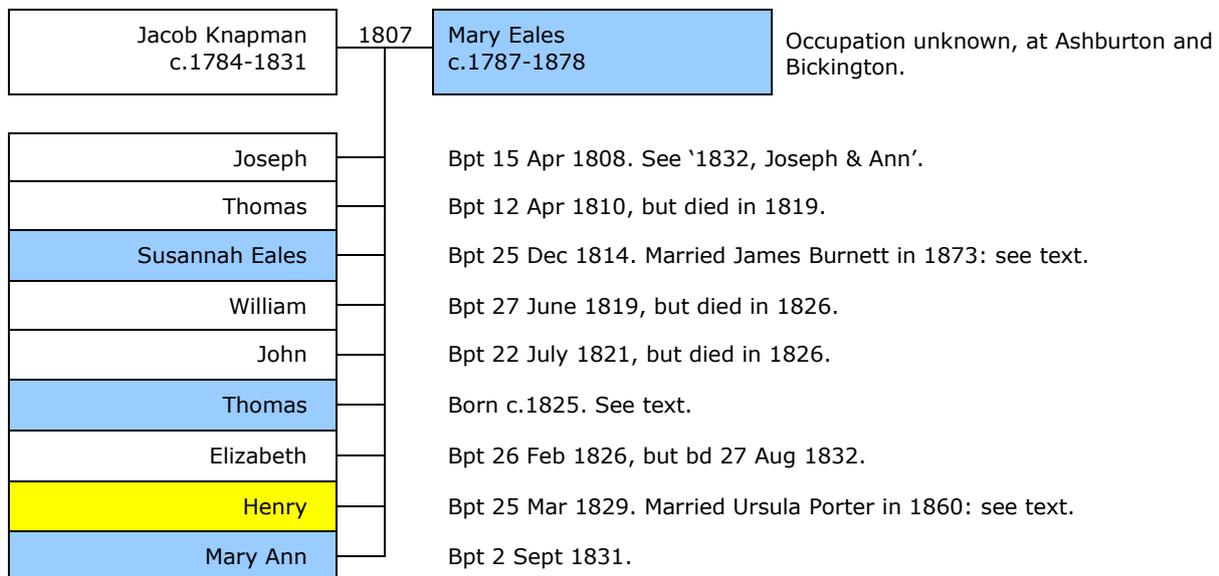
Mary's marriage to James Prout was reported in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 11 July 1829, having taken place on either 2 or 9 July of that year at St George's, Exeter. Unfortunately her death, in London on 5 April 1830, after a short illness, was recorded by the same paper in its edition of 10 April of that year.

I have been unable to trace Ann further, and she was not living with her parents at the time of the 1841 census. By 1841 William (the son) and Emma had both moved to Surrey (now south London). After William's early death, Emma married Thomas Dennis Gribble on 19 December 1841, but he died, and she married a tailor called Francis Gribble, probably his brother. They had a family in Bristol. Only Edward had a family via whom the Knapman surname could be carried forward.

I am greatly obliged to John Lauper, William's descendant, for sharing with me the fruits of his extensive research into this branch of the Knapman family.

### 1807, Jacob & Mary

Jacob Knapman married Mary Eales at Ashburton on 14 June 1807. He was from Family '1771, Thomas & Grace'. They had the children shown below, all of whom (with the exception of the second Thomas) were baptised at the Ashburton Wesleyan Chapel, according to the IGI.



Jacob died in 1831, and was buried at Bickington on 12 June 1831, probably just before Mary gave birth to their youngest daughter. Their sons Thomas, William and John were also buried at Bickington, whereas Elizabeth was buried at Ashburton.

I have not found Mary (the mother, by then widowed) at the time of the 1841 census, but in 1851 she was at North Street, Ashburton recorded as an 'almsperson, serge weaver', with Thomas

(‘preparatory schoolmaster’) and Mary Ann (‘serge weaver’). The only members of this family who I have found in 1841 are Joseph (see below) and (probably) Henry, who is a strong candidate to have been the person of that name working on a farm at Widecombe-in-the-Moor. Susannah can be seen consistently from 1851 onwards working as a cook in Exeter, and I am confident that she was not the person recorded as Susan Knopman who was working in Ashburton as a servant in 1841<sup>93</sup>. In 1873, when she was nearly 60, Susannah married James Burnett in Exeter, but he had died by the time of the 1881 census, at which time Susannah was staying with her brother Henry (see below). She was still living with him in 1891, at Ermington.

A report in the Western Times of 19 August 1854 describes Thomas Knapman of North Bovey as a candidate for election as schoolmaster (presumably at North Bovey). A week later the same paper reported his election, by 26 votes to 10, describing him both as “... a wooden-legged man”, and as having succeeded against “... the parsonage’s preferred candidate”. It also states that he had previously served as a schoolmaster in the Tavistock Union. The Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 13 October 1855 reported the burial of Thomas, at Ashburton 3 days earlier.

Henry joined the Indian Army, and a report in the Western Times of 19 January 1861 stated that on 23 November 1860 he, described as a barrack sergeant, had married Ursula Porter (born c.1835, the daughter of Joseph Porter) in Bombay. They had a family while living out there<sup>94</sup>, including Amy (born c.1863) and Henry T (c.1865), but Ursula evidently died, because in 4Q1869 Henry was re-married to Sarah Jane Knowling, in Exeter district. At the time of the 1871 census they were living in Exeter, and Henry’s mother, by then well into her 80s, was living with them. By 1881 his widowed sister Susannah had come to live with him at 9 Park Street, Stoke Damerel.

The only child from this marriage whose family is traced below is Joseph. In 1830, prior to his marriage, the genuki website shows that he (or someone else called Joseph Knapman) was arrested on suspicion that he was responsible for a case of bastardy at Ilsington. The outcome of the case is not reported. Later he moved to Bedminster on the outskirts of Bristol, where he was a policeman, and where he was apparently married twice.

## 1807, Edmund & Philippa

Edmund Knapman married Philippa Samson at Throwleigh, on 11 July 1807. He was originally from Family ‘1722, Edmund & Elizabeth’, and this was his second marriage (the first being ‘1766, Edmund & Joan’).

Edmund was 67 at the time of this marriage, and Philippa was a widow, who was still young enough to bear him two more children, as shown below, both of whom were baptised at Throwleigh. I believe that she had some connections to Gidleigh, where Edmund either was farming at the time of their marriage, or had previously farmed.



Philippa died in 1829, but the name recorded at what I believe to be her burial is either wrongly transcribed in the DFHS list as Phillis, or was wrongly entered in the original register. By 1831 Edmund had moved back to Gooseford, based on the evidence of various legal settlements described in the 1905 ‘Transactions of the Devonshire Association’, accessible in the DHC.

<sup>93</sup> I am confident that that Susan (shown as having been born in c.1816) had not been born at Ashburton, though on 10 November 1841 she married Nicholas Butland Boynes there. The 1851 census shows them living at Stanford Dingley in Berkshire with him described as a ‘journeyman farmer’ and her place of birth given as South Zeal. A decade later she was described as married (but without Nicholas present) and working as a charwoman at Stanford Dingley mill. She died in 1869. Despite the South Zeal connection I have not been able to link her to her family of origin.

<sup>94</sup> As well as the evidence of children from later census returns, births of unnamed daughters were reported in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 18 October 1861 and the Exeter Flying Post of 1 April 1863. The second of these was presumably Amy.

A lawsuit reported in the Exeter Flying Post of 31 July 1861 tells us a lot about Edmund (the son). Although the report consistently named him as Edward, there is no doubt that the person being described was Edmund.

The case was brought by Mary Pethybridge against Dennis Knapman (Edmund's brother), and concerned the question of whether or not Edmund's will, which had been written on 30 May 1858, was valid. She asserted that he had been 'of sound mind' on that date; Dennis disagreed. The report of the proceedings shows that Mary Pethybridge was a widow, whose mother (Mrs Quick) had many years previously rented a malthouse to Edmund, and that Edmund had lodged with Mrs Quick until her death. Mrs Pethybridge claimed that he then lodged with her for about 30 years. This is at least partly confirmed by the evidence of the 1841 census, which shows Edmund (unmarried, and recorded as a maltster), living in South Tawton, but apparently with another member of the Sampson family rather than with Mrs Pethybridge.

It was stated in evidence that under the will of Edmund (the father), Dennis had inherited Gooseford and some personal property, while Edmund got a farm called Ash (or, more probably, West Aish), generating a rental value of about £28 a year. The census shows that in 1851 Edmund was still lodging in South Zeal, shown as a 'landed proprietor', which is again consistent with the evidence presented in court.

In 1857 Edmund had apparently travelled to the US, where he spent about 6 months. Soon after his return Mrs Pethybridge stated that he moved back to live with her. However, his health started to give way, and he began to suffer from epileptic fits. In March 1858 he wrote his will. (Although not stated in the Exeter Flying Post report, we know from a separate report in the Western Times of 2 July 1859 that an inquiry had been held into Edmund's state of mind, with a 'Commission of Lunacy' having met at the London Inn. Edmund's answers to the questions put to him were described in the report as having been 'incoherent', and the hearing was adjourned. He died in early 1861.)

Finally, it was stated in evidence (in the 1861 case) that Dennis and Edmund had not got on particularly well, but that Edmund was very fond of Mrs Pethybridge, who he was said to have felt "... had looked after him like a mother". It was also acknowledged in court that Edmund had spent some time in lunatic asylums (presumably in connection with his epilepsy and the 1859 hearing reported above). The jury found in Mrs Pethybridge's favour, and she appears to have inherited the right to the rental income from West Aish.

### 1807, James & Sally

James Knapman married Sally Hawker at Buckfastleigh on 22 July 1807. I do not know where James came from, but they probably had the children shown below, with Jane baptised at Modbury and William at Ashburton, at which time James was described as a husbandman.



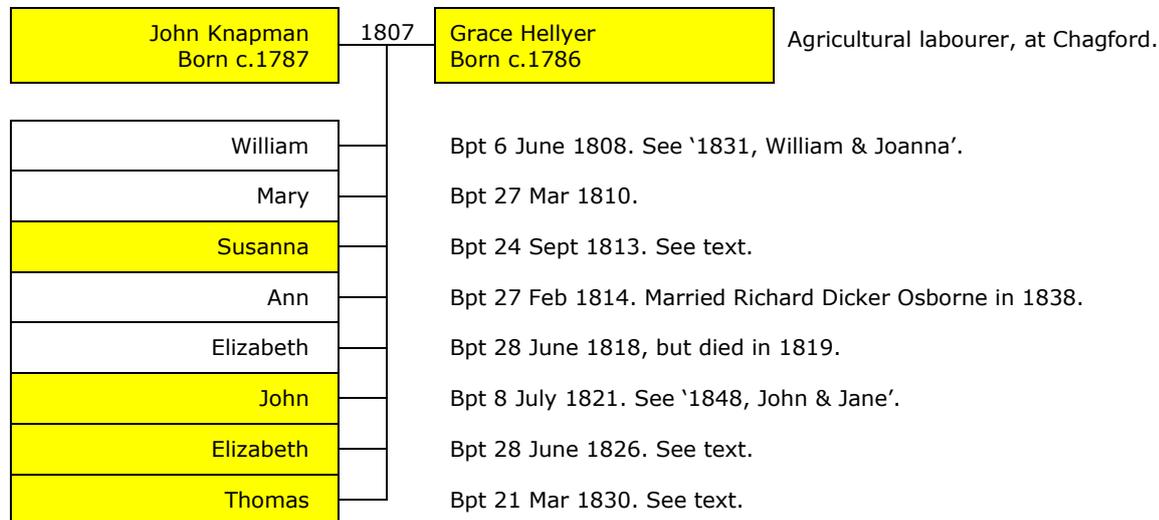
I believe that their son William is the person who, according to contemporary press reports<sup>95</sup>, was tried as William Hawker 'als Knapman' on charges of 'burlary and larceny from the person' at Exeter Sessions on 5 January 1835, with his age given as about 18. He was found guilty and sentenced to death, though this was subsequently commuted to transportation for life. The harshness of the sentence may be partly explained by two other trials, both in 1834, when a William Knapman, aged about 18, was tried for larceny. On one of those occasions he was given a sentence of 2 months in prison; the other case does not appear to have been resolved. A William Knapman was also sent for trial twice for larceny in 1822, but without his age being stated.

I believe that he was transported to Australia under the surname Hawker, which is why his name is not highlighted blue.

<sup>95</sup> See the England & Wales Criminal Registers, 1791-1892 accessible via [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk).

## 1807, John & Grace

John Knapman married Grace Hellyer at Chagford on 17 September 1807. I do not (yet) know where he came from. Their probable family, with all of the children being baptised at Chagford, was as follows.



At the time of the 1841 census John and Grace were living in the town of Chagford, with Susan(na), with her described as a serge weaver. By the time of the 1851 census John had died, and Grace, described as a widow and a pauper, was lodging on New Street, Chagford with Susanna, also a pauper.

Details on the probable marriage of William, their eldest son, are given below, but I have not traced Mary further, and it seems unlikely that Susanna married.

John (the son) was apprenticed in 1830 to John Hooper for Thornworthy, and was probably the apprentice living at Lower Middlecott at the time of the 1841 census. I have seen no apprenticeship notice for the second Elizabeth, but in 1841 she was probably one of the three Elizabeth Knapmans of very much the same age who can be found locally. Two of these sightings are in Chagford (Easton Lodge, working as a servant and Botworthy working as an apprentice) and the other in Christow (Kennick, working as an apprentice). One of these is highly likely to be this Elizabeth, with the other two probably coming from Families '1814, George & Agnes' and '1819, James & Mary'. Thomas was apparently working at Way Barton, a large farm to the south west of the town, as a farm servant.

I have 'allocated' a marriage to John (the son), which I believe to be correct, but could more properly belong to another John.

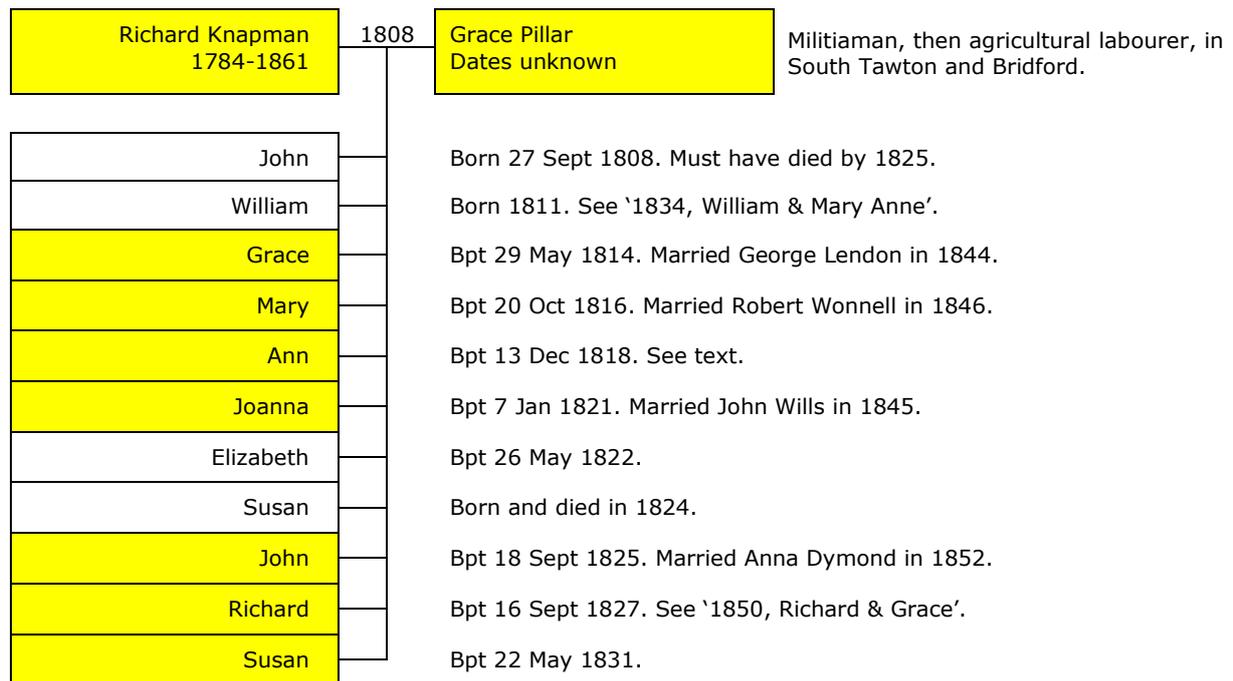
Thomas was working for John Coniam at Way Barton (a large farm on the edge of the moor) at the time of the 1841 census, and was probably a servant at Drew in Chagford at the time of the 1851 census. I believe that he was still single and working in Bermondsey, south London as a wharf labourer at the time of the 1861 census, but I have not been able to find him thereafter.

## 1808, Richard & Grace

Richard Knapman married Grace Pillar on 10 January 1808 at South Tawton. He was from Family '1777, John & Mary'. After his marriage he evidently served in the South Devon Militia, which involved some moving around, including spells at (or near) Ottery St Mary, where John was baptised, and at Chatham, Kent during 1810-11, where William was born. They then moved to Yorkshire before returning to Devon (including a posting at Dartmoor Prison and then Plymouth in 1813-14, where Grace was baptised).

Around 1815 they settled back in South Tawton parish, where their next four children were baptised. Richard worked as an agricultural labourer at South Zeal and Doddiscombe Leigh. By

1824 (when their eighth child, Susan, was born) he and Grace had moved to Barton Cottage, Bridford.



Although only Ann and Susan were living at home with Richard and Grace at the time of the 1841 census, there was another child called **Susan**, born c.1837 living with them, who I have not identified, but who must have been related. I have not been able to find her in 1851. Richard (the father) was buried at Bridford on 10 April 1861.

The only member of this family who was married with his own family (and living locally) by 1841 was William (see '1834, William & Mary Anne'). Grace and Mary were both apparently working as servants in the nearby parish of Holcombe Burnell, and Joanna was an apprentice on another farm in Bridford. I have not managed to find Elizabeth in 1841. John was an apprentice at Stone Farm<sup>96</sup>, Bridford, while Richard (the son) was a labourer at Bridford Barton.

Ann was very probably the Ann Knapman who was admitted to the West of England Eye Infirmary on 19 October 1841, and discharged the following January<sup>97</sup>. She was also probably the mother of an illegitimate child who was the subject of an Affiliation Order in May 1849, naming William Webber, a blacksmith from Cheriton Bishop, as the father<sup>98</sup>.

At the time of the 1851 census the only family members living at home with Richard and Grace were Ann, a dressmaker, and a 2-year-old granddaughter called Susan Grace (who I am assuming was Ann's daughter). In 1851 their three youngest children were all in Bridford: John and Susan were both working as farm servants, and Richard had only very recently got married to Grace Satherley.

John almost certainly married Anna Dymond in St Thomas district in 3Q1852. They had at least four children: Emma Jane (born c.1857), Henry Alfred (c.1859), Louisa (c.1862) and George (c.1864). Although I cannot be certain that it was the same person, a John Knapman who farmed at Stone Farm, Bridford (where John had been apprenticed: see above), left a will which was proved by his widow Anna. He had died on 11 November 1871.

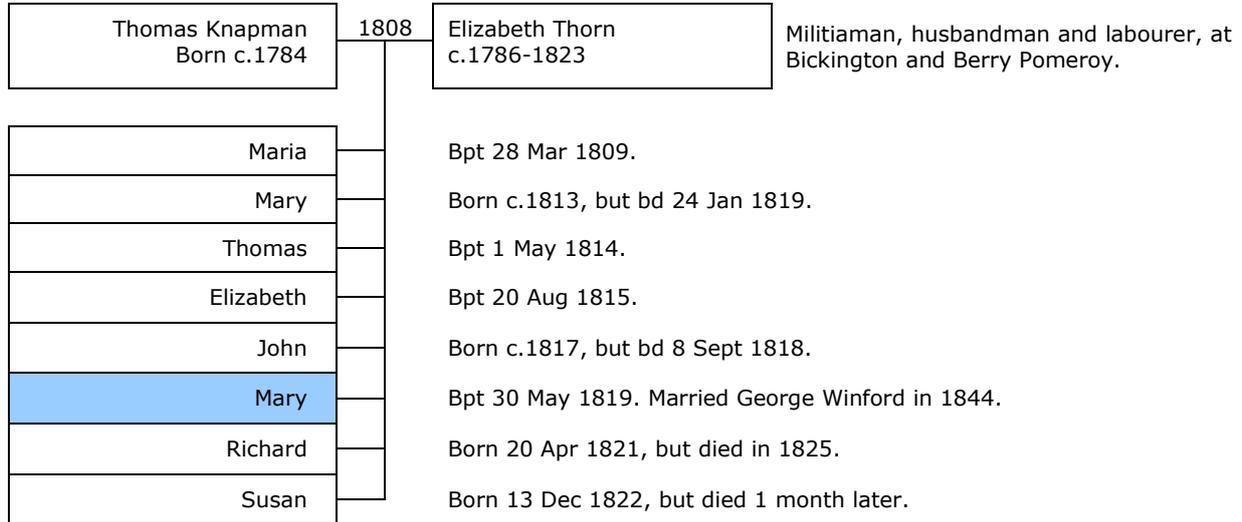
<sup>96</sup>

<sup>97</sup> DHC Ref 1299 add/HR1.

<sup>98</sup> DHC Ref QS16/6/5.

## 1808, Thomas & Elizabeth

Thomas Knapman married Elizabeth Thorn at Highweek on 26 May 1808. He was from Family '1778, Richard & Joan'. When their son Thomas was baptised his father was described as a militiaman<sup>99</sup>; and Maria's place of baptism (Ottery St Mary) was also a place where militiamen were known to serve. Mary and the next three children were all baptised at Bickington, and when Elizabeth was baptised Thomas was described as a husbandman living at Chipley in Ilsington parish. The last three children were baptised at Berry Pomeroy, and when Mary was baptised Thomas was described simply as a labourer.



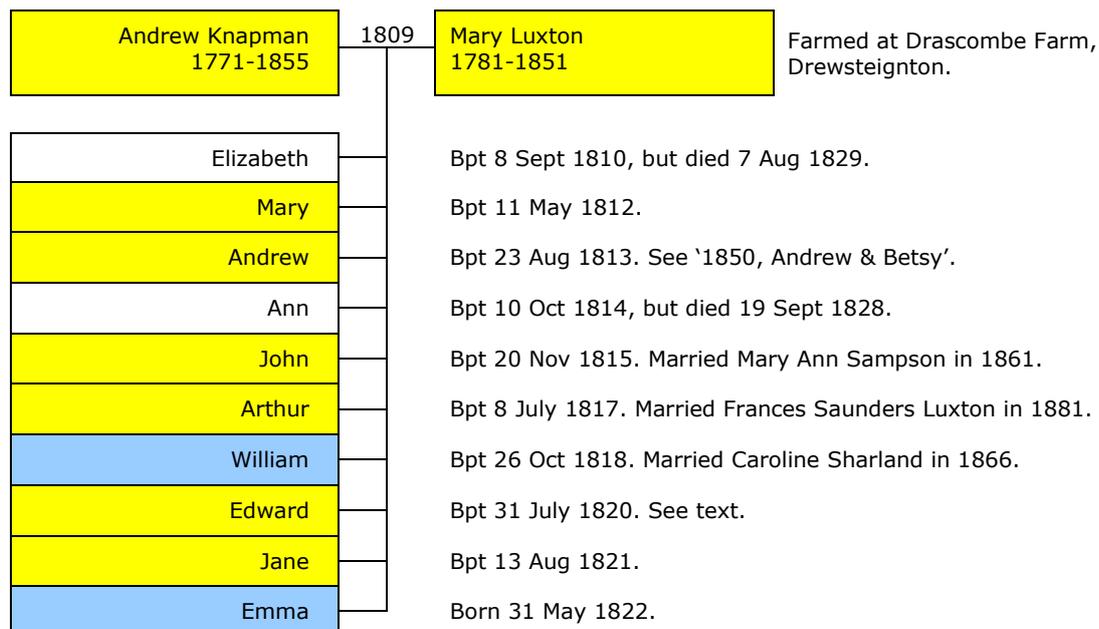
Unfortunately Elizabeth died aged just 37, and was buried at Berry Pomeroy on 30 May 1823. Thomas was then re-married (see '1825, Thomas & Mary').

Mary may well have been living in London by 1841, because on 23 June 1844 at the church of St John the Evangelist on Mitre Street, Lambeth, she married George Winford, a coal porter (son of another coal porter, also called George, with whom they went to live). By 1861 she was a launderess, and her half-brother Charles George (see below) was staying with them. After George's death she was re-married on 7 June 1863 at St Pancras chapel to a labourer called Henry Crew, who may have been related to her step mother, and in 1871 they were both working in a laundry, with two Knapman nieces from Devon (Eliza H and Emily A) staying with them.

## 1809, Andrew & Mary

Andrew Knapman married Mary Luxton at Coldridge on 13 November 1809. He was from Family '1767, Arthur & Mary', and they had ten children, all of whom were baptised at Drewsteignton.

<sup>99</sup> See Family WT24 for an indication of where they served at this time.



In both 1841 and 1851 the family was at Drascombe Farm. Mary died on 28 April 1851, aged 69, after a short illness<sup>100</sup>, and Andrew on 20 May 1855.

The North Devon Journal of 2 October 1828 carried the sad news that Ann had been killed by a kick to the head from a donkey which she had ridden home from school, but which had been startled as she was dismounting, dragging her along the ground behind it.

Only three members of this family (Andrew, John and William) married and had families, and Andrew's 1850 marriage is covered below.

John married his somewhat younger cousin, Mary Ann Sampson (the daughter of Caleb Sampson and his wife Mary née Knapman), at South Tawton on 21 March 1861. He farmed at Endicott, South Tawton, then at South Brent for a time, before moving back to Thorn, South Tawton, where he lived until his death in 1883. Their children were John (born 13 May 1862), William Arthur (bpt 23 June 1868 at South Brent) and Mary Jane (bpt 7 October 1870 at South Brent). The Knapman surname has survived into the 21<sup>st</sup> century via this family.

William was a draper who lived in various places including Okehampton, South Brent and Wellington, Somerset. He married Caroline Sharland at Christ Church, Watney Street (off Cable Street, in the heart of the East End of London) on 4 September 1866. They had two children: Louise Jane (born 1867) and Arthur (1871). Although Arthur in turn had two sons, I do not believe that they married or had children via whom the surname survived.

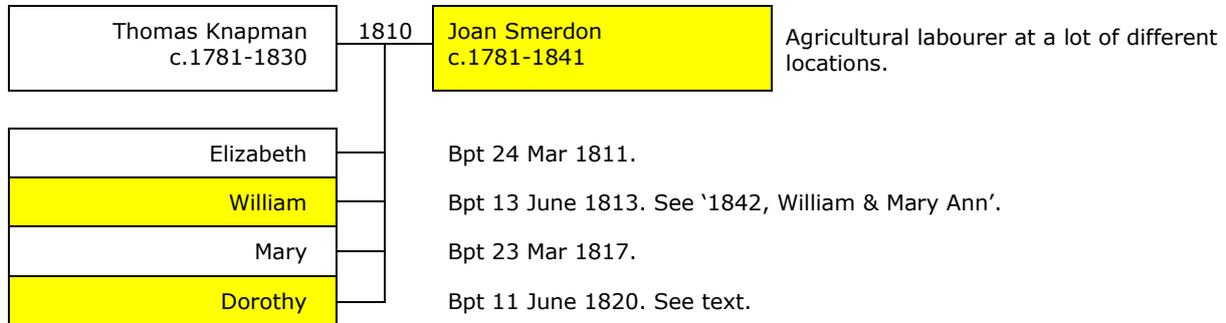
I have not found Emma anywhere on the 1841 census under any recognisable version of the Knapman name, but she certainly survived. At the time of the 1861 census Drascombe Farm was in the hands of Andrew and Mary's third son Arthur, who was living there with his oldest and youngest sisters (Mary and Emma), and his younger brother Edward. Edward died in 1879, but by 1881 Arthur, Mary and Emma had been joined by their sister Jane (who had been staying with her brother William at the time of at least two previous censuses).

Later that year (3Q1881, in Exeter district) Arthur married his first cousin once removed, Frances Saunders Luxton (the granddaughter of his uncle, John Luxton). He was 64 at the time, and she was 46, and they did not have children. Arthur's older sister Mary died in 1885, and Jane died in late 1895. At the time of the 1901 census Arthur and Frances were at Drascombe with Emma. Emma died in 1906, followed by Frances in 1908, and Arthur in 1911.

<sup>100</sup> Source: The Western Times of 3 May 1851.

## 1810, Thomas & Joan

Thomas Knapman married Joan Smerdon at Buckfastleigh on 22 April 1810. This was almost certainly his second marriage (his first being '1805, Thomas & Dorothy'). Thomas and Joan's family was as follows, with their children baptised at Totnes, Harberton, Ashprington and East Allington respectively.

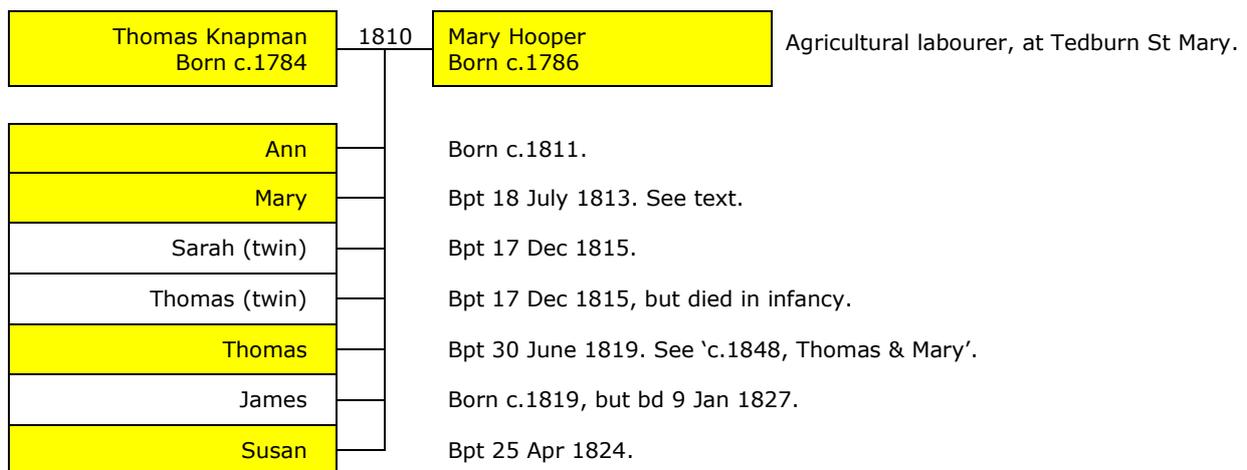


Thomas died in 1830, and was buried at East Allington on 3 September that year with his age given as 49. Joan appears to have gone to live at Alston, in the coastal parish of Slapton, and can be seen there at the time of the 1841 census recorded as Jane, with her son William and his family. She may well be the Joanna Knapman who was buried at East Allington on 5 November 1841 recorded as a resident of the Kingsbridge Union workhouse, and with her age estimated as 70 (whereas 60 would be correct if her year of birth is as shown above).

The only other member of this family that I have found on the 1841 census is Dorothy, who was working as a servant at Polsom, Paignton. She was subsequently imprisoned<sup>101</sup> in 1847 for stealing wood and coal at Kingsbridge.

## 1810, Thomas & Mary

Thomas Napman married Mary Hooper<sup>102</sup> of Tedburn St Mary at Tedburn on 17 September 1810. It is possible (and I would put it no more strongly than that) that he was from Family '1769, John & Joan'. According to the 1851 census he had been born in Drewsteignton parish, though the parish register shows that he was not baptised there. Thomas from Family '1769, John & Joan' was baptised in Chagford in 1781, and there are parts of Drewsteignton parish which are closer to Chagford than to Drewsteignton itself. Those of Thomas and Mary's children for whom baptismal dates are given below were baptised at Tedburn.



<sup>101</sup> Source: ancestry.co.uk criminal registers, confirmed by the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 27 February 1847. The trial took place at the County Sessions on 23 February 1847. Dorothy's age was estimated at 27, and she was sentenced to one month in prison.

<sup>102</sup> The DFHS list of marriage says Mary Potter. My reading of the original register suggests that Hooper is right.

In 1821 there was an unofficial census carried out in Tedburn, at which time the family was living at Little Fairwood Farm, a short distance to the east of the village. This helps to confirm their family, as shown above.

On 20 January 1839, Mary (the daughter, described as a servant) had an illegitimate son, called **Samuel**, baptised at Tedburn. He was living with his grandparents at the time of the 1841 census, and was a servant in Tedburn in 1851. By 1871 he was a private in the Royal Marines' barracks at East Stonehouse (with his place of birth confirmed as Tedburn St Mary, even if his age was slightly under-estimated). He evidently died the following year, in East Stonehouse district.

At some point between 1821 and 1841 Sarah, the surviving twin, may well have got married, because she does not appear on the 1841 census return, and I have seen no burial record for her.

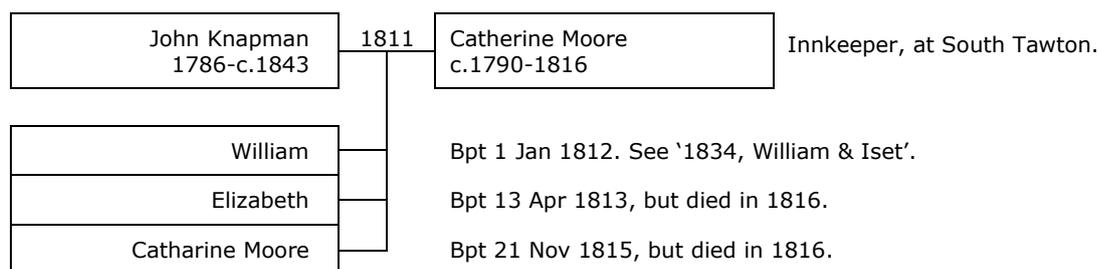
By 1851 only Mary and Susan were living with their parents, but a granddaughter (Elizabeth Ash, possibly Sarah's child) was staying. Ann was working as a servant in Crediton.

### 1810, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman married Elizabeth Holden at South Tawton on 29 October 1810. I am unsure which family he was from, but I do not think that he had children via whom the Knapman surname was carried forward.

### 1811, John & Catherine

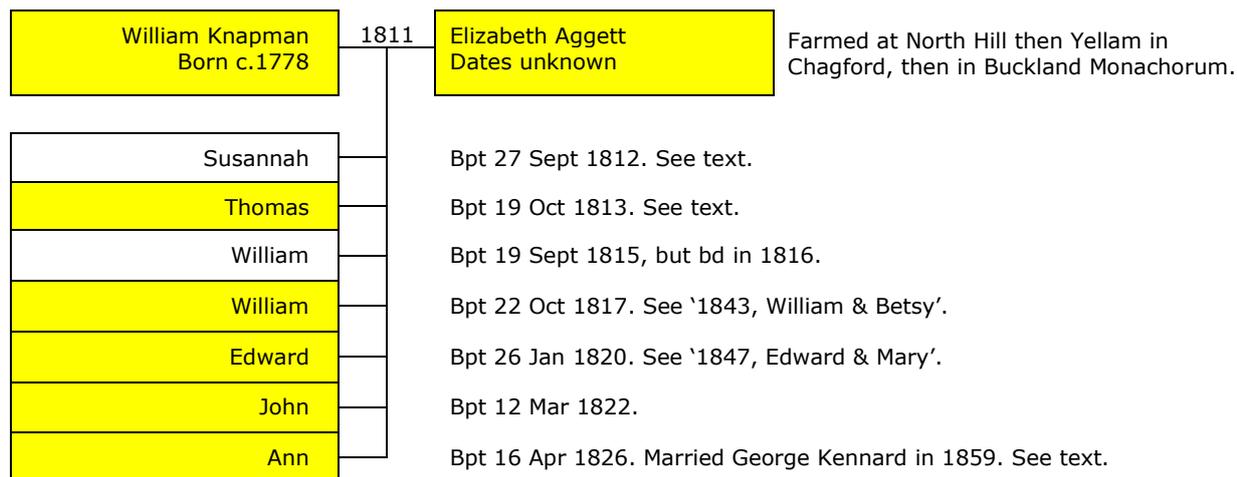
John Knapman married Catherine Moore at Throwleigh on 11 April 1811. He was from Family '1784, William & Joanna', and like his father he was an innkeeper in South Tawton. Their children, all baptised at South Tawton, are shown below.



Mother and both daughters all died over a 3-month period, from 24 April to 24 July 1816. John's second marriage is dealt with below as '1821, John & Susanna'.

### 1811, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman married Elizabeth Aggett at Chagford on 12 October 1811. He was from Family '1777, Thomas & Susanna'. Shortly before this marriage there was a report in the Exeter Flying Post of 29 November 1810 which mentions William Knapman of South Zeal in connection with the sale of some land at Gooseford, and it probably refers to this William. He and Elizabeth initially farmed at North Hill, in Chagford parish, which is where their children were baptised. William (the son) was buried at Throwleigh.



The family moved from North Hill to Yellam between the births of John and Ann, in about 1824. During the 1830s they moved to the far south west edge of Dartmoor.

At the time of the 1841 census the family (other than Susannah and William) was living at Long Ash, Buckland Monachorum, on the south west edge of Dartmoor, and William's father, Thomas, was living with them. By 1851 they had moved a few miles to Monkswell, Sampford Spiney. Thomas (William's father) was still with them with his age given as 94 by then. Of the children, only Thomas and Ann were living with their parents by that stage.

Several members of this family, including William and Edward, moved to Swansea.

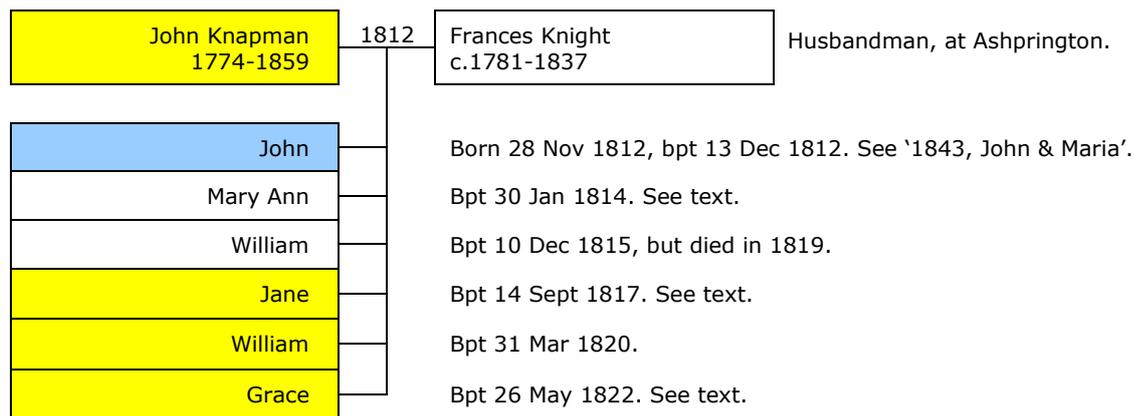
I have found no convincing trace of Susannah, and am reasonably sure that if she married, then the marriage did not take place in Devon, and I am confident that she did not survive until 1851 (when places of birth are given on the census record).

Thomas does not appear to have married. The Western Times of 6 December 1856 carried a short item stating that Thomas Knapman, a farmer of South Tawton (and formerly of Sampford Spiney), was claiming rent due to him in connection with some mineral workings, via a court action. Given his parents' previous connection to Sampford Spiney, I think the litigant must have been from this family. After that for some time he evidently lived in Plymouth<sup>103</sup>. However, at the time of the 1881 census he was staying with his sister Ann (Kennard) and her family, at 11 Glamorgan Terrace, Swansea, described as a former labourer. They too had moved from Plymouth, where her husband George had been a joiner.

## 1812, John & Frances

John Knapman married Frances Knight at Ashprington on 30 March 1812. He was originally from South Tawton and very probably from Family '1763, William & Jane'. This was his second marriage (his first being '1799, John & Ann'). Although they lived almost all of their married life at Ashprington, their eldest daughter Mary Ann was baptised a considerable way away, at Stoke Fleming, near Dartmouth.

<sup>103</sup> In 1871 he was living in Plymouth with a niece, Ann Maria Knapman, born c.1847 at Buckland Monachorum, whose origins are not clear to me.



John (the son) was apprenticed at Ashprington in 1822, as was Grace in 1835.

Frances died in 1837, and was buried at Ashprington on 1 August that year. At the time of the 1841 census<sup>104</sup> John (the father) was still in Ashprington, with his daughter Jane and two much younger children: **William**, who had been baptised at Ashprington on 28 October 1832, the illegitimate son of Mary Anne, and **Elizabeth**, baptised at Ashprington on 31 May 1835, Jane's illegitimate daughter. I do not know where Mary Anne was in 1841 (and she might have married by then, and changed her name).

At the time of the 1851 census John (the father) was in the Totnes workhouse, where he died 8 years later before being buried at Ashprington on 18 October 1859, aged 85.

William (Mary Anne's illegitimate son) was working as a servant in Ashburton in 1851. He subsequently became a miller in Plymouth, and I understand from Vincent Duggleby (who has researched this whole family extensively, and who has kindly provided several of the facts cited here) that he and his wife Mary Ann (née Pepperell, from Kingsbridge, married in Newton Abbot district in 2Q1858) had seven children in Plymouth before returning to Ashburton late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The family can be seen living at 26 Hampton Street in the Charles district of Plymouth at the time of the 1871 census, and their children included Samuel (born c.1859), William (c.1861), Emily (c.1865), John Thomas (c.1867) and Martha (c.1870).

As reported above, Jane had an illegitimate daughter called Elizabeth prior to the 1841 census, but she (Elizabeth) died in 1842. The evidence shows that Jane had two further illegitimate children: a second Elizabeth in 1844 (who also appears to have died young) and a son called John Brown who (according to the Modbury baptismal register) was born on 27 March 1848 and baptised at Modbury on 23 April the same year, with his parents originally recorded as 'John & Jane Knapman', but with 'John &' then crossed out, and Jane's status shown as a 'single woman' of Modbury. It is unclear whether the middle name (Brown) signifies that the father was called John Brown, but this is arguably the most likely explanation. Jane was also the object of two unsuccessful affiliation orders (bastardy hearings) in 1844 and 1848, at Kingsbridge and Morleigh (half way between Totnes and Kingsbridge) respectively. The grounds given for failure included a lack of evidence<sup>105</sup>.

Another record held in the DHC<sup>106</sup> states that in 1856 Jane and her son John (whose date of birth is given in that record as 26 March 1848 in the Totnes workhouse) were removed from Modbury to Ashprington. It is the absence of any reference to Elizabeth that suggests that she had died by then. Although the DHC document spells Jane's name correctly, it names her parents as John and Fanny Chapman of Ashprington, stating that John had at one time been apprenticed to Richard Foss of Frogmore (in fact he had worked for Richard Foss as an adult). At the time of the 1851 census Jane may have been the person of that name working as a servant at Aveton Gifford. She was buried at Ashprington on 13 April 1858. John Brown subsequently emigrated to the US, settling in Washington State, where he did very well for himself, and established a family which survives to this day.

<sup>104</sup> I could not find any of this family via the ancestry.co.uk website, but the record is on the website of the on-line parish clerk for Ashprington, which is accessible via a link on the genuki.org website.

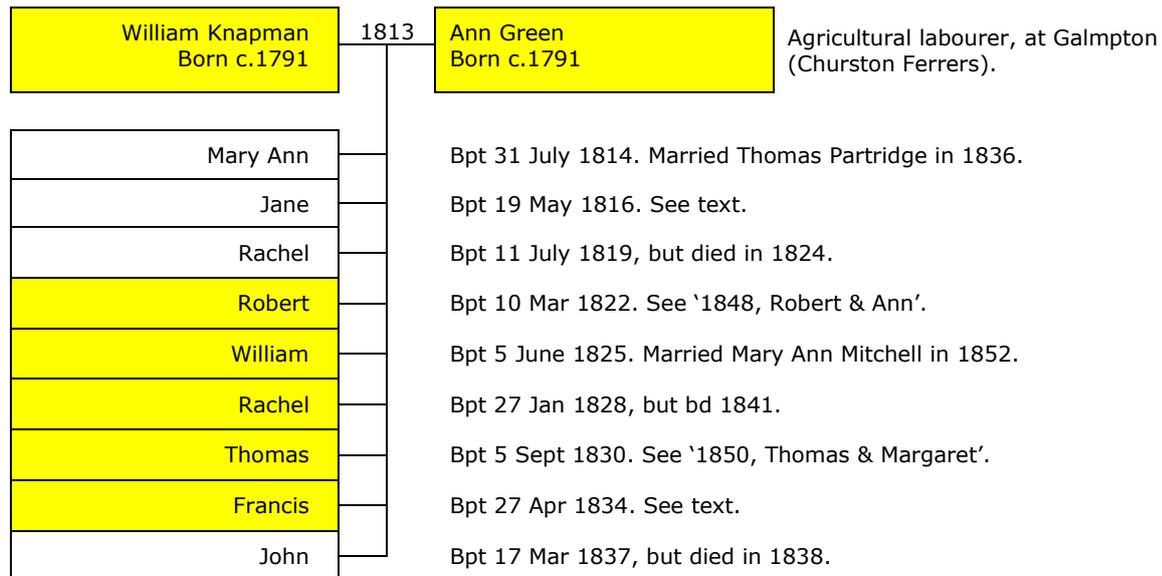
<sup>105</sup> DHC Ref QS 16/1/15 and QS 16/5/15.

<sup>106</sup> DHC Ref 269A/PO 224, summarised on the National Archives website.

John and Frances' son William (with his surname spelled Nassman) was a servant at Painsford Mill, Ashprington in 1841, and Grace (also Nassman) was an apprentice at Sharpham Farm, Ashprington. Grace can also probably be seen at the time of the 1851 census, working at Stoke Damerel, but I have not managed to trace William beyond 1841.

### 1813, William & Ann

William Knapman married Ann Green at Churston Ferrers on 5 October 1813. He was from Family '1780, William & Rose'. All of their children were baptised at Churston Ferrers, and for most of this time the family was living at Galmpton, though Rachel was buried at Brixham St Mary. Their family is shown below.



Mary Ann very probably married Thomas Partridge at Paignton on 25 December 1836. Jane was apprenticed at Churston Ferrers in 1827, with her age confirmed as 11. She may have been apprenticed again in 1834.

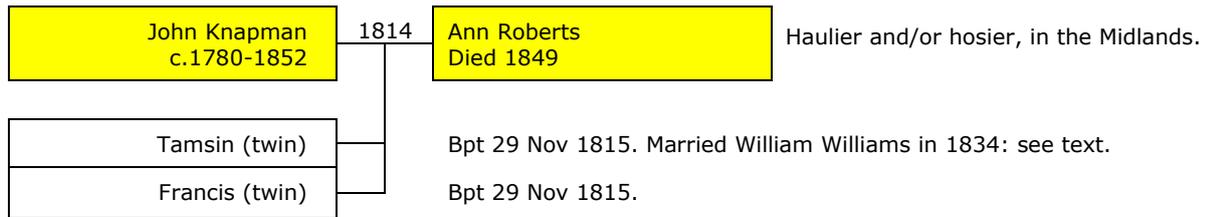
At the time of the 1841 census the five youngest surviving children were all living at Galmpton with William and Ann. Rachel died very soon thereafter.

A decade later William and Ann (with her name shown as Anna, and the surname as Napman) were still at Galmpton, with William and Thomas. Francis was working as a servant in Paignton.

William (the son) married Mary Ann Mitchell in Totnes district in 4Q1852, and they can be seen at Galmpton on the 1861 census with their family, and William's brother Francis staying with them. Both brothers were agricultural labourers. William and Mary Ann's children included William Henry (born c.1854), John Thomas (c.1859), Francis Robert (c.1862), Martha Jane (c.1867), Eliza Jane (c.1870) and Samuel Richard (c.1873). William Henry became a sawyer at Churston Ferrers, married and had a family.

### 1814, John & Ann

John Knapman married Ann Roberts at Bromsgrove on 7 November 1814. He was probably from Family '1777, Thomas & Susanna' and this was certainly his second marriage (his first being '1804, John & Elizabeth'). They had twin children, as follows.



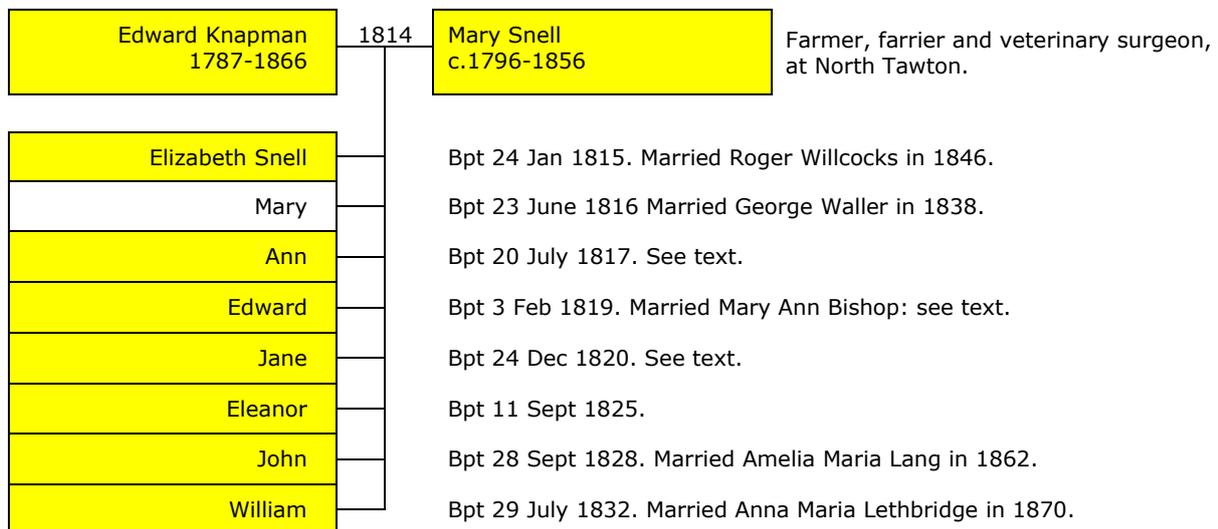
The 1841 census records John and Ann living in the Worcestershire parish of Holy Cross, and describes him as a hosier, and with his age given as c.60. The 1851 census confirms that he had been born in South Tawton, whereas his wife Ann had been born in Worcestershire. Pigot's 1835 Directory for Worcestershire shows that John Knapman provided a regular carrier service from Pershore to Ledbury and Bromyard, and I wondered whether 'haulier' was the intended descriptor. However, a report in the Hereford Times of 19 March 1845, which states that a man had been imprisoned for 14 days for stealing two pairs of stockings from John Knapman of Ledbury, would be fully consistent with the term 'hosier'.

Unless Joanna, John's daughter by his first marriage, or Francis (or possibly Frances) survived, Tamsin may well have been John's only child to survive to adulthood. She married William Williams at St Martin's, Worcester, on 15 September 1834.

Prior to the 1851 census John and Ann had evidently moved again, this time to West Bromwich, because that is where Ann's death was recorded late in 1849. At the time of the 1851 census John was living in West Bromwich with his 'nephew' (presumably a wrong descriptor) John A Williams, a glass cutter who had been born at Pershore. John died in West Bromwich (with his name recorded as Knopman) in 1852.

### 1814, Edward & Mary

Edward Knapman married Mary Snell at North Tawton on 10 February 1814. He was from Family '1786, William & Judith', and they had a substantial family, as shown below. It is possible that before getting married he may have served in the South Devon Corps of Militia. Certainly there was an Edward Knapman on the muster list which I have seen for late 1810 when the corps was at Chatham in Kent.



At the time of the 1841 census Edward and Mary were living in the town of North Tawton itself, on Fore Street, with Ann, Edward, John and William. Both Elizabeth Snell and Eleanor were living in East Teignmouth, shown as drapers, and it is possible that their move to Teignmouth may have been connected with the presence there of their aunt, Mary (whose connection with Teignmouth, and status as a spinster, was confirmed by the 1834 will of Edward Knapman junior of Lambs Conduit Street, London, her cousin, from Family '1788, Edward & Mary'). Their brother John later settled there, also as a draper.

Mary (the mother) died of dropsy on 21 November 1856, according to an item in the Western Times of 29 November of that year. Edward (the father) died aged 79 on 28 September 1866: this information coming from the on-line memorial inscriptions for St Peter's United Reformed & Methodist church at North Tawton. His daughter, Ann, who remained single, was also buried there aged 56 on 23 March 1873<sup>107</sup>.

Their daughter Elizabeth Snell married Roger Willcocks at East Teignmouth on 23 February 1846. Her sister Mary, described as a draper of Teignmouth, had earlier married George Waller, also a draper, but from London, on 2 November 1838 at East Teignmouth<sup>108</sup>.

By 1849 the younger Edward was farming at Halse Farm, North Tawton (120 acres plus 100 acres of moor<sup>109</sup>). We know this because the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 15 December that year reported that one of his sheep had been stolen, and its skin found in a hedge. The 1851 census shows his sister Ann living with him, but 3 years later he emigrated to the South Island of New Zealand, arriving at Otago on 8 March 1854. Evidence of his activity as a veterinary surgeon and livestock commission agent can be found via the website of Christchurch city library, including a long series of advertisements which he placed in the Lyttleton Times between 1854 and at least 1866<sup>110</sup>. We also know that he married Mary Ann Bishop, because there is a record<sup>111</sup> from several years later concerning his (unsuccessful) application to re-register some land to which he had rights for his life only. That report refers to Mary Ann (whose death, aged 66, was registered in 1877), and states that they had no children, and confirms that Edward survived her. Some time thereafter he returned to Devon, and the 1881 census records him living at North Tawton as a widowed retired veterinary surgeon.

Jane may well have been the person of that name who was living or staying in Exeter (St Sidwell) at the time of the 1841 census. However, she was accompanied by a 9-year-old who is named on the ancestry.co.uk transcription of the census form as 'Maria', but recorded there as male. In my view Maria is not correct, but the original is impenetrable. Certainly 'our' Jane was alive in 1841, because she survived until after the 1871 census, when she was living in Dawlish with her brother William, his wife (Anna Maria née Lethbridge) and their family. She evidently remained single, and died at North Tawton on 29 June 1874, and her will was proved by two of her Willcocks nephews.

John became a draper, first in Teignmouth and later in Torquay. In 2Q1862 in Okehampton district he married Amelia Maria Lang, a schoolteacher who had been born at Bideford, but who in 1861 was working in North Tawton. They had a daughter (Mary Eliza, born c.1866, later married William Aubrey Bennett Hamerton, a coffee and rubber planter originally from Northern Ireland) and a son (Frank, born c.1874). John died at North Tawton on 19 May 1874, probably before his son had been born, described as a silk mercer of Torquay, and his will was proved by Amelia Maria.

William married Anna Maria Lethbridge in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1870, and they had at least five children: Maria Jennette (born c.1871), William Frank (c.1874), Edward (c.1876) and twins Harry Lethbridge and Mary Lethbridge (c.1881). William himself died on 6 January 1888, with his address given as 14 The Strand, Dawlish. His will was proved by Anna Maria. Their son Harry Lethbridge became an architect in Truro, married Hilda Truran, and had a son who served on HMS Grebe and is buried at the Chatsby Military Cemetery at Alexandria, Egypt, having been killed in 1941.

## 1814, William & Susanna

William Knapman married Susanna Hannaford of Staverton at Ashburton on 6 April 1814. He was very probably from Family '1778, Richard & Joan', but there must be some doubt about this because there were two marriages at Ashburton involving bridegrooms called William Knapman, both to brides with the surname Hannaford within less than 6 years of each other (the other one is

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<sup>107</sup> The evidence from the probate process of her will says that she died 23 May 1874. Her will was proved by her brother, William.

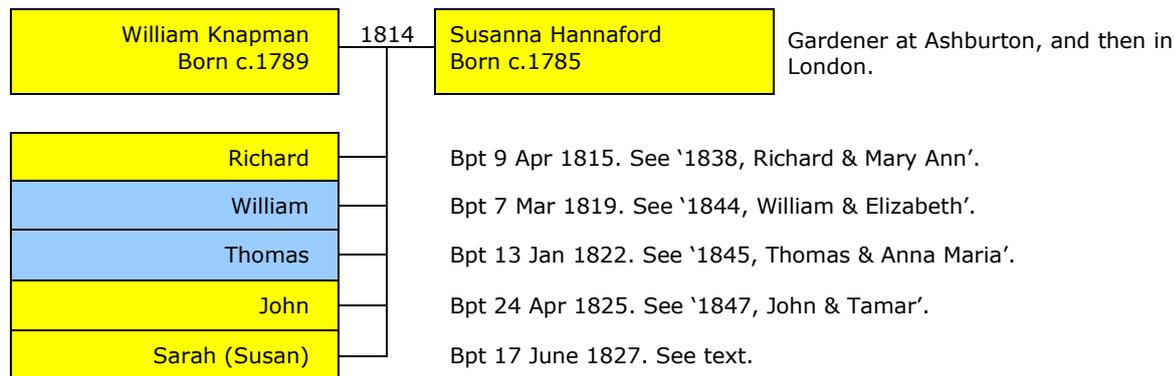
<sup>108</sup> Source: The Western Times of 10 November 1838.

<sup>109</sup> These figures are taken from the 1851 census return. However a notice in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 13 July 1850 described the farm as 173 acres of arable, meadow and pasture land, with 51 acres of moorland, and a good orchard. This same notice announced that Edward Knapman would soon be leaving the farm.

<sup>110</sup> For example on 1 April 1854 he announced his arrival, and in 1855 he advertised the fact that he had sold "... 25 head of superior young cattle ...". On 29 December 1858 an advertisement described him as a veterinary surgeon, stock commission agent and horse breaker of Durham Street North, Christchurch.

<sup>111</sup> Source: The New Zealand Jurist Reports, accessible on-line via Google Books. Although I do not have the actual date of the hearing, the report refers to the death of his wife, which occurred in 1877.

covered below under '1819, William & Jane')<sup>112</sup>. This William, and Susanna, had the family as shown below.



William (the father) was a gardener at the time of the 1841 census, and with the possible exception of Richard, who I have not found after his 1838 marriage<sup>113</sup>, the whole family had moved to the St Pancras area of London prior to the 1851 census.

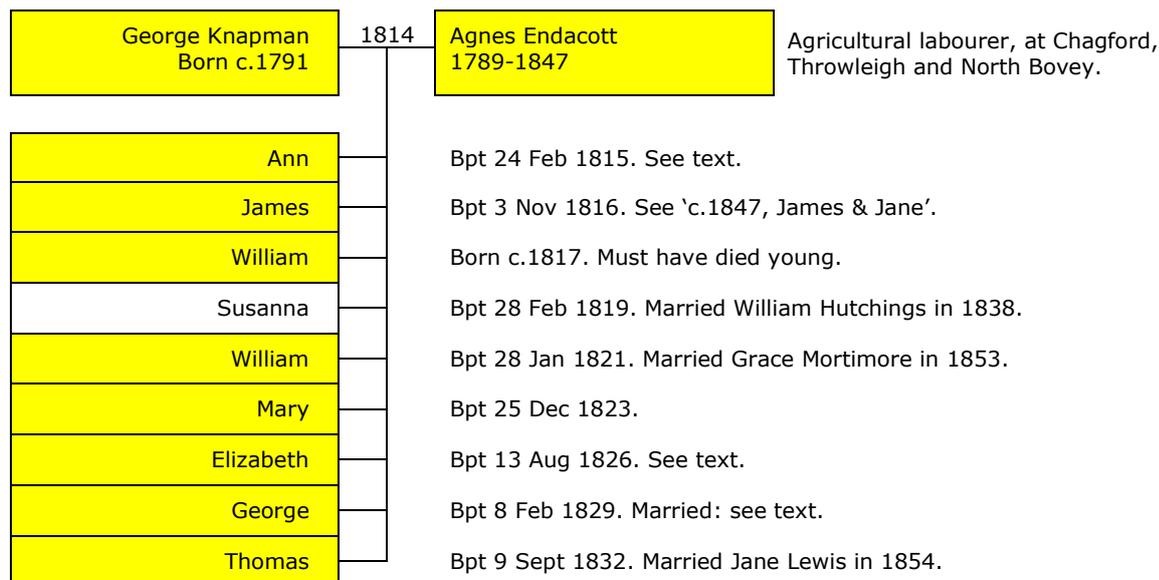
At the time of the 1851 census William (the father) was still a gardener, but in London. All four of his sons' marriages are covered below. In 1851 William and John (sons) were living in the same building as their parents, though not necessarily in the same individual dwelling, at 1 Leybourne Street. Their sister (named as Susan rather than Sarah) was also there, and a dressmaker.

### 1814, George & Agnes

George Knapman married Agnes Endacott at Chagford on 12 April 1814. The census record suggests that he had been born at Chagford, but he was not baptised there, and I do not know where he came from. She was the daughter of James and Ann Endacott of Throwleigh. In the early years of their marriage they moved about quite a bit, with their children being baptised in at least three parishes (Ann at Chagford; James at Throwleigh; Susanna, William and Mary at North Bovey; and the three youngest back at Chagford). When they were in North Bovey they were at a farm called Greenawell, which is only just over the parish boundary from Chagford. George was usually described as an agricultural labourer, but when their son James was baptised, he was recorded as a husbandman, suggesting that he had some above-average skills. Their family appears to have been as follows (with the only real doubt surrounding William, whose baptism I have not found, but who clearly appears on the 1841 census). Although he could conceivably have been a nephew rather than George's son, there is no evidence for that either.

<sup>112</sup> In support of the proposition that this marriage involved Richard and Joan's son' is the fact that his age is consistent with that of the William who was Susanna's husband as given on subsequent census returns, whereas the other was quite likely a little younger.

<sup>113</sup> I originally thought that Richard was working in Ashburton for a maltster in 1841, but the age shown on the census return for that person (c.15) was 10 years too low to be this Richard.



At the time of the 1841 census George and Agnes were living in a cottage at Great Week, Chagford with several family members. Ann was a blanket weaver and James and William were both agricultural labourers, like their father. George and Thomas were also living at home with their parents. Agnes very probably died in 1847, and in 1851 George was still at Great Week, with his daughter Elizabeth. George appears to have died prior to the 1861 census, though I have seen no convincing 'candidate death' record.

Susanna was already married prior to the 1841 census (to William Hutchings, at Chagford, on 15 July 1838). They appear to have had a large family born at Chagford and Gunnislake before settling in Plymouth.

William and Mary may well have been working in Lustleigh parish at the time of the 1841 census, William as an agricultural labourer at a property that looks like 'Bann', and Mary at the rectory, though in both cases their ages were recorded as c.15. William married Grace Mortimore, at either Moretonhampstead or North Bovey (the [moretonhampstead.org.uk](http://moretonhampstead.org.uk) website which provides the details covers several parishes), on 25 September 1853. Subsequent census returns suggest that she was from Bere Alston. They lived on Forder Street in Moretonhampstead for many years, and did not have any children (or at least any that survived). William died in 1895 and Grace in 1906.

As noted above in connection with Family '1807, John & Grace', there are three 1841 census records of Elizabeths born in c.1826, two in Chagford (Easton Lodge, working as a servant; and Botworthy working as an apprentice) and the other in Christow (Kennick, working as an apprentice). One of these three is highly likely to be this Elizabeth, and that is what I have assumed for the purposes of accounting for census records.

George was working as a stoker in a gasworks (in 1861). Susequently he married a wife called Mary from Chillington (though I have been unable to identify the marriage details). In both 1871<sup>114</sup> and 1881 George was working as a general labourer in the Charles district of Plymouth. He and Mary had three sons born between about 1867 and 1871 (Francis, Allen and George, with Francis born at Gunnislake and the other two in Plymouth) who were still living with their parents as late as 1891.

Thomas appears to have led a complex life. He married Jane Lewis of Egg Buckland in Plymouth district in 1Q1854. At the time of the 1861 census he was working as labourer in a gas works in the Charles district of Plymouth, but by 1871 he was described as a coal dealer, and living next door to his brother George (see above) on Mount Pleasant Place. He and Jane had a large family before her death in 1875, comprising George (born c.1856), Emma J (c.1859), James (c.1862), William (c.1865), Thomas (c.1869), Frederick (c.1872) and Charles (c.1874). In 1881 he was again a labourer, but the census shows him as married rather than widowed, and I believe there is a good chance that he had been re-married to Elizabeth Jane Pascoe in Plymouth district in 3Q1875,

<sup>114</sup> The 1871 census gives George's age as c.72 and Mary's as c.53, despite their having three children aged under 5. In reality they were c.42 and c.43 respectively.

though I do not know where she was on the day of the 1881 census. His four youngest sons by his first marriage were living with him, as was Emily Pearce, a widow, and her daughter Lucy.

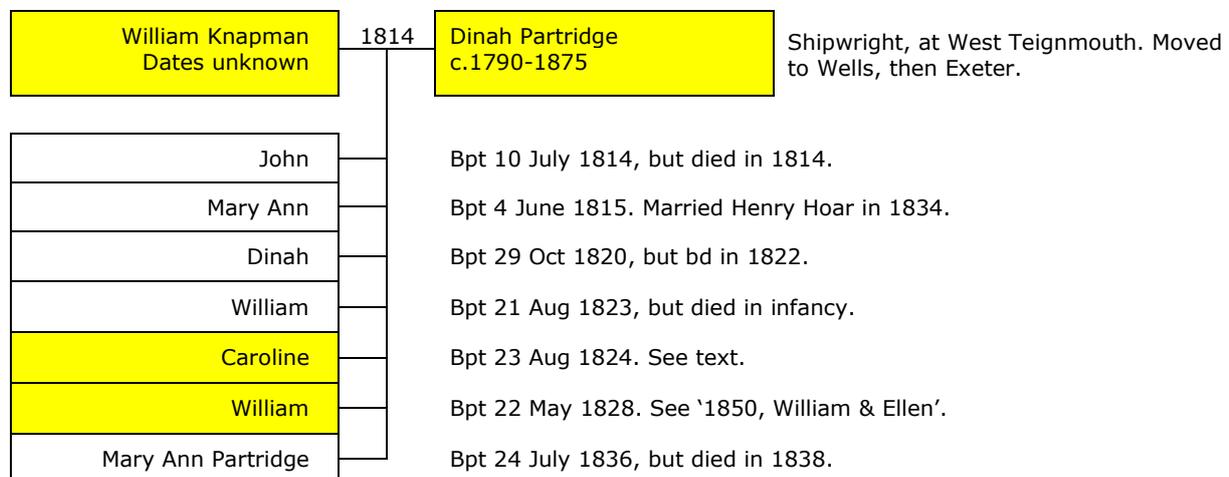
By 1891 Thomas was recorded as a widower, living at 14 Home Sweet Home Terrace in the Charles district of Plymouth, and James and Thomas were staying with him, as was Emily Pearce (again), this time with five young children all named as Knapmans. My belief (based on admittedly incomplete evidence) is that Thomas and Elizabeth Jane had at least four children before they separated: Elizabeth (born c.1882), Emily (1883), Samuel (1884) and Rosina (1886). I believe that the fifth young child in the 1891 household (John Knapman, born c.1889) had been born to Thomas and Emily Pearce. I have not found any evidence to suggest that Thomas was formally married to Emily either before or after 1891, and I have found some evidence which suggests that Elizabeth Jane was in fact still alive in 1901, and living (as head of household) in the same household as Thomas' son James.

By 1901 Thomas had died, and Emily Knapman, a widow of about 47 born at St Cleer (both of which facts fit seamlessly with Emily Pearce) was living in Plymouth with two children called Rose (presumably Rosina) and John. The 1911 census strongly suggests<sup>115</sup> that she had only had one child by her last marriage, namely John, who was again living with her.

### 1814, William & Dinah

William Knapman married Dinah Partridge at West Teignmouth on 2 June 1814. I do not know his origins, but by 1841 he was a shipwright in West Teignmouth (where their first three children were baptised), and later moved away from the coast. As is shown from the birthplaces of their family, after they left West Teignmouth they lived at Wells in Somerset (where the next three children were baptised, and where Dinah (the daughter) was buried).

The family certainly moved to Exeter, which is where their youngest child was baptised, and where Dinah was living at the time of the 1841 census, with Caroline and William. Her husband William was not living with them, but I suspect he may well have been the 'pot boy and stable keeper' at Sidwell stables quite close by. Mary Ann had married Henry Hoar at Exeter on 7 July 1834, with her name recorded as Mary Ann Partidge Knapman (not to be confused with her younger sister).



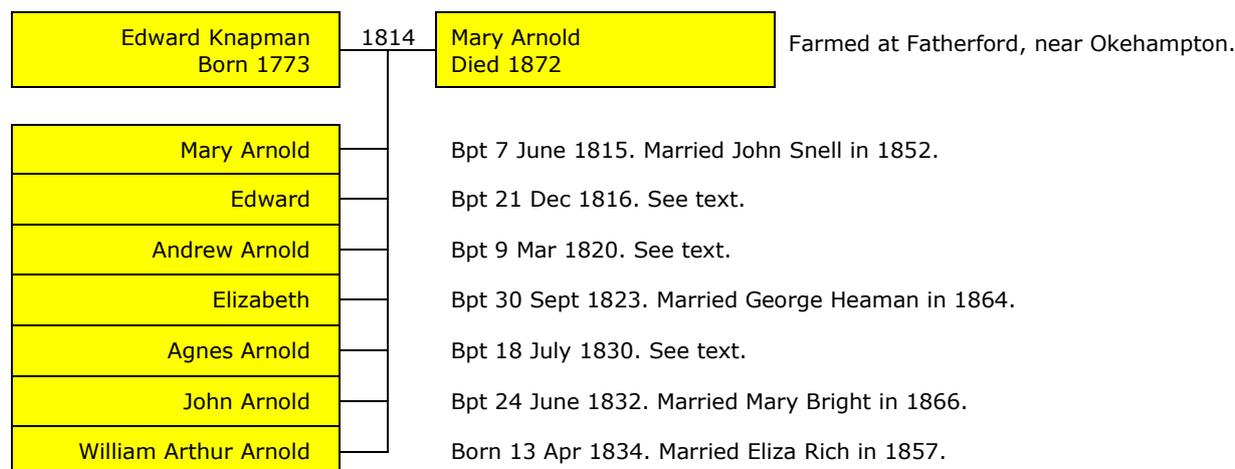
William (the son) became a tailor, married a milliner called Ellen Ponsford, and remained in Exeter, at least for a time. In 1851 they were living in the city at Northernhay, and his sister Caroline was also in the city working as a servant.

### 1814, Edward & Mary

Edward Knapman married Mary Arnold (possibly a relative of his mother) at South Tawton on 17 August 1814. He was from Family '1767, Arthur & Mary', and he was already farming the 290-acre Fatherford Farm, a short distance east of Okehampton (the evidence for this being provided by records which show him taking on an apprentice for Fatherford in 1808). Their children all appear

<sup>115</sup> It shows that she had one child (John) who was still living, but that information has been crossed through. No length (in years) is given for the time that she had most recently been married.

on the DFHS transcripts of the parish baptism register, and at the time of both the 1841 and 1851 censuses all of their children were living with them at Fatherford.



The Exeter Flying Post of 16 July 1835 reported that a horse had been stolen from Edward, and that a reward was being offered for its return. Not long after, several newspapers<sup>116</sup> reported that one of his employees had been found dead in a gravel pit at Dolton. His attackers had apparently robbed him of £50, but had left the horse, which by then was half-starved, and too well-known for them to be able to afford to take it too.

The Western Times of 11 June 1836 describes Edward as the former tax collector for Okehampton, and someone who was interested in local politics as a Tory.

Mary died at Beaford on 21 July 1872, leaving a will which was proved by her son Edward, also by then of Beaford.

The five eldest children supported themselves as farmers and shopkeepers, mostly around Dolton and Beaford, but in Andrew Arnold's case at Cheriton Fitzpaine before he too moved to Beaford. Of these five, neither of the daughters who married had any children.

John Arnold married Mary Bright in Torrington district in 2Q1866, and he was a farm labourer and then farmer, also at Beaford. Their only son (John, born c.1867) was initially a teacher, and although he married and had children, I do not believe his family survived into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

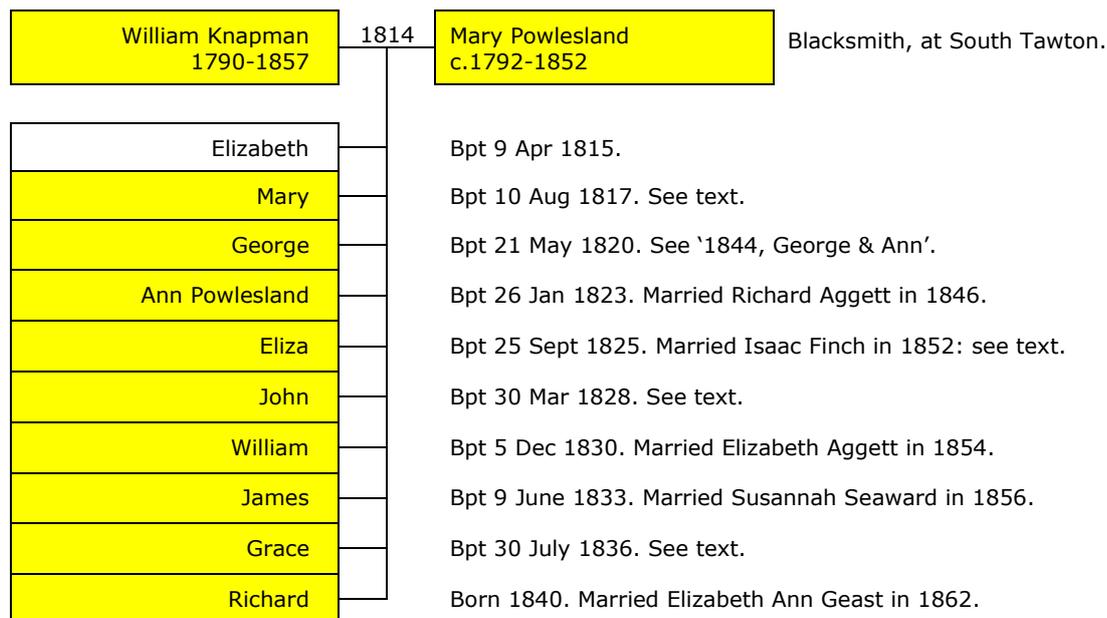
William Arthur Arnold married Eliza Rich in Okehampton district in 2Q1857, and appears to have become a farmer, draper and innkeeper. He was described as an innkeeper in the London Gazette when he was declared bankrupt in 1862. Their first two children were born at Okehampton: William<sup>117</sup> in 1858 and Richard in 1860. They then had Henry (born c.1862). At some point after his bankruptcy William Arthur Arnold became a policeman, and the 1871 census shows him and Eliza living at Holcombe Rogus, on the Somerset border west of Tiverton. Their later children were Elizabeth Mary (born 1865), Arthur (1870, but appears to have died young), Frederick (1871) and Albert Ernest (c.1876, but died in 1884). At the time of the 1881 census William Arthur Arnold and Eliza were living at Plainmoor, on the outskirts of Torquay, and by 1891 he was the police constable at Lapford. I am not aware that the Knapman surname survived into the 21<sup>st</sup> century via this family, but it is by no means impossible.

### 1814, William & Mary

William Knapman married Mary Powlesland at South Tawton on 7 November 1814. He was from Family '1792, John & Ann', and he was a blacksmith at 35 Fore Street, South Tawton for many years, where he and Mary had a large family, as shown below.

<sup>116</sup> See, for example, the Hull Packet of 31 July 1835.

<sup>117</sup> The birth record shows him as William Henry, but all subsequent records show him as William, William E or William Edward.



At the time of the 1841 census all of their children with the exception of Elizabeth, Mary and Eliza were living at home with them. Both Mary and Eliza were working as servants at Coursebeer Farm, for George and Susanna Powlesland, who may have been related to their mother.

Mary had by then had an illegitimate son called **William Jordan** who was baptised at South Tawton on 24 September 1837, and was living with his grandparents at the time of the census. Most if not all of her siblings who married (as shown above) went on to have families of their own. William Jordan became a blacksmith, and married Ellen Long in Okehampton district in 1Q1861, with his name shown as William Jordan Knatman, but he subsequently dropped the Knapman name, and on all census returns from 1861 onwards he was simply named as William Jordan. In 1861 they were living at Taw Green, South Tawton, but from 1871 can be seen in Witney and Hailey in Oxfordshire, which is where Ellen was from. Mary, his mother, may have married James Rodgers in 1837.

Ann Powlesland was living in Exeter at the 'Oaten Sheaf' on Fore Street, described as a weaver, when she married Richard Aggett, a thatcher from South Tawton, on 16 July 1846 at St Olave's church. Their surnames were spelled as Haggett and Knatman respectively on the marriage certificate<sup>118</sup>.

At the time of the 1851 census William and Mary were still in South Tawton, with their four youngest children. Mary died on 1 July 1852 and is buried in South Tawton churchyard. She shares a headstone with William, who died on 15 May 1857.

In 1851 Eliza was working at Great Coursebeer Farm, as was William Jordan (her nephew, born to her sister Mary). I know a bit more about Eliza because I originally mixed her up with another Eliza of very much the same age from my own family. In 1852 she married Isaac Finch from another family of blacksmiths based at Whiddon Down. By 1861 they were living on the western edge of Dartmoor, at Lydford, with their three children, George (born at South Tawton in 1852), Louisa (Lydford, 1853) and Isaac (1855). Ten years later they were at Exeter Street, in the Charles district of Plymouth, but in late 1871 Isaac died, followed by Louisa and the younger Isaac, both in early 1872. It appears that Eliza and her surviving son George, another blacksmith, returned to the Okehampton area after their triple loss, because George got married there in 1875 (to Harriet Jane Woolland, who already had a son, also called George), and Eliza was also re-married. Her second marriage was to James Stanley, a carpenter and wheelwright. They lived at Ball Cottage, South Tawton. On the 1891 census their name is wrongly transcribed as Hanley. Eliza died in 1908, and James in 1910. George and Harriet had a son of their own, called Isaac who in turn was a blacksmith at Sampford Courtenay.

<sup>118</sup> I have seen the certificate, by courtesy of John Lauper, who obtained a copy in the hope that it might refer to Ann Knapman from Family WT14. I include these details here, because the mis-spellings make it a particularly difficult marriage to trace.

John was working for another blacksmith at Bickleigh at the time of the 1851 census, but I have not managed to find him thereafter.

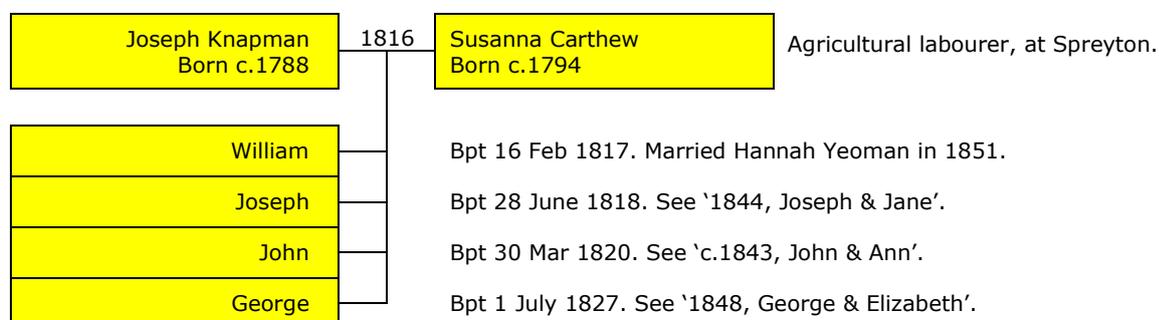
William married Elizabeth Aggett in Okehampton district in 4Q1854 and was a blacksmith, in his case in Plymouth (East Stonehouse). They had a large family including: Richard (born c.1858, but must have died young), William J (c.1861), Elizabeth (c.1865), George Thomas (c.1870, joined the navy and was still single in 1911), Richard Ernest (c.1874, became a blacksmith and had been widowed by 1911), Albert Edwin (c.1876, became a blacksmith and was still single in 1911), and Percival E (c.1878). Elizabeth died prior to the 1891 census, and William was re-married to Amelia Wadge (in E Stonehouse district in 4Q1888). William and Amelia were still living in East Stonehouse in 1911 with three of his sons (see above).

James married Susannah Seaward of North Tawton in Okehampton district in 2Q1856, and evidently became a peripatetic naval blacksmith. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born at North Tawton (c.1857). After living in London (Mile End Old Town) for a time, where they had four children (James in 1859, William Arthur in 1860, John in 1863 and Susannah in 1867) plus Edwin, apparently in 1865 in Swansea, they spent some time in Barbados, where they had Albert (c.1871) and Lillie (c.1874). I am not sure whether James died in the Caribbean, but by 1881 Susannah was a widow and back at 10 Frederick Place, Mile End Old Town with Elizabeth (a mustard packer), William (a blacksmith), Edwin (an errand boy) and the three youngest. She was at 121 Stepney Green, Mile End Old Town in 1901, supporting herself as a dressmaker, with Elizabeth (also a dressmaker) and Edwin (a window cleaner). They were next door to Susannah, her husband (Alfred Jesse Bowden, a tailor) and their two children.

Richard was also a blacksmith in South Tawton: he was 17 when he evidently took over the business following his father's death. He was married three times. First he married Elizabeth Ann Geast in Okehampton district in 3Q1862. They had two children: William (born c.1863, but died in 1867) and Bessie (born c.1865). Soon after Elizabeth Ann's death (on 7 April 1867, aged just 27) Richard was re-married to Mary Jane Boulton in Okehampton district in 4Q1867. At the time of the 1871 census they were living in South Tawton village with Bessie, and Richard's sister Grace was staying with them. Then Mary Jane died aged 35, on 1 November 1878, and Richard was re-married for a second time in Okehampton district in 1Q1880 to the somewhat younger Jane Gifford from South Petherton. They had five children: Lily (born c.1882), William Richard (c.1883), Eli (c.1885, and killed in World War I serving on HMS Tiger), Ernest (c.1889) and Mabel (c.1899, but died in 1911). Jane's death may well have been connected with Martha's birth. Richard died on 26 September 1912, and shares a headstone with all three of his wives, and Mabel, close to that of his parents in South Tawton churchyard.

### 1816, Joseph & Susanna

Joseph Knapman married Susanna Carthew at Drewsteignton on 15 April 1816. He was probably from Family '1777, John & Mary', and although he was an agricultural labourer, she was the daughter of a yeoman (William Carthew of Spreyton). Just under 3 years later, she was the executrix of her father's will. They had four sons as follows, all baptised at Spreyton. The 1851 census confirm that Joseph had been born in South Tawton, which increases the likelihood that this was indeed the son of John and Mary, as I have proposed.



At the time of the 1841 census Joseph and Susanna were living on a farm called Croft in Spreyton. William was an agricultural labourer nearby, at Coombe, and George was apprenticed to a blacksmith in Spreyton. Joseph was a farm servant at Ford Farm, Cheriton Bishop, and John was probably the person of that name working as servant to a miller at Upton Hellions.

A decade later Joseph and Susanna were living with their son Joseph and his wife Jane at New Building, Spreyton. Father and son were both described as agricultural labourers. Jane had been born at Colebrook in c.1819, and she and Joseph had a son called William John (born 1855 at Spreyton) by then. Subsequently Joseph (the son) became a baker in Ashburton. The probate calendar shows that he died in 1883, followed by Jane in 1889.

Joseph and Susanna's eldest son William had moved to Liverpool (152 Dale Street) by 1851, where he was a clerk to a glass dealer, his aunt Elizabeth Tindle (very probably née Carthew) of Spreyton. Her husband John Tindle died just before the 1851 census. William married Hannah Yeoman from Yorkshire later that year in Liverpool district in 4Q1851, and they remained in Liverpool, initially living at 24 Renshaw Street. They had a son and three daughters, all of whom died in infancy or childhood: John Thomas (born 1852, but died that same year), Annie Maria (1853, but died in 1866), Mary (c.1856, but also died in 1866) and Emily Ann (1860, but died the following year). The on-line London Gazette dated 11 August 1871 reports that William acted as executor to his aunt when she died aged about 80. He and Hannah were living at 138 Dale Street at that time, but moved to West Derby thereafter.

George (whose marriage is covered below) moved to Ashburton before emigrating to Australia in about 1857. Despite this move overseas, by 1861 his parents Joseph and Susanna and two of his brothers (Joseph and John) had all moved to Ashburton as well.

### **1816, John & Mary**

John Knapman married Mary Saunders (or Sanderson) at Rotherham in Yorkshire on 21 October 1816. I do not know where he came from, but at the time of the 1841 census they were living in Sheffield, and John was described as a candlemaker. Both of them had an estimated year of birth of about 1791.

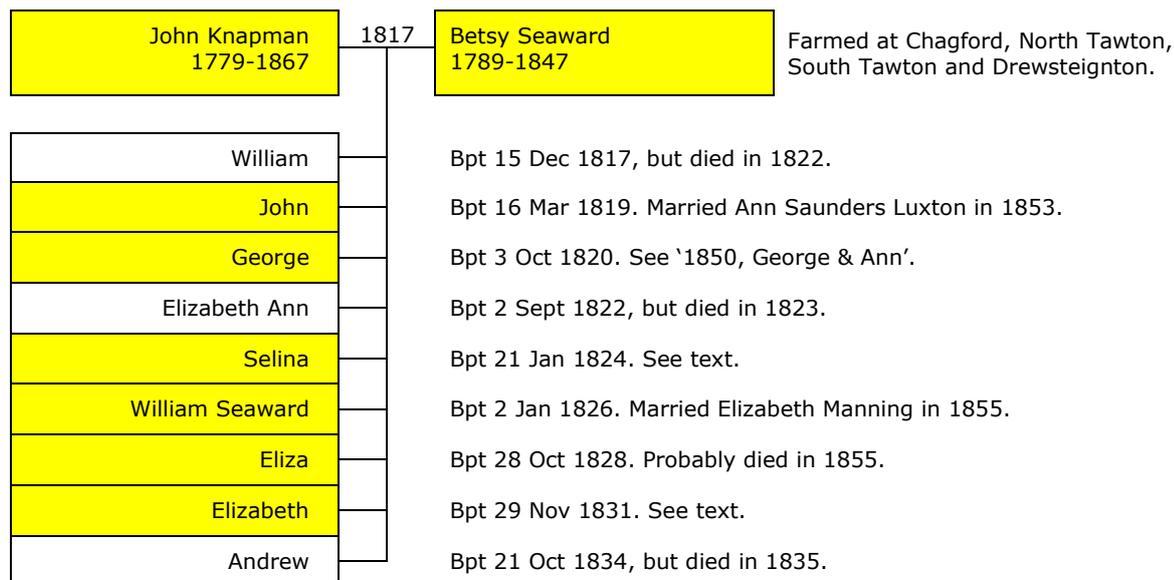
It seems likely that John was the person of that name who was serving in the South Devon Corps of Militia in 1810 (recorded as such when they were stationed at Chatham in Kent, late that year, and which spent several months in Sheffield in 1812).

John was buried at Sheffield in 1845, followed by Mary in 1850.

### **1817, John & Betsy**

John Knapman, my direct ancestor, married Elizabeth (Betsy) Seaward at North Tawton on 31 March 1817. He was from Family '1767, Arthur & Mary', and the tree below summarises what I have been able to find about their family. I have much more information which can be made available on request.

They moved around quite a lot, with the result that their children were baptised in three different parishes: the first three children at Chagford, followed by two at North Tawton and four at South Tawton. In the case of Eliza, the parents were wrongly recorded in the parish register as William and Mary, but we can be reasonably sure that she was 'our' Eliza because the farm where they were living was identified as Coursebeer, as it was (despite some variants on the spelling) for the other three who were baptised at South Tawton. There is also a record that shows that John took on an apprentice for Coursebeer in 1828, the same year that Eliza was born.



John appears to have got into financial difficulties over the next decade, because the on-line London Gazette records that in 1839 he was declared bankrupt, being described at the time as a 'farmer, cattle dealer and sheep salesman' from South Tawton.

At the time of the 1841 census the family (John, Betsy and their four youngest surviving children) was at Tor Down, Drewsteignton. John (the son) was helping a widowed relative of his aunt Mary Woolland with her farm in Moretonhampstead, and George was working for his Seaward grandparents at de Bathe Barton, North Tawton.

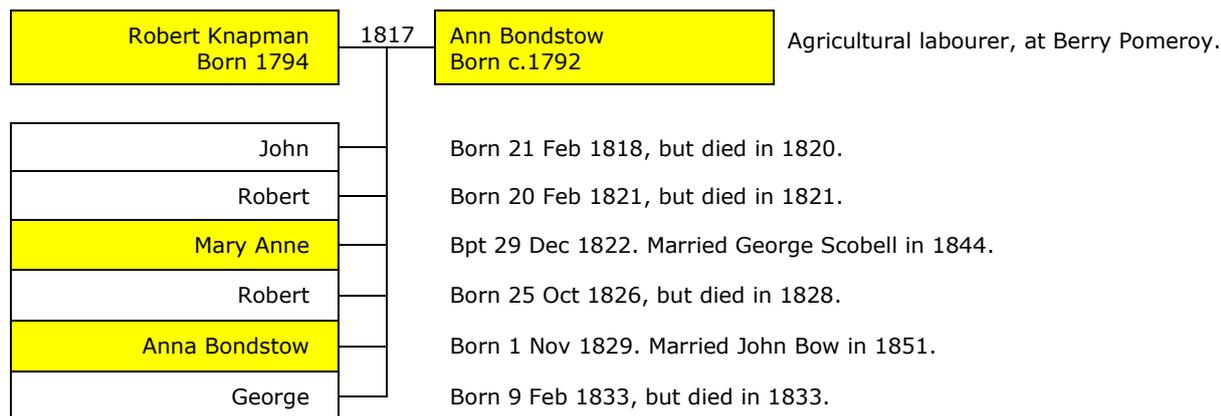
The younger John (my father's direct ancestor) married Ann Saunders Luxton at Chawleigh on 6 January 1853, and after living for a time in Chawleigh and Chulmleigh, where they had a family, they settled to farm at Tidlake Farm, Alswear, Mariansleigh. Their children were: Elizabeth Ann (born 1853), Selina (1855, but died in 1861), Mary Ellen (1857, but died in infancy) and William (1858). The Knapman surname survives via several branches of William's family.

George's 1850 marriage is covered below. William Seaward married Elizabeth Manning in Okehampton district in 1Q1855, and had a small farm in North Tawton. So far as I know, they did not have any children.

Selina was a dressmaker in 1861, and there is some evidence to suggest that she emigrated to the USA later that year. Eliza apparently died in South Tawton in 1855, and Elizabeth was still single in 1861, and I have not managed to trace her thereafter. There are simply too many Elizabeth Knapmans to be sure which one was her.

### 1817, Robert & Ann

Robert Knapman married Ann Bondstow of Blackawton at Berry Pomeroy on 4 May 1817. He was from Family '1790, John & Rebecca'. They lived at Bridgetown, Berry Pomeroy (just outside Totnes), which is where all of their children were baptised.



At the time of the 1841 census Mary Anne and Anna (recorded as Hannah) were living at Bridgetown with Robert and Ann. By the time of the 1851 census Robert and Ann were living as lodgers, still at Berry Pomeroy, without any of their daughters.

Mary Anne married an agricultural labourer from Ashprington called George Scobell (or Scoble) in 1844, and they had a family in Berry Pomeroy. Anna Bondstow married John Bow in Totnes district in 1Q1851 and settled in Littlehempston. Robert (the father) was staying with them there in 1861, as was Ann (by then widowed) in 1871.

### c.1817, Henry & Mary

Henry Knapman married Mary Hare of Taunton. I have not found the actual date, but the marriage was reported in the Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette of 16 January 1817, as a 'recent' event, suggesting that it took place either in late 1816 or early 1817<sup>119</sup>. Henry was from Family '1790, William & Sophia Maria'.

Henry was for several years a linen draper with premises at 6 Cranbourne Street, Leicester Square<sup>120</sup>, and he and Mary may possibly have had a son called Henry Bailey Knapman, who was born in 1838, but buried in Westminster St Margaret district in 1839. Henry died in 1840, just 5 years after his own father (and his will, which was written on 30 May 1840 and proved on 18 December that same year, is available via the National Archives website). In it he left everything to his wife (and executrix) Mary, tending to confirm that the Knapman surname was not carried forward via this family. The only other reference to Henry that I have seen is in connection with a will which he witnessed, the will being that of Thomas Cooper, a coachman from Axminster, which was proved in London in 1832.

At the time of the 1841 census Henry's widow **Mary** (with her age shown as c.50) was living in the Taunton parish of St Mary Magdalen, confirmed as having been born in Somerset. At the time of the 1851 census she was visiting the family of Henry Busst, in Norwood, South London. He was the husband of Mary's niece, Mary Hare Sircom, who in turn was the daughter of Mary's sister Harriet, and her husband Richard Sircom, also of Taunton<sup>121</sup>. Mary died on 4 May 1868 at Windsor Terrace, Taunton, and her will was proved by her brother, John Hare.

### 1818, John & Mary

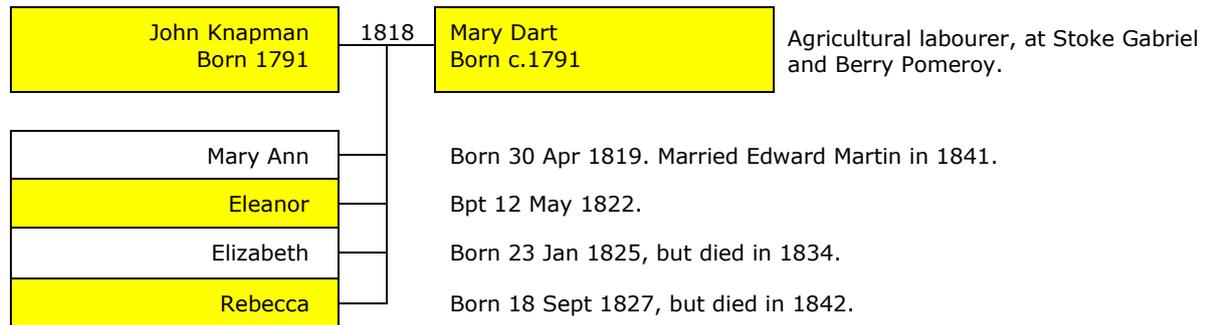
John Knapman married Mary Dart at Stoke Gabriel on 19 May 1818. He was from Family '1790, John & Rebecca', and they spent most of their married life at Berry Pomeroy, where John worked

<sup>119</sup> This link is confirmed by a very helpful website: [mit.edu/~dfm/genealogy/sercombe.html](http://mit.edu/~dfm/genealogy/sercombe.html) which hosts 'A Compilation of Sercombe Families'.

<sup>120</sup> Source: Kent's Original London Directory, 1823, accessible on-line via Google Books. See also an advertisement for dresses in the Morning Post of 13 March 1818.

<sup>121</sup> Internet searches show that the Busst family was originally from Walsall, where Henry Busst had been born in c.1821. He and his wife Mary Hare (née Sircom) had a son called Henry Knapman Busst who was born in 1846 in Walsall, and may conceivably have got his middle name as a consequence of Mary acting as his godmother. He had moved with his parents to Norwood, where he was a printer (in 1861) before moving to Bristol (1871). He then became a newspaper reporter in Glastonbury (1881), where he died in 1886. His son Albert George Knapman Busst (born 1875 at Glastonbury) went to South Africa in 1896 to fight in the Boer war. He apparently married out there, but then moved to Canada. Any descendants of this family may wish to know that the name Knapman became attached by association rather than direct lineage.

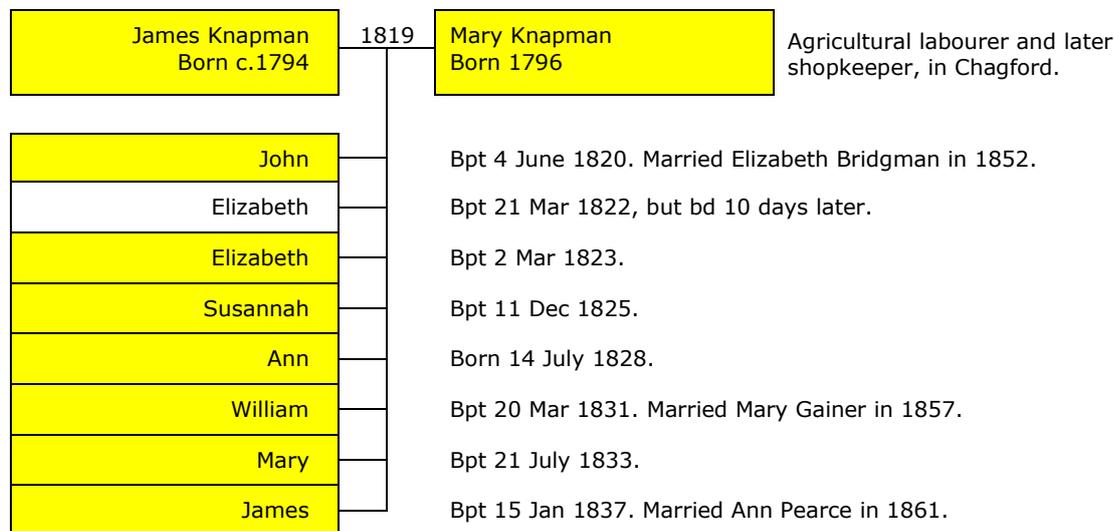
as an agricultural labourer. Their family was as shown below: Mary Ann was baptised at Stoke Gabriel; the other three children at Berry Pomeroy.



Just before the 1841 census Mary Ann married Edward Martin. At the time of the census only Rebecca was living with John and Mary, but she died the following year. Eleanor (recorded as Ellen) was working in the parish (at Bridgetown) as a farm servant in 1841. In 1851 John and Mary were living at Parliament Cottages, on their own.

### 1819, James & Mary

James Knapman married Mary Knapman at Chagford on 11 July 1819. I do not know where he came from, but she was very probably from Family '1796, Edward & Elizabeth'. Their family was as follows, with all of their children being baptised at Chagford. Their daughter Ann appears to have been baptised twice, on 28 July 1828 and then again in May 1829 (when her date of birth was given as 14 July 1828). This suggests that she was poorly at birth, not expected to survive, baptised at home, and then baptised 'properly' in church later.



At the time of the 1841 census James and Mary were living in a cottage at Great Week (like Family '1814, George and Agnes'), though their ages were hugely understated. Their four youngest children were living at home with them.

John was apprenticed in 1831 to James Collins, but by 1841 he was working (as an apprentice) at Way Barton, a large farm to the south west of the town. Elizabeth was also apprenticed to James Collins in 1834, but she was re-apprenticed in 1840, and at the time of the 1841 census was very probably one of the two apprentices identified above in connection with Family '1814, George & Agnes'. Susannah was apprenticed to Henry Hooper of Yellam, Chagford in 1837, and was living with his family in 1841.

In 1851 James and Mary were grocers on New Street, Chagford, and Mary (a dressmaker) and James were living with them.

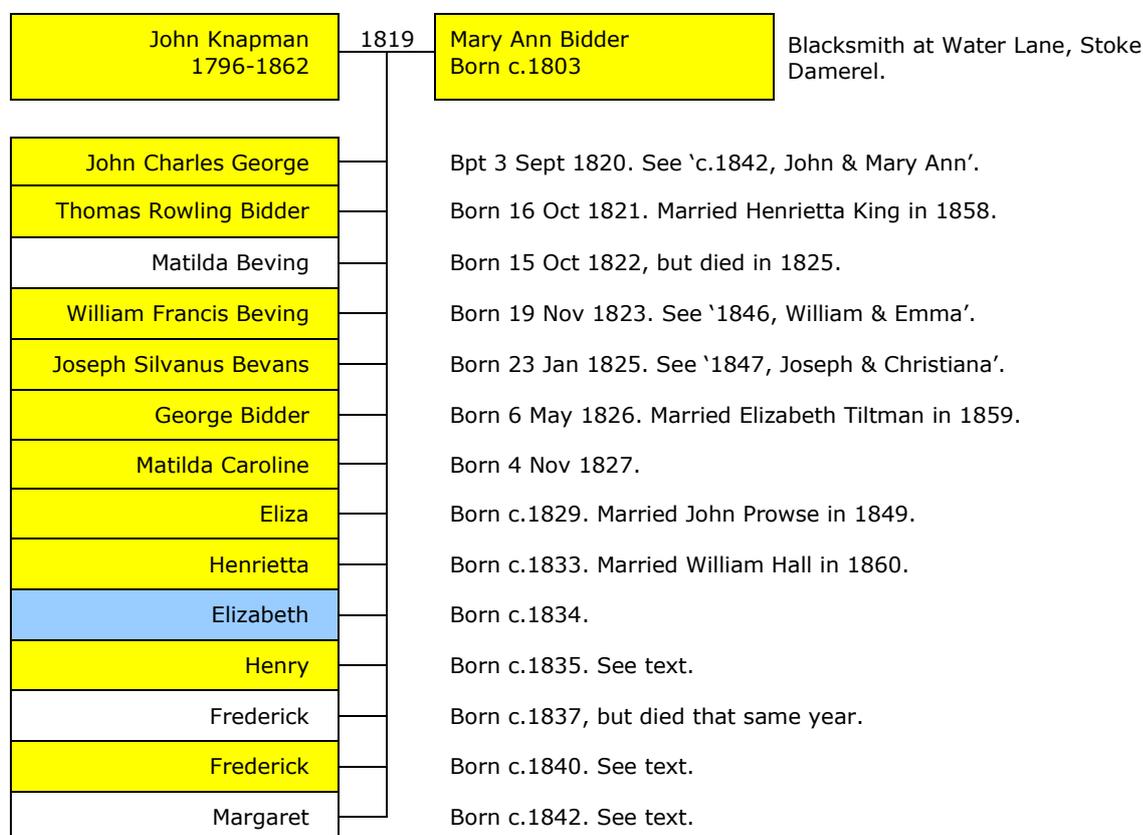
John appears to have become an agricultural and general labourer at Kingskerswell, and to have married Elizabeth Bridgman in Newton Abbot district in 3Q1852 (though I recognise that there are other Johns from Chagford to whom this marriage may more properly belong). She was from Kingskerswell, and worked in a paper mill both before their marriage and for some time thereafter. They had two sons who survived: Richard William (born c.1853, and worked in the docks at Teignmouth where he had a substantial family) and John Thomas (c.1856, who also married and had a family).

I am reasonably sure that William married Mary Oliver Panot Gainer in Plymouth district in 4Q1857. At the time of the 1861 census he was working as a warehouseman for a sugar refiner, and they were living at 12 Compton Place in the Charles district of Plymouth. In 1871 he was described as an agricultural labourer, despite living in Plymouth. Their children included Ellen M (born c.1859), William Henry (1861), Alice (c.1864), Albert R C (c.1866), Elizabeth (c.1869) and Sidney (c.1876). William died in 1879, and at the time of the 1881 census Mary was supporting herself as a grocer at 3 St Andrews Street, Plymouth and all of the children other than Ellen M were still living with her.

James married Ann Pearce in Okehampton district in 2Q1861 and stayed in Chagford. At the time of the 1871 census he was a coachman and Elizabeth was a launderess, and their daughters Mary Ann and Elizabeth had been born in c.1862 and c.1865 respectively. In 1881 they were living on New Street, and James was a carrier. Later he became a postman, and he and Ann were still living in Chagford with Mary Ann at the time of the 1911 census (which also shows that Elizabeth had died by then).

### 1819, John & Mary Ann

John Knapman married Mary Ann Bidder at Maker on 12 September 1819. He was from Family '1792, John & Ann', his parents having moved from South Tawton to Stoke Damerel shortly after his birth. She was evidently from Maker, which is on the Cornish side of Plymouth Sound. Based on the baptismal register for the parish of Plymouth St Andrew for their first five children, the IGI records from the Morrice Street Wesleyan Chapel, Devonport for the next two children, and census returns for the younger ones, their family appears to have been as shown below.



At the time of the 1841 census the family was living on Quarry Street, Stoke Damerel (Devonport). The 1851 census shows them living on Water Lane, Stoke Damerel, and John was a blacksmith in the naval dockyards. It also confirms that John had indeed been born in South Tawton in about 1797. Mary Ann was still alive at the time of the 1881 census and living at 88 Pembroke Street, at which time her married daughter Eliza was staying with her. She died over the following decade.

At the time of the 1841 census John Charles George was apparently working at Pentillie Castle on the Cornish side of the Tamar valley, with his year of birth recoded as c.1816.

Thomas Rowling Bidder was not in his parents' household in 1841, but living in the same street, described as being in the navy. He was presumably then in the merchant navy, because his Royal Navy service record, in the National Archives, gives his date of birth as 16 October 1818 (3 years before he was actually born) and his date of volunteering as 30 September 1853. William Francis Beving was a shoe maker's apprentice in 1841.

By 1851 Eliza was married, but staying with her parents, as were Elizabeth (a vest maker, who I have not found on the 1841 census), Henry (an apprentice smith), Frederick (an errand boy) and Margaret (a scholar). A decade later Henry and Frederick (both described as sawyers) were living with John and Mary Ann, as was Margaret, and Mary, Frederick's wife. I understand that John (the father) died in 1862. Henry (by then a labourer in the dockyards) was the only one of their children still living with Mary Ann in 1871, still on Water Lane, but three grandchildren were staying as well (see below for details). Henry appears not to have married, and in 1891 was living with his sister Eliza Prowse and her husband. He probably died in 1895.

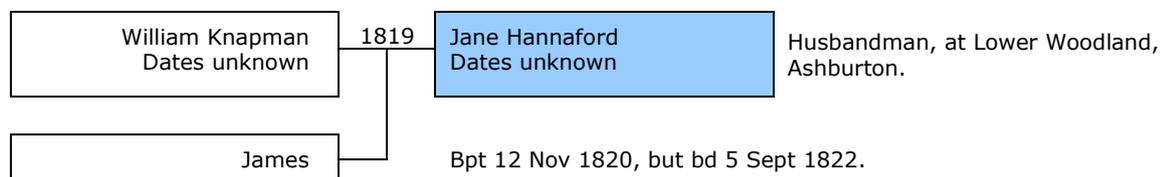
Thomas Rowling Bidder married Henrietta King in Stoke Damerel district in 1Q1858. She was apparently a widow, with at least one son of her own. By then Thomas was working as a rigger, and was often away from home. At the time of the 1861 census he was working in Pembrokeshire, while Henrietta was in Devonport with their children, Thomas (born c.1859) and Henrietta (c.1860). I believe that they had a second son, Charles, in c.1863<sup>122</sup>. A decade later Thomas was working in Jarrow in the North East of England and was described as a widower, and the three children named above were living with his widowed mother on Water Lane.

George Bidder joined the coastguard service as a boatman, and moved to Kent. He then married the somewhat younger Elizabeth Tiltman from Kingsdown, Kent in Thanet district in 4Q1859. At the time of the 1861 census they were living at Birchington, Kent. A decade later they were in the parish of St Peter the Apostle, and in 1881 at Margate. Their children included Mary J (born c.1862), Elizabeth H (c.1869), Eliza H (1861), Frances (c.1867) and Caroline (c.1870).

Frederick very probably died in 1875, and so far as I know he did not marry.

### 1819, William & Jane

William Knapman married Jane Hannaford at Ashburton on 25 November 1819. I do not know where he came from, and their marriage should not be confused with the one that is the basis of Family '1814, William & Susanna'. This William was described on the DFHS transcript of the marriage register as a husbandman. When their son was baptised at Ashburton, the family's address was given as Lower Woodland (on the DFHS transcript).



I have not found William or Jane at the time of the 1841 census, but she at least appears to have been alive, possibly in the London area, because on 25 October 1852 a widow called Jane Knapman married James Baldwin, a labourer of 1a St Mark's Road, at West Brompton in London. Her father was named on the marriage register as Robert Hanover (rather than Hannaford), and described as a farmer.

<sup>122</sup> They may have had a fourth, called John Charles Bidder, because someone of that name died in Stoke Damerel district in 3Q1863.

## Chapter 8: Marriages from 1820 to 1835

### Introduction

#### *Sources:*

This period covered by this chapter is fully covered by comprehensive records for baptisms, marriages and burials in Devon (in the form of surname-based lists available from the DFHS). This is particularly important, given that very few Knapman families had ventured out of Devon by 1835.

Although such lists cannot reasonably be expected to be perfect, this means that almost all but the youngest of the individuals who can be found on the censuses of 1841 (and 1851) can also be expected to appear on the 1813 to 1837 baptismal lists. As a consequence, the families that appear in this chapter really do represent the very large majority of Knapmans who existed at the time.

As in Chapter 7, where the sons from these marriages were themselves married after the 1851 census I have tried to indicate at least in outline who they did marry, when and where.

#### *Context:*

Agricultural price support (in the form of the Corn Laws) remained in place throughout the period covered by this chapter. Whereas high prices were good for landlords (who could charge high rents in the clear expectation that high prices would continue for the foreseeable future), they tended to depress farm wages, which was bad for agricultural labourers, and for rural workers in general. Because Devon had more family farms and fewer large estates, the social problems that this caused were less obvious than in, say, Dorset, where the Tolpiddle martyrs case of 1834 highlighted the issues to a much wider public.

This period also saw the invention of railways (the Stockton and Darlington line was opened in 1825). Although it took a couple of decades for the railways to spread throughout the country, they immediately began to affect the market for farm produce by (for example) making it possible for the first time to send fresh milk and vegetables into the large (and rapidly expanding) industrial cities from a much wider catchment. This explains to a great degree why towns were so keen, when new lines were mooted, to have a station built near them.

The 1830s also saw the continuation of social reform legislation, through a series of reform bills, including a reform of the poor laws. This was a recognition that a parish-based system that had worked since mediaeval times was straining to deal with the mass movement of people from rural to urban areas, and (in the case of Devon) from small, remote villages to market towns.

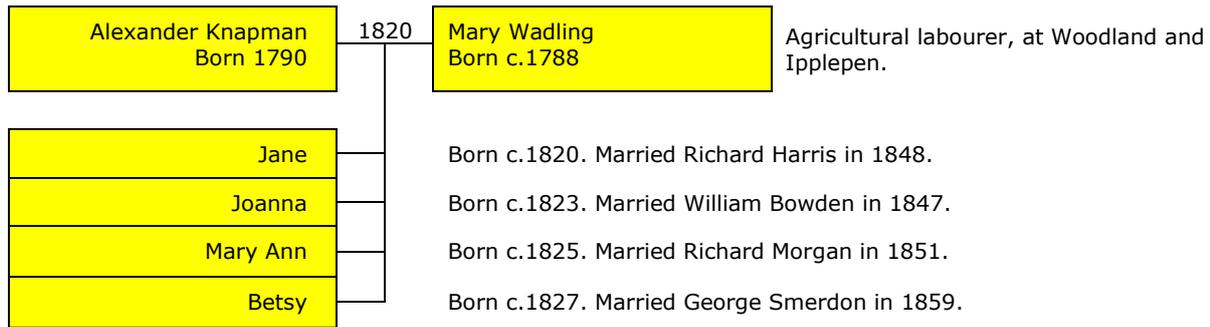
#### *Weather:*

By comparison with the extremes of the first two decades of the century, the period covered by this chapter was marked by more predictable weather patterns.

### **1820, Alexander & Mary**

Alexander Knapman married Mary Wadling of Cockington at Woodland on 23 March 1820. Woodland is between Ashburton and Denbury, and Alexander, who was from Family '1770, John & Mary', had evidently moved from the other side of Dartmoor.

They had a family as shown below, but none of their childrens' baptisms show up on the DFHS transcription of Devon baptisms. The dates below are based on later census returns, which sometimes give their place of birth as Woodland.



At the time of the 1841 census Alexander and Mary were living at Gurrington in the parish of Ipplepen, with their three youngest children. A decade later they had moved back to Woodland, with Betsy.

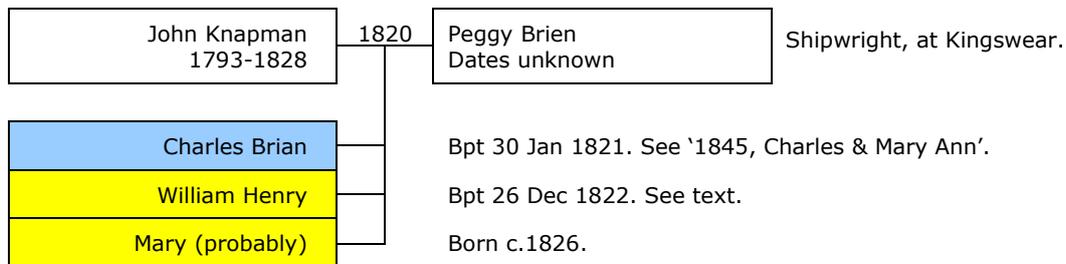
Jane, who was living next door to the rest of the family in 1841, working as a servant, married Richard Harris, a blacksmith from Dartington, at Harberton on 21 December 1848. They had a family. Joanna very probably married William Bowden in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1847, and had a family in London.

Mary Ann's surname was recorded as Napman on the 1851 census return while she was visiting Tormohan (Torquay), described as a dressmaker. Very soon thereafter she married Richard Morgan (in Newton Abbot district in 2Q1851), and they lived in Kent and London, and had a family. Betsy married George Smerdon in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1859, and they too had a family.

### 1820, John & Peggy

John Knapman married Peggy Brien at Kingswear on 18 July 1820. I do not know where he came from, but he was described on the marriage register as a shipwright.

The facts about this family are by no means certain, but what follows appears to be substantially correct. They had two sons baptised at Kingswear, and very probably a daughter (who was not baptised there), before John's death in 1828. Peggy was re-married soon thereafter, to William Norman, at Kingswear on 26 October 1830.



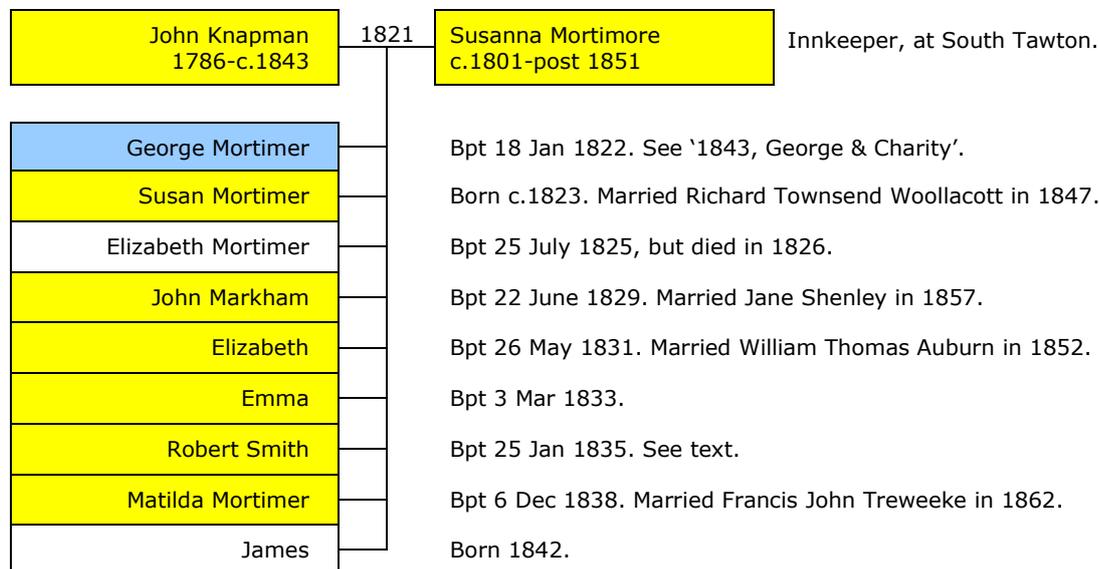
Charles Brian was also a sailor, like his father, and was probably away at sea in 1841. At that time a William Henry Knapman was a shoe maker in Kingswear. Although his age is very hard to read on the census return, he was very probably from this family. Living with him was Mary (born c.1826), who was presumably his sister. Subsequently I believe that William Henry went to sea, and that by 1850 he was the master of a Dartmouth-based 'dandy rigged smack' (a 70-foot Brixham-type fishing trawler) named the Lord Duncan, which was lost with all hands on 6 February 1850 in a very heavy storm when it was driven onto the rocks at Mawgan Porth, a short distance north of Newquay. This loss was widely reported<sup>123</sup>, with the master named as Mr W H Knapman.

### 1821, John & Susanna

John Knapman married Susanna Mortimore at Lustleigh on 5 January 1821. He was originally from Family '1784, William & Joanna', and this was his second marriage (his first being '1811, John & Catherine'.

<sup>123</sup> See for example the Royal Cornish Gazette of 15 February 1850.

In the tree below, the spellings of Mortimore / Mortimer are as shown on the parish register transcripts, and I am unsure which one is correct. The dates come from the South Tawton baptismal and burials registers. There is, however, no baptismal record for Susan Mortimer, though I am reasonably sure that she was from this family (and was living with John and Susanna at the time of the 1841 census).



Things evidently did not go well with John's innkeeping business, because in 1835 John Knapman, victualler of South Zeal, was declared insolvent<sup>124</sup> by a court order dated 28 July of that year. Nevertheless, the 1841 census still describes him as a publican (probably thanks to a bail-out by his father, from whom he subsequently inherited the King's Arms), and he was still at South Zeal with most members of his family at that time.

John is very probably the person of that name who, according to a report in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 8 July 1843, was sued in his capacity as Executor of his father's will (with his father identified as William) by the owner of a lime kiln in South Tawton. The sum involved was £3 6/9d, for lime and culm supplied in 1840. The plaintiffs stated that it had been collected by John's son (also William: his son by his first marriage). The jury found in the plaintiffs' favour.

John died not long thereafter, and following his death Susanna evidently decided to take several of the children to Plymouth to try their luck there. However, in 1845 they were returned to South Tawton, suggesting that they were destitute, and seeking parish relief. Nevertheless it is clear that she decided to go back again to Plymouth, because that is where she can be seen on the 1851 census, living at the rear of 29 Richmond Street, with her children John (by then a cabinet maker), Emma (a dressmaker), Matilda and James. I have not found James thereafter.

George Mortimer was not living with his parents in 1841, and he became a butcher in Plymouth.

Susan Mortimer may also have travelled to Plymouth with Susanna, and she evidently married Richard Townsend Woollacott there in 1Q1847. By the time of the 1851 census they were living at Kenn, near Exeter. Richard was described as an agricultural labourer, Susan's place of birth was shown as South Tawton, and their son John had been born at Plymouth. Susan died in 1860, and by 1871 Richard was described as a blacksmith. All in all, Susan's link to this family seems very credible even though I have not found evidence of her baptism.

When Elizabeth Mortimer was buried, on 18 September 1826 her name was wrongly recorded as Susanna Mortimer (it being hard to imagine any other explanation).

John Markham evidently moved to London, and on 20 August 1857 at St John's, Paddington, described as a cabinet maker of Bouverie Street and son of John Knapman, a farmer, he married Jane Shenley of Praed Street, daughter of a coachman called James Shenley. They had at least

<sup>124</sup> DHC Ref QS36/2.

four children: John Mortimer (born 1859), Jane Elizabeth (1860), George Walter (1864) and Emily Ann (1865). They lived for a time at 76 Seymour Place. John Markham died on 9 February 1869 at Brompton Hospital while the family was living at Pembroke Road, Kilburn. In 1881 Jane, described as a widowed dress and mantle maker, was living at 7 Pembroke Road, Willesden with all four children. John Mortimer was by then a decorator.

Elizabeth also evidently moved to London, and took on the Mortimer name, even though she had not been baptised with it. The baptismal register of St John's, Hackney shows that on 8 March 1852 Elizabeth Mortimer Knapman, daughter of John Knapman, a licensed victualler, married William Thomas Auburn, a cordwainer of Mare Street, Hackney. They had a substantial family, born in London and Plymouth.

Robert Smith was a sailor, and the proof that what follows refers to him comes from the fact that when he left his will, he named George Mortimer as his brother, and the outcome of the process of proving the will stated his date and place of death as 9 July 1873, at Yarra Bend, Melbourne, and described him as a mariner and a bachelor.

The background was as follows. In 1859 a sailor called Robert Knapman was one of relatively few survivors of a famous shipwreck in South Australia in which he played a prominent and heroic part. The vessel that was lost was the 'Admella'.

The [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper) website carries several references to this Robert Knapman which can be accessed on line. The South Australian Register of 3 July 1860 reported that for his actions when the 'Admella' was sunk he was awarded a silver medal and £50, but noted that he was 'now in England'. However, he evidently returned to Australia soon thereafter, because the South Australian Advertiser of 27 September 1861 reported that he was fined £1 for assaulting a fellow sailor who he accused of stealing 2/6d from his cabin, and the Melbourne paper 'The Argus' of 3 June 1862 reported that he had been robbed of his watch and boots while lying drunk in the street (he successfully prosecuted the thief).

'The Argus' then carried the following account on 12 July 1873. "*A man whose heroism at the wreck of the ill fated Admella was the means of saving many lives, has ended his existence under melancholy circumstances. The unfortunate fellow, whose name is Robert Knapman, swam off to the wrecked vessel with a rope, and succeeded in rescuing several of the passengers, of whom Mr Hurtle Fisher was one. For this act of bravery he received the medal of the Royal Humane Society. Afterwards he got some situation in a boat belonging to the Government service, but falling down a hatchway he received injuries to his head which induced epilepsy, and ultimately caused his death. He was for some years in the Benevolent Asylum, but was transferred in September last to the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum. He was, however, perfectly sane, suffering only from epilepsy, but at the institution in which he was placed he received more suitable treatment than he could have obtained elsewhere. He died on Wednesday (i.e. on 9 July 1873); and at an inquest held on his body next day by Mr Candler, it was shown that death had been caused by congestion of the lungs, the result of epileptic convulsions.*"

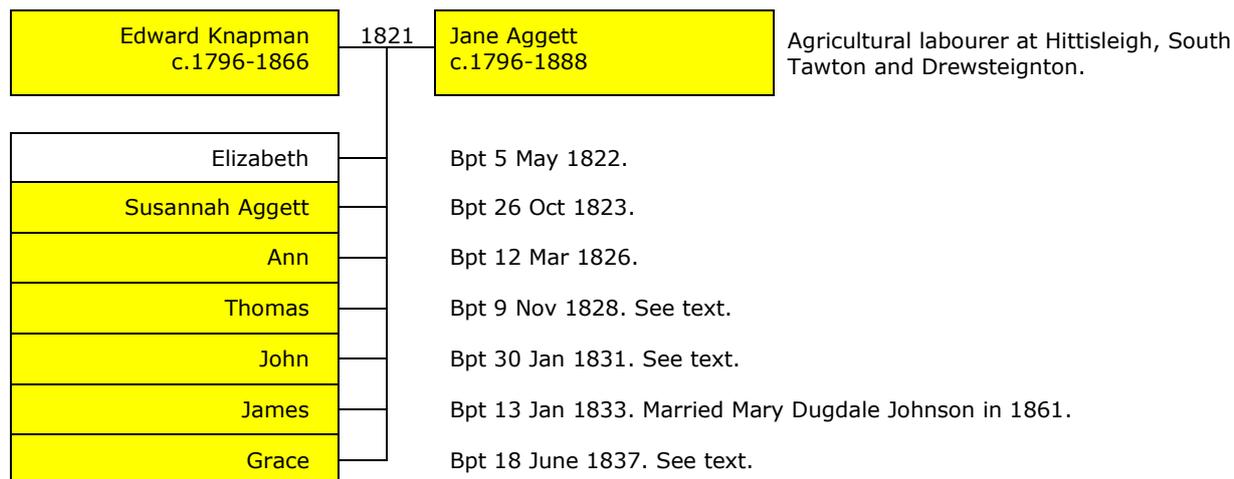
Matilda Mortimer married Francis John Treweeke in Plymouth district in 3Q1862. I believe that they had a family, but have not found details. He died in 1901 and she followed in 1910, and they are buried at Ilfracombe.

I have not traced James into adulthood with any great certainty, though it is possible that he worked as a labourer in the St Andrew area of Plymouth and married a much younger wife called Elizabeth in the 1880s.

### **1821, Edward & Jane**

Edward Knapman married Jane Aggett at Throwleigh on 25 November 1821. I have not managed to work out where he came from, but he was variously described as a labourer and husbandman when their children were baptised, and her name was wrongly recorded as Joanna when Thomas was baptised. Elizabeth was baptised at Throwleigh, followed by three children at Hittisleigh and three more at South Tawton.

Despite the evidence of the various census returns I am reasonably sure that Edward (the father) was not baptised in South Tawton or Throwleigh. His baptismal record may lie in the registers of a parish that I have not checked (though I have looked at all of the nearby ones). Jane was from Throwleigh.



When they moved back to South Tawton (in about 1831) they were living at Livaton. However, by 1841 they were back a few miles east in Hittisleigh (at Davycourt), with Susannah Aggett and their three youngest children. Thomas was living in South Tawton with the Moore family, to whom he had been apprenticed in 1839, and Ann was very probably the farm servant living at Great Molsen in South Tawton. I do not know where Elizabeth was.

In 1851 Edward and Jane were living at Merrymeet, Hittisleigh with Grace. A decade later the three of them were at Mill Farm Cottage, Drewsteignton. Edward died prior to the census of 1871, very probably in 1866, and Jane went to live with her son John in Deptford, East London, where he worked as a carpenter and wheelwright. He was still unmarried in 1881, and Jane was still living with him. She died in 1888.

Thomas was a lodger in Buckfastleigh at the time of the 1851 census and working as a wool comber. I have not found him thereafter.

James was apprenticed to a wheelwright and living in Drewsteignton at the time of the 1851 census. He then moved to London, where he married Mary Dugdale Johnson from Exeter at St Mary's Islington on 17 March 1861. A few weeks later, at the time of the census, they were living in Lambeth, where James was working as a wheelwright. Mary Dugdale died in 1870, and the following year James was a lodger in Lambeth, described as a coach maker.

He was re-married to Harriet Webber, who was Canadian-born, in Kensington district in 1Q1873, and his second marriage is worth tracing in some detail because his grandson was one of the very few British citizens to have been accused (probably wrongly) of spying for the Germans in World War II. Their only son, Arthur James, was born in Hackney in 1885, and at the time of the 1901 census the three of them were living at 15 Aukland Street, Lambeth. By 1911 Harriet had died, and James was in the Tooting Bec Asylum in South London. He died later that year, on 17 April 1911, but probate on his will (worth just £7-15s) was not granted until 1922.

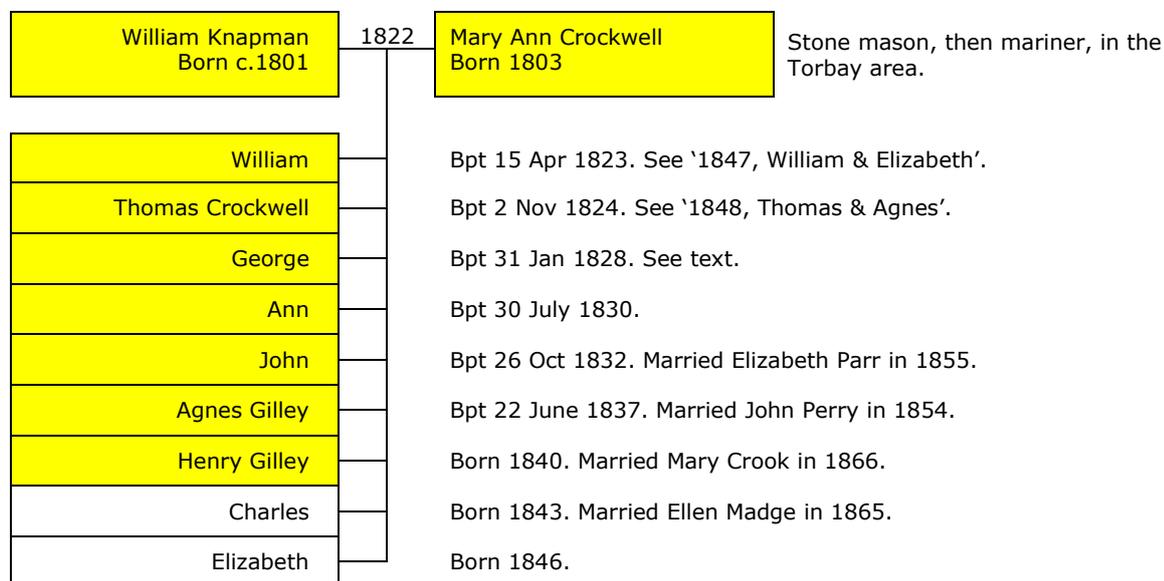
Arthur James was also a wheelwright, and he married Rachel Sophia Simmonds in Lambeth in 1904. Their oldest child, Arthur Thomas, was born in 1906 (and registered at birth as Thomas Arthur C). His file in the National Archives shows that he was clearly a talented linguist, who worked for various multinational companies including Ford and Shell, and travelled widely throughout Europe in the years leading up to World War II. When war broke out he stayed on in Spain, but then moved to Lisbon. The evidence strongly suggests that he had been contacted by German intelligence and paid by them. He did not deny this, though he did deny that he ever gave them anything for their money. He claimed to have been sent to Dachau because of their dissatisfaction at his non-performance, and there is no clear evidence that he was ever much more than in the wrong place at the wrong time, with very poor judgement. When he was questioned by British Intelligence after the war (his hand-written statement dated 10-15 October 1945 is in the file: I only had time to skim through it) it was concluded that there was no reason why he should not return to the UK, which he did, in 1946.

## 1822, William & Mary Ann

William Knapman married Mary Ann Crockwell at Coffinswell on 18 January 1822. He was from Family '1796, William & Agnes', and Mary Ann had been baptised at Coffinswell on 11 February 1803, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Crockwell (or Crockwill). There were two marriages at Coffinswell involving bridegrooms called Thomas Crockwell, one to Mary Codner (on 1 March 1792) and a second to Mary Pardy (on 9 March 1802). I suspect Mary Ann was a child of the second of these two marriages<sup>125</sup>.

In 1822, around the time of his marriage, William made a deposition which can be found via the National Archives website, and which states that he was born in Kingskerswell, and that "... when aged 9 yrs (he) was bound apprentice by parish indenture there to Samuel Ducler, (and) served out his apprenticeship. (He) agreed by indenture to serve William Gifford of Kingskerswell, mason, (for) 4 yrs at 1s per week for 1st yr, rising to 2s per week for the last 2 yrs, (with) victuals and lodgings the whole term (provided). The 4 yr term will expire next Feb. He married on 18 Jan 1822 in Coffinswell parish church, has lodged since then in Coffinswell, (and) continued to work for William Gifford".

William and Mary Ann's first five children were baptised at Coffinswell; the last four baptised and/or born at Kingskerswell.



William and Mary Ann were living at Dacombe, in Coffinswell, when George, Ann and John were baptised, but by the time of the 1841 census they were living in Kingskerswell with those three, plus Agnes Gilley and Henry Gilley. William and Thomas Crockwell were also living in Kingskerswell, working as agricultural labourers on the same farm.

One of the two Williams (probably the son) was the subject of a bastardy order in 1845, made in connection with the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Carter of Kingskerswell.

By the time of the 1851 census Mary Ann had moved to Torquay with the four youngest children, and although she was recorded as married rather than widowed, I have not found William at that time. So far as I can see he had become a mariner (that is how he was described on the marriage certificate of his son Henry Gilley). A further decade later, in 1861, she was the head of household, and the three youngest children were still living with her.

George was an agricultural labourer and lodger at Kingskerswell in 1851, with his surname spelled Napman. I have not managed to trace him thereafter. John was working as a servant for the widow and family of a miller at Compton Mills, Marldon, in 1851. He married Elizabeth Parr in Newton

<sup>125</sup> I am reasonably sure that these were not two marriages to the same bridegroom, because William Codner Crockwill was baptised at Coffinswell on 31 December 1802, 9 months after the marriage to Mary Pardy, and it would be very unusual to name a child after a former wife.

Abbot district in 1Q1855, and they lived at Wolborough, near Newton Abbot where John worked in an iron works<sup>126</sup>. They do not appear to have had any children of their own, and their nephew William Parr was living with them in both 1861 and 1871.

Agnes Gilley, described on the marriage certificate as a dressmaker, aged 19, married John Perry at Little Dean in the Forest of Dean on 22 May 1854. He was a miner, and I understand from their descendant Janet Moore that they had a family and moved to South Wales.

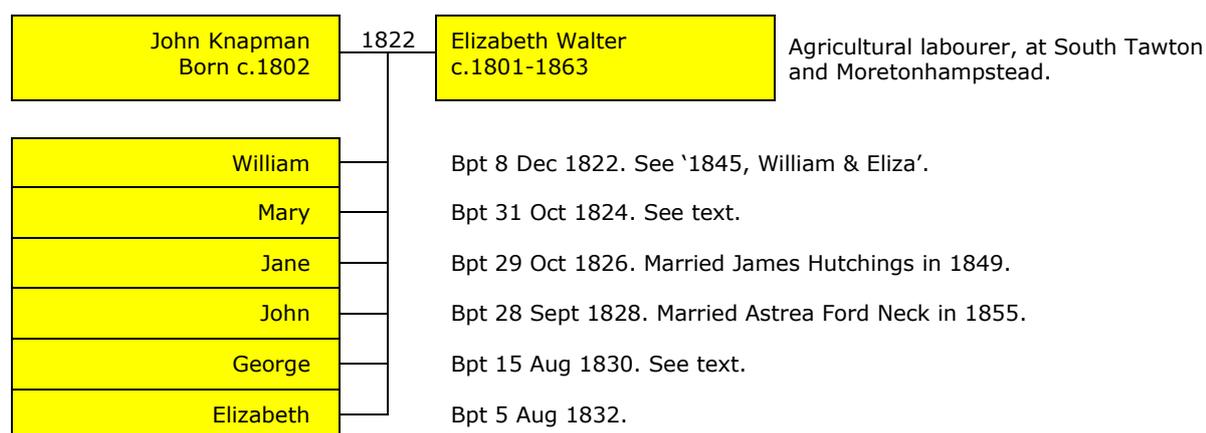
Henry Gilley married Mary Crook, a mariner's daughter, at Tormoham (Torquay) on 14 February 1866. He worked as a general labourer in and around Torquay, and they do not appear to have had any children.

Charles married Ellen Madge in Newton Abbot district in 2Q1865. She appears to have been a widow, with at least one daughter of her own. In 1871 Charles was a labourer and they were living in the St Luke's area of Torquay. A decade later he was a fisherman. Their children, born between about 1865 and 1878, included Charles, William E, Thomas John, Mary E, Anna M, Alice A and George Gilley.

### 1822, John & Elizabeth

John Knapman married Elizabeth Walter at South Tawton on 28 July 1822. I do not know where he came from. All of their children were baptised at South Tawton, and based on the entries in the baptismal register, they were living at Ash in 1824 and 1826, but moved to the Quick Buildings in or around 1828. In 1830 they were at Whiddon Down (and John's name was wrongly recorded as George in the baptismal register when their son George was baptised). By 1832, when Elizabeth was baptised, they were back at the Quick Buildings. By the time of the 1841 census they had moved the relatively long distance to Moretonhampstead, where they were living in the town itself, with John, George and Elizabeth.

As indicated above, John's origins are uncertain. The 1841 census gives his age as c.35, implying that he was born in c.1806, yet I can find no likely 'candidate' baptism which might be his, and he would have been very young when he got married. Two John Knapmans were baptised in South Tawton in 1796, but neither of these appear to have been this John<sup>127</sup>. The next baptism of a John Knapman of which I am aware was in South Tawton in 1808, but apart from the fact that that he was still living with his parents in 1841, a boy born in 1808 could hardly have got married in 1822. Elizabeth's age (c.30 on the 1841 census return) is even less compatible with her having got married in 1822.



At the time of the 1841 census William may well have been working at Murchington, a farm in the parish of Throwleigh, but only just outside Chagford. Mary could well have been the apprentice at

<sup>126</sup> Although there was a John Knapman with a wife called Elizabeth and of very much the same age as this one who was a stone mason in Torquay from the 1860s until the 1880s, the census records are consistent in showing that he had been born in Berry Pomeroy or Totnes rather than Kingskerswell, and I am confident that I have the two of them the right way round. John the stone mason was from Family '1825, Thomas & Mary'.

<sup>127</sup> One was the son of Edward Knapman and Jane (née Scutt) of Gooseford. The other was the John who moved to Devonport and became a blacksmith. The 1861 census nevertheless gives his place of birth as South Tawton.

Sessland, South Tawton, and Jane was very probably working as a farm servant at Wonson, in Throwleigh.

John and Elizabeth had moved to Moretonhampstead (Forder Street) by 1851. The only family member living with them at that time was their grandson James (Mary's son: see below). At some point John gave up farm work and became a chimney sweep (his name appears in Billings' 1857 directory as a chimney sweep, on Forder Street). The only family member living with them in 1861 was an 11-year-old granddaughter called Eliza, almost certainly the daughter of their son William.

Mary appears to have had two illegitimate children: James (baptised in Moretonhampstead on 3 May 1846, but died in 1860) and a child (probably a daughter, either Eliza or Mary) who was born in the Newton Abbot workhouse on 24 January 1848, and who was the subject of a bastardy order in February 1848 against John Croot, an agricultural labourer from Bullaton in Hennock parish.

Jane married James Hutchings at Moretonhampstead on 19 January 1849. They lived on Pound Street, and had a family.

John (the son) was recorded as a tailor and visitor at Bedminster (Bristol) at the time of the 1851 census. Mary Neck of Moretonhampstead was also staying there. He married Astrea Ford Neck, probably Mary's sister, at All Saints church, Poplar on 9 September 1855, and the register shows him to have been a tailor of 1 Catherine Street at that time. He became a draper at 21 Chrisp Street, Poplar, and they had a large family born between about 1858 and 1882, including John G, Anne E, Eda M, William, Frank, Henry N, Minnie A and Amy M.

George was probably the person of that name who joined the Royal Marines at Greenwich in 1847, but was killed in 1853. His service record, in the National Archives, gives his year of birth as 1830 without specifying the actual date or place.

Elizabeth (the daughter) may have been visiting London in 1851, recorded as a niece and visitor born in Taunton, a reasonably common mis-rendering of Tawton).

A John Napman was recorded at the time of the 1871 census staying at Minster, near Boscastle, described as a chimney sweep from Moretonhampstead, born c.1837. Although it seems probable that he was in some way related to this family, I have been unable to work out how. He appears (from the census record) to have married a wife called Grace from Blackawton, but I have been unable to find the record.

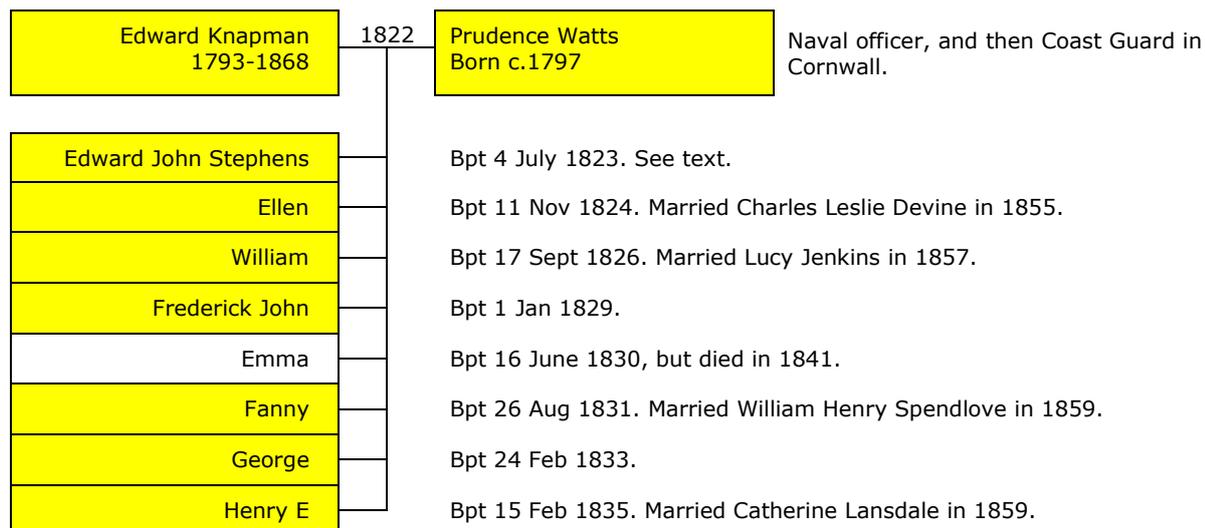
## 1822, Edward & Prudence

Edward Knapman married Prudence Watts at Poundstock, Cornwall on 11 August 1822. He was one of three Naval brothers from Family '1786, John & Sarah', and after he retired from the Navy he joined the Coast Guard service. His naval biography reports that he married the second daughter of R Burgoyne Watts Esq of Treburifoot, Cornwall. Subsequent research<sup>128</sup> has shown that Prudence's father was Richard Watts, his residence was Trebarfoot, a manor in the parish of Poundstock, and her mother was Elizabeth (née Hutchings, married 20 May 1790 at Stratton). Prudence had been baptised at Jacobstow on 26 January 1797, the fifth child (and second daughter) in a large family. Her grandfather (also called Richard Watts, from Liskeard) had married Joan Burgoyne in 1764, she being the granddaughter of a Burgoyne who in turn had married Mary Trebarfoote, heiress of the family of that name who had built the manor house in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The website of the Cornwall FHS OPC provides the baptismal dates for their children, three at Poundstock followed by five at Stratton (including the information that their eldest son was baptised twice, first at Poundstock on 4 July 1823, and then at Stratton on 11 August). Edward (the father) is variously described in the baptismal register as a farmer (1826), 'naval' (most occasions), and a labourer (1831).

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<sup>128</sup> See in particular a website entitled [trease.org.uk](http://trease.org.uk) which carries the key facts, as well as page 455 of Vivian's account of the 1620 Herald's Visitation of Cornwall, which can be seen on-line via the excellent [ukgenealogyarchives.org.uk](http://ukgenealogyarchives.org.uk) website.



In 1841 Edward (the father) and his son (Edward John Stephens) were at West Cliffe in Kent, at the Corn Hill Coast Guard station, and the John Knapman at Greenwich Naval College was very probably their son / brother.

The other children shown above (apart from Ellen and Emma, who had been buried at Stratton on 10 May 1841 with her age given as 12) were with their mother at Stratton in Cornwall, a few miles south of Poundstock. Ellen was in London (see below).

At the time of the 1851 census Edward and Prudence were living at Constantine, near Falmouth, with Edward John Stephens, Fanny and George. Henry E was at Greenwich Naval College (providing further circumstantial evidence to support the assumption that the John Knapman who was there in 1841 was also from this family).

The evidence that I have seen suggests that Edward (the father) returned to sea as a captain. On 9 May 1853 Edward Knapman, accompanied by Edward and Henry Knapman, arrived in New Zealand on the 'Cashmere' from Plymouth (as reported in the Daily Southern Cross newspaper). Edward then appears to have sailed in and out of New Zealand and Australia on other occasions (for example arriving in Auckland on the 'Artemisia' on 4 April 1854, and in Melbourne on the 'Sybil' on 29 July 1856, described as one of two Captain Knapmans on board. The two of them were recorded as having been born in about 1792 and 1826 respectively, suggesting that the younger captain was William.

Edward (the father) was described in an item in the Morning Post of 15 February 1860 as being insolvent (though not bankrupt). The report stated that he was on half naval pay, with a pension from Greenwich Hospital, amounting to £166 a year, but that he owed £50 as a consequence of a promissory note which he had given to his brother-in-law. His death was then reported in the North Devon Journal of 6 February 1868 as having occurred on 18 January of that year, with the cause given as 'paralysis'. The probate details for his will describe him as having been 'of Ann's Terrace, Fulham, formerly Stratton' (which is where he and Prudence were living at the time of the 1861 census). He was buried at Stratton on 25 January 1868.

Edward John Stephens evidently returned to Stratton, because he too was buried there, almost 10 years before his father, on 3 August 1858, aged 35.

I am confident that the Ellen Knapman who was staying with Edward and Eliza Archer in the Hanover Square area of London at the time of the 1841 census was from this family. Ellen was either still in London, or there again, in 1851, with her place of birth confirmed as Poundstock, Cornwall, and her occupation shown as draper. I understand that she subsequently emigrated to Australia (apparently arriving at Melbourne in December 1854, where she married Dr Charles (or Carlos) Leslie Devine the following year. He was apparently a ship's surgeon born in Lima of a British family. A report in the Melbourne Argus of 24 July 1865<sup>129</sup> shows that he was a graduate of the University of Louisville, Kentucky with qualifications in medicine and surgery from the University of Lima and the University of San Marcos (also in Lima). On-line postings that I have

<sup>129</sup> Accessible via the [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au) website.

seen state that he was married four times, but suggest that Ellen was his first wife, and that they had children.

William became a sea captain. On 5 January 1857, identified as a 30-year-old mariner of 36 Thistle Grove, he married Lucy Jenkins of 27 Notting Hill at West Brompton church. In May 1857 they arrived in Melbourne on a ship called the 'Thames', with William's younger brother Henry E. I do not know whether William and Lucy stayed, but Henry E evidently did, because on 12 October 1859 he married Catherine (Kate) Lansdale at Collingwood, Victoria. They had three sons and several daughters. Only one of their sons (Philip Burgoyne, born in 1861) both married and had children, but since he only had daughters<sup>130</sup> the Knapman surname was not carried forward via this family.

There is then an otherwise unexplained marriage back in London which may well belong to Henry E. On 14 August 1869 at St Paul's, Canonbury Edward Henry William Knapman, son of Edward Knapman, a naval captain, married Maria Louisa Bankes, a widow and the daughter of Colonel John Robinson. Edward Henry William signed the register as E Henry Knapman, and I believe he was very probably the same person as Henry E, on a visit to London.

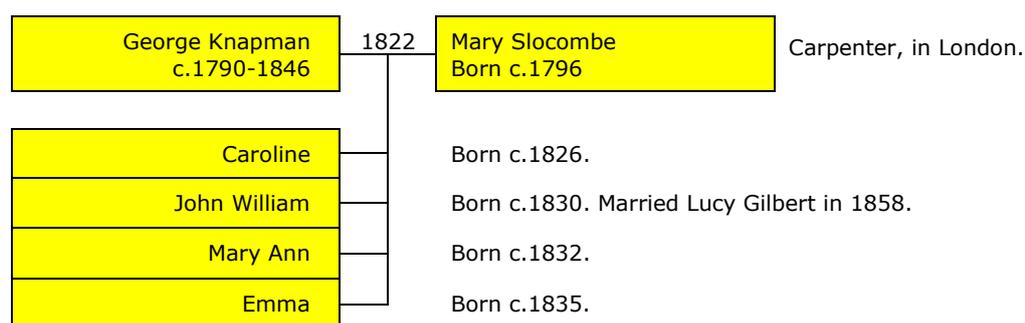
When Henry E died in 1909 he was described<sup>131</sup> as an 'orchardist of Glenluce' and a former member of the Mount Alexander Shire Council. Seven years before his death, and after over 40 years in Australia, he had paid a visit to England<sup>132</sup>. His son Philip Burgoyne, to whom administration of the will was granted, was a farmer, also of Glenluce. He died in March 1932 at Castlemaine, and his brother Henry Edward (who married but had no children) died at Glenluce in 1955. I owe the central facts about Henry E's 1859 marriage and family to Carol Furlong, whose husband is one of his great grandsons<sup>133</sup>.

Fanny married a solicitor's clerk called William Henry Spendlove at Fulham, All Saints on 8 October 1859. They remained in London, and do not appear to have had any children. I know nothing further about George.

## 1822, George & Mary

George Knapman married Mary Slocombe at Exeter St Paul's on 4 November 1822. He was from Family '1777, Thomas & Susanna' and she was from Instow, between Barnstaple and Bideford. I do not know whether she was related to the two Slocombe girls who subsequently married his nephews (see '1843, William & Betsy' and '1847, Edward & Mary'). I do, however, know (from the parish register when she was re-married in 1849) that her father was a labourer called Walter.

I do not know whether George had already moved to London by the time he married Mary, or whether they moved together. However, by the time of the 1841 census he was a carpenter in the parish of St John the Evangelist, and they had four children, as shown below.



George can be found on the oldbaileyonline.org website in connection with a case in which John Cone was indicted (but found not guilty) of "... *stealing, on 8 May 1824, a carpenter's plough, value 10s; four planes, value 10s; two saws, value 5s; two squares, value 3s; a spoke shave, value 1s; a chisel, value 6d, and a guage, value 6d, the goods of George Knapman*". George had evidently

<sup>130</sup> He had one daughter by each of his two wives.

<sup>131</sup> See the trove.nla.gov.au website.

<sup>132</sup> This was not the visit during which he may have been re-married, but it does confirm that he was fit enough to return to England at that time.

<sup>133</sup> The line runs via Henry E's daughter Dora Jennifer, born in 1876, who married Walter Henry Williams in 1900. Her eldest daughter, Dorothy Lansdale Williams, married Leslie Furlong.

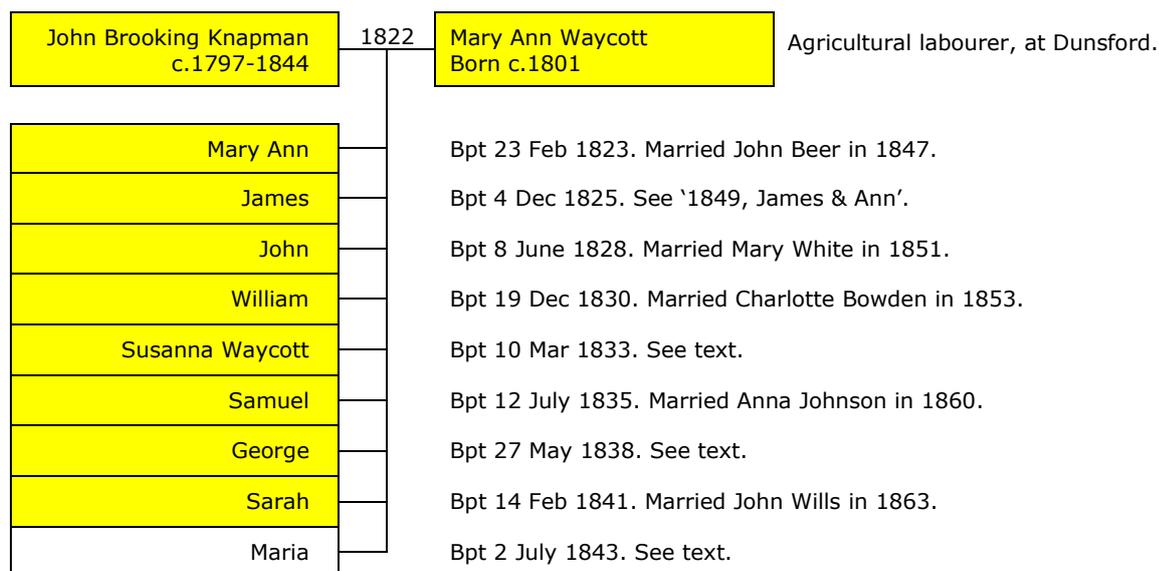
been working at a house on Vauxhall Road, and had left his tools in the building when he went for his breakfast.

George died in late 1846, and on 23 July 1849 at St Mary's, Lambeth Mary was re-married, to Robert Taylor, a widower who is variously described as a tailor, and as a coal and potato merchant. He was originally from Plymouth. At the time of the 1851 census they were living at 11 Greycoat Place (just off Horseferry Road, half way between Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, in the parish of St John the Evangelist), and John William was living with them. He was described on the census return as a fishmonger, and 'son-in-law' (rather than 'stepson') to Robert Taylor. None of his three sisters were present, and I have not managed to trace any of them after 1841<sup>134</sup>.

In 1861 John William was living in Hastings with his wife Lucy (née Gilbert, born in Exeter and married in 4Q1858 in St George's Hanover Square district) and two very young children (Lucy and John H). Those children evidently both died young, because in 1871 John and Lucy were back in Westminster with two others (George W, born c.1865; and Mary A, c.1868), and John William was still a fishmonger. John William died in 1875 in Marylebone district, and in 1881 Lucy was a widowed dressmaker living at 3 Clipstone Street, Marylebone with her son George W, by then a clerk. George was still single and still living with Lucy in 1891. Lucy apparently died in 1909, in Lambeth district.

### 1822, John & Mary Ann

John Brooking Knapman married Mary Ann Waycott at Bridford on 5 November 1822. He was from Family '1795, John & Sarah', and they moved back to Dunsford thereafter, where they lived at a place called Britton. Their children were all baptised at Dunsford At the time of the 1841 census John Brooking's mother Sarah was living with them and what were (at that time) their four youngest children.



Their daughter Mary Ann was apprenticed to Joseph Gray for South Lendon in 1832, and their son James to Benjamin Esworthy Seward for West Upton in 1835. They can both be seen on the 1841 census return in Dunsford, James at West Upton, but Mary at a farm called Berry.

John was almost certainly the 13-year-old servant on a farm at Holcombe Burnell whose name was transcribed as 'Knaphnam' on the census return, and William (whose apprenticeship I have not seen) was at a farm called Meadhay.

<sup>134</sup> I have established, with the help of Dorothy Thorn, one of her descendants, that the Caroline Knapman who married Thomas Jones in Lambeth in 1852 was not from this family: all subsequent census returns show that Caroline Jones was from Exeter, and when she was married her father was named on the parish register as a John, not George. She is mentioned in Chapter 10.

By the time of the 1851 census John Brooking had died, very probably in 1844, and Mary Ann (his widow) was living at Britton (described as a 'working woman', possibly working on farms) with Sarah and Maria.

I understand from Alison Moore in New Zealand that Mary Ann (the eldest daughter) married John Beer (originally from South Tawton) in 1847, and had two sons and four daughters. Several of her children and grandchildren emigrated to New Zealand around the turn of the century.

John married Mary White of Dunsford in St Thomas district in 2Q1851, shortly after the census of that year. Their first five children (Sarah, George, John, Emma and Mary) were born at Dunsford between 1854 and 1861, with John working there as an agricultural labourer. Soon thereafter they moved to Doddiscombeleigh where they had at least five more over the next decade (James, Emily, Richard, Ellen and Ann). By the time of the 1881 census John was working as a gamekeeper at Bridford, but only Richard and Ann were still living with their parents by then. Their son George worked as a market gardener in the St Thomas district of Exeter, married and had a family.

The third brother, William, was also apprenticed as a carpenter, but by 1851 he had moved to Chudleigh. His descendant Bruce Knapman of Australia, who has researched this family in considerable detail, has confirmed what I had largely deduced in outline, namely that on 9 October 1853 at St Andrew's, Plymouth William married Charlotte Bowden, and they then emigrated in 1854 to Port Adelaide on the Taymouth Castle. After failing as a licensed victualler in 1860<sup>135</sup> on the Lefevre Peninsula, William founded the Cannon Brewery in Port Adelaide, and did very well for himself and his family. The 'Knapman buildings at the Black Diamond Corner' are named after him. He and Charlotte had eight children, including five sons of whom four (William Henry, John George Walter, Alfred Ernest Albert and Samuel James) survived childhood, married and had children via whom the surname survives in Australia. After Charlotte's death in 1892 William was re-married to Mrs Cox, a widow, and died in 1908.

Susanna (recorded as Susan) was working in Bridford as a servant in 1851. Samuel and George were also both servants, but in Dunsford. I know nothing further about Susanna, but I understand from Bruce Knapman (see above) that George may have been drowned in 1867 on the way to Australia.

I am reasonably confident that Samuel emigrated to the US, and that he married Anna (or Annas, or Annie) Johnson at Silver Hill in Davidson county, North Carolina on 12 August 1860. The two of them were staying with her parents at the time of the 1860 Federal census (albeit with the surname spelled Nassmon). That Samuel worked as a miner / tunnel digger, and so far as I can see either Anna died, after which Samuel was re-married to a wife called Alice, or she was variously recorded as Anna, Annie and Alice. He may even have had another wife in between Anna and Alice. In any event he later moved to Maryland where he can be seen on census returns. I understand from his descendant Harry Cantwell that Samuel had sons called John H (born in Massachusetts in 1868, and died at 3 months old) and James (born at Pittsburgh on 5 January 1875) before he and Alice had Harry's direct ancestor George Wacott (born 30 January 1877 at Baltimore), Mary (c.1878), and Harry (1881 at Baltimore, and died in Philadelphia in 1906 after falling in the street). Samuel became a naturalised American citizen in 1884. The fact that George's family used the name Wa(y)cott as a middle name in later generations strongly suggests that Samuel the miner was in fact this Samuel<sup>136</sup>. I understand that the Knapman surname survives via this family.

Sarah married John Wills in Exeter district in 2Q1863. He was from Dunsford, possibly from the same family into which the two oldest children of Sarah's brother William (Mary Elizabeth and William Henry) also married, but in their cases in Australia. John and Sarah moved to Broadclyst, where they had at least six children before John's relatively early death, prior to the 1881 census, at which point Sarah was supporting her family as a launderess.

Finally Maria, the youngest sister of this family, had an illegitimate son, William Henry (born c.1866). The two of them also emigrated to Port Adelaide, and I understand from Bruce Knapman (see above) that from 1882 to 1885 Maria was the proprietor of the Pilot Boat hotel in Port Pirie. She married James Smith, a widower, in 1885 and died in 1899. William Henry married Clara Alice Gubbins in 1889, and had a family.

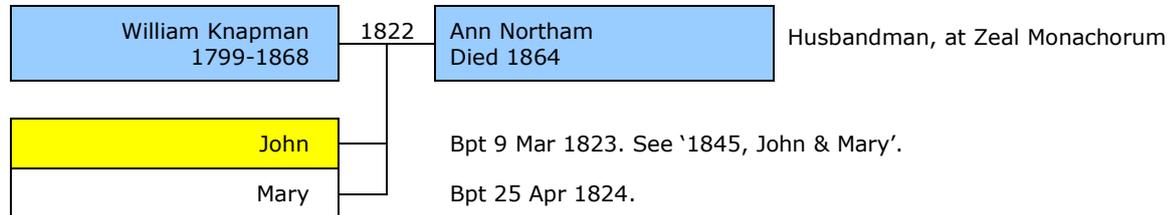
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<sup>135</sup> The evidence can be found via the [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper) website.

<sup>136</sup> I had previously thought that Samuel the miner had been born in Tedburn St Mary in 1839, but that Samuel became a soldier, and even though Samuel from Dunsford's date of birth does not match that of Samuel the miner particularly well, on balance I think they are very probably one and the same person.

## 1822, William & Ann

William Knapman married Ann Northam at Zeal Monachorum on 17 November 1822, with William described as a husbandman. He was very probably from Family '1791, William & Elizabeth'. Both of them marked (as opposed to signed) the register. Their children were both baptised at Zeal Monachorum.

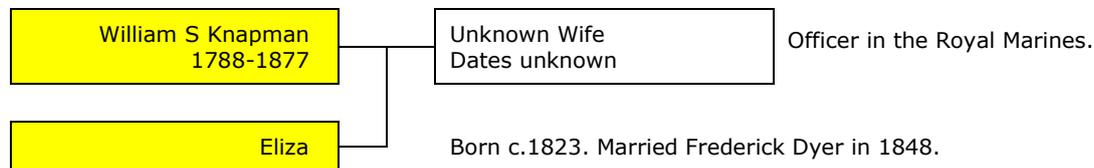


Mary was described as the daughter of William and Mary when she was baptised, but this was very probably a mis-transcription for Ann, which was the name by which she was known.

I have been unable to find William, Ann or Mary on the 1841 census returns, but John was living at the White Hart Inn in Bow, described as a servant. William and Mary are buried at Zeal Monachorum, having died in 1868 and 1864 respectively.

## c.1822, William & Unknown

William Stephens Knapman was an ex-marine from Family '1786, John & Sarah' who had fought at Trafalgar (as reported above in the context of his parents' marriage). He was the originator of this family, though he may not in fact have been married (and if he was, I do not know where or when, or what his wife's name was). However, he evidently did have a daughter, who was variously reported to have been born at Portsmouth or Macclesfield (in Cheshire), as follows.



At the time of the 1841 census William Stephens was living at Bovey Tracey with Eliza, who the census return confirms had been born outside Devon (and whose birthplace the 1851 and 1881 census returns give as Portsmouth and Macclesfield, Cheshire, respectively). Pigot's Directory for 1844 then shows that 3 years after the census William Stephens was living on South Street, South Molton. Then on 14 February 1848 Eliza, described<sup>137</sup> as "... *only daughter of Capt Knapman RM of South Molton, Devon ...*" was married at St Peter's Pimlico to Frederick William Du Pre Dyer<sup>138</sup>, a solicitor's clerk, and "... *second son of Henry S Dyer Esq RN of Reading*". They had at least two sons, and are both buried in St Mary's churchyard, Walton on Thames<sup>139</sup>.

In 1851 William Stephens was lodging in Truro, and in 1861 he was living on his own in Chelsea, next door to a c.43-year-old soldier called Jasper Knapman (for whom this appears to be the only census record, and may well be a mistake). At about the same time an article appeared in the London Standard of 8 April 1861 reporting that Major Knapman had been charged with violently assaulting his landlord at Chelsea, in a dispute over items in his room having been moved while he was already under notice to quit. It is not entirely clear whether this article refers to William Stephens or to the otherwise unknown Jasper.

According to an 1879 lawsuit arising from his will<sup>140</sup>, in 1864 William Stephens rented shooting rights from the Wreford family at Lapford, and spent several years living with them and shooting,

<sup>137</sup> Source: The Gentleman's Magazine of 14 February 1848, accessible on-line via Google Books.

<sup>138</sup> The surname Dyer also arose in connection with Family PLEX2, and the proving of Mary Knapman's will.

<sup>139</sup> Source: gravestonephotos.com.

<sup>140</sup> Source: Report in The Times of 7 February 1879.

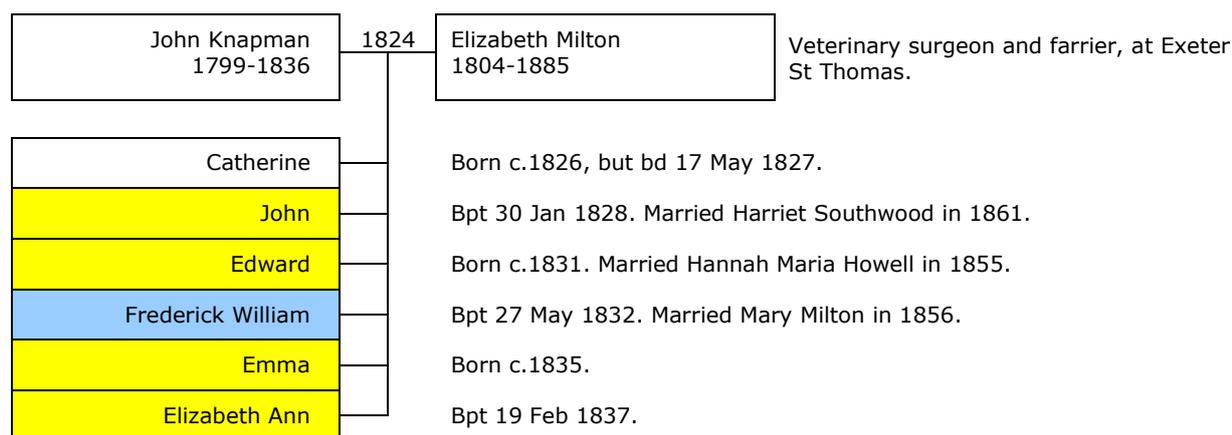
before moving to Torquay in 1876. The 1871 census confirms this, but gives the address as Bow rather than Lapford. The same 1879 report states that he drew up his will on 8 February 1877, leaving some money to family members, and the residue to Miss Ann Wreford, who I believe was acting as his housekeeper in Torquay<sup>141</sup>. The solicitor who drew up the will had apparently encouraged him to contact members of his family, but he had responded by making it clear that he had no intention of leaving anything to Mr and Mrs Dyer<sup>142</sup>, and the report characterises him as being estranged from his family. I have seen other evidence<sup>143</sup> that when he died, on 14 December 1877, at Wellesley Terrace, Torquay, he left £2,000 to be divided between his nephews and nieces, one of whom (Mrs Ellen de Vine: see Family '1822, Edward & Prudence') brought the 1879 lawsuit on the grounds that the will had not been properly executed.

## 1824, John & Elizabeth

John Knapman married Elizabeth Milton at Exeter St Thomas on 5 July 1824. He was from Family '1786, William & Judith', and I understand from information sent to me by Robyn Davies of Australia that she was the daughter of Daniel Milton and his wife Elizabeth (née Bartlett), and that they lived at Dunsford.

Like his father (and like his brother Edward) John was a veterinary surgeon / farrier. He may well have been managing his father's business in Exeter by 1821 (when his father's will was written).

Most of their children were baptised in the Exeter parish of Allhallows (though not, apparently, Catherine, whose burial took place at St Olave; and not Elizabeth Ann who was baptised at Ide). It is very possible that John and Elizabeth had one further child who is not shown below, because on 19 August 1827 a William Matthew Knapman was buried aged 5 weeks in the Exeter parish of St George.



The Western Times of 7 November 1829 carried a report of a dispute between John (described as a 'cattle doctor') and a man from whom he had bought some shoes for 8/6d. John had sought to offset the cost against his (unpaid) bill for "... *mending complainant's leg, about 2 years previous*". The man whose leg he had set had evidently been an apprentice at the time, and the court ruled that any outstanding debt for that work should be settled by the apprentice's former master, and that John had to pay the cost of his shoes, plus expenses. There were then two reports<sup>144</sup> which show horses being stolen from John's premises. A man was sentenced to transportation for the latter incident.

<sup>141</sup> I am indebted for this information, and for some of the other facts regarding William Stephens Knapman, to Peter Selley.

<sup>142</sup> He had apparently made a will largely in their favour in 1857, but this was overtaken by the 1879 will.

<sup>143</sup> There is a case reported in the Times Law Reports, Vol.39 from 1881 regarding his will which can be seen on-line via Google Books, and a notice in the on-line London Gazette edition of 22 January 1878 that confirms that he was living at Torquay when he died, but had formerly been resident at Langford in the parish of Bow. These facts are further corroborated by the evidence of the grant of probate. His sole executor was Ann Wreford of Bow, a spinster.

<sup>144</sup> See the Western Times of 5 June 1830 and the Exeter Flying Post of 2 January 1835.

John (the father) died at his home at Bartholomew Street on 17 August 1836<sup>145</sup> and was buried in the parish of Allhallows on the Walls 4 days later, very probably prior to the birth of Elizabeth Ann, who was baptised at Ide the following year, where cousins of Elizabeth (and possibly her parents too) then lived. On 27 August 1836 the Western Times carried a notice placed by Elizabeth, informing John's former clients that she "... *had engaged a competent person to carry the business on*" at Bartholomew Street.

By the time of the 1841 census Elizabeth had been re-married to an Inland Revenue Officer called Richard Sweeting (which is why she is not shown as having the surname Knapman in 1841), and they were living at Bradninch with John, Edward and Elizabeth Ann. I have not found Frederick William in 1841, but Emma was staying with the Milton family at Ide.

By 1851 Richard and Elizabeth Sweeting had moved to Topsham, and Edward (working as a draper), Emma and Elizabeth Ann were living with them, all still bearing the Knapman surname. John (assistant to a chemist / druggist) and Frederick William (apprenticed to a grocer) were both living in Exeter. The Sweetings subsequently moved to Essex (though by 1881 Richard Sweeting, by then c.90, had returned to Exeter, where he was living with his step-son John).

The Western Times of 21 May 1853 reported that John (the son) was to take over the business of John Croome, described as a dispensing and family chemist, of 47 High Street, Exeter, having been largely in charge of the business for the previous 3 years. In 1861 John was the head of the household, which included his mother and both of his unmarried younger sisters, Emma and Elizabeth Ann. Later that year (in 4Q1861 in Exeter district) he married Harriet Southwood, but I do not believe they had any children. A large number of subsequent newspaper reports show that John was very actively involved in the business and civic life of Exeter for many years.

Edward, became a draper, and married Hannah Maria Howell from Tiverton at Heavitree on 27 September 1855<sup>146</sup>. They lived in the Totnes and Newton Abbot areas before moving to Mount Radford House in the St Leonards area of Exeter, where they were living in 1881, at which time Edward was described as a draper with 31 assistants. They had at least 10 children, born between 1856 and 1876, including Edward Sweeting, given his middle name in recognition of the Sweeting family, Maria, Emily, Florence, Arthur, Blanche, Leonard, twins Rose and Lily, and Gilbert.

I understand from one of his many descendants, Robyn Davies, that in Tiverton district in 1Q1856 Frederick William married Mary Milton, a relative of his mother's from Ide, and that they farmed at Tollards Farm, Heavitree, where they too had 10 children<sup>147</sup>, including Frederick W (born c.1858), Emily M (c.1860), Kate (c.1864), John (c.1865), Richard (c.1867), George (c.1871), Elizabeth (c.1872) and Thomas (c.1874). In 1886 they emigrated to New South Wales, joining two of their sons who had emigrated the year before.

## **1824, William & Ann**

William Knapman married Ann Elmes in the Exeter parish of St Mary Major on 5 December 1824, when they were both quite young. He may well have been from Family '1801, George & Jane', though this link is tentative at present. He is shown in various documents to have been born at Saltash (in Cornwall but only just outside Plymouth), as was Ann, whose parents were called John and Elizabeth Elmes (according to the baptismal record of William and Ann's son Samuel John). They appear to have spent their whole adult lives in Exeter, where William was a labourer (at the time of the baptism of his sons George and William Matthew) and subsequently a greengrocer.

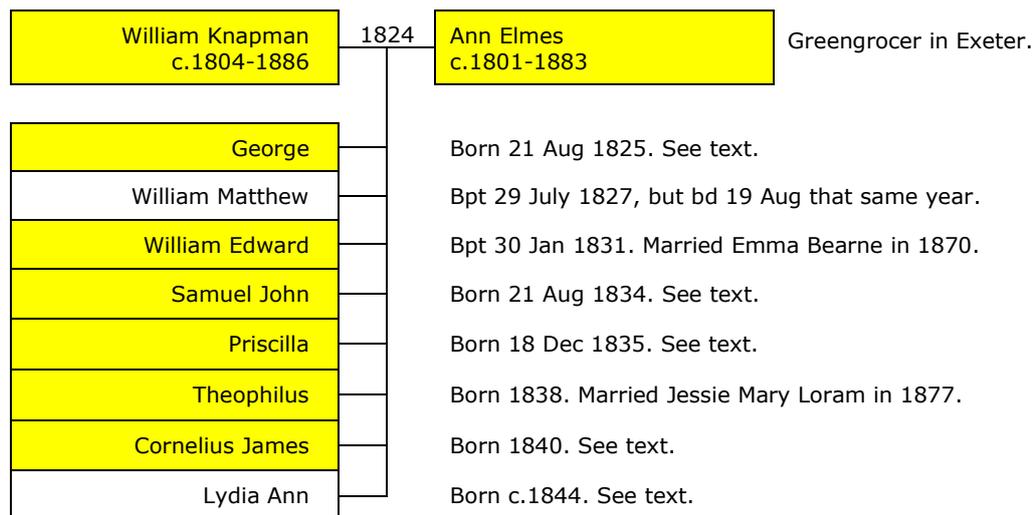
George and William Matthew were baptised on the same day at the St George's Presbyterian chapel, though George was already almost 2 years old by then. William Matthew was buried the following month at St George's, with his age given as 5 weeks.

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<sup>145</sup> Source: The Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 20 August 1836.

<sup>146</sup> Source: The Western Times of 29 September 1855.

<sup>147</sup> An item in the Western Times of 5 April 1856 confirms the marriage as having taken place at Heavitree, on 12 March of that year. A separate item in the same paper's issue of 10 July 1859 suggests that Frederick William was at that time farming a property called Weir Farm.



By 1834 William was a fruiterer on South Street, and at the time of the 1841 census they were living at 48 South Street. Whereas the other children were living with their parents at the time of the 1841 census, Samuel John appears to have been a lodger in the nearby parish of St Thomas the Apostle.

A decade later they were at 217 High Street<sup>148</sup> with both William Edward and Samuel working in the family business. George had moved to London by then (1851), and was working in London (on Tottenham Court Road) for a large company of drapers. He died in Exeter on 31 May 1860, apparently unmarried. Samuel John was not living with his parents in Exeter in 1861 (unlike William Edward and his four younger siblings).

William died on 21 December 1886 at 16 Queen's Terrace, Exeter, leaving a will worth slightly over £1,000 which was proved by Theophilus (described as 'oil and colour man') and Priscilla and Lydia Ann (both described as spinsters).

William Edward married Emma Grace Bearne in Newton Abbot district in 4Q1870, and they had four children (William B, born c.1872; Edward S, c.1873; Theophilus, c.1875 and Tryphena, c.1876) before William Edward's early death, on 24 January 1879, aged 48.

Samuel John was an accountant of sorts, and was appointed to the post of 'searcher' at Exeter by the Customs Service in 1857<sup>149</sup>. By 1861 he was living at 9 South Parade, Chelsea described as a mercantile clerk, with a wife called Sarah Jane, who had been born in Exeter in c.1835. I have been unable to find any record of their marriage, or her maiden name, and am not convinced that they were in fact married. They evidently had a daughter, Minnie Louisa (bpt 27 May 1860 at Chelsea, St Luke, with Samuel John described in the register as a grocer at 6 Mailton Road), but she died in early 1861, prior to the census of that year. Although they were living together in Lambeth in 1881, with Samuel John described as an unemployed clerk at that time, they appear to have lived apart both in between those two censuses, and later.

At the time of the 1871 census Samuel John, described as an accountant, was living with a significantly younger partner called Rosa (believed on the basis of internet postings that I have seen to be Rosa Jane Lewis, born in Holloway, North London in c.1847) and their daughter Isabella Rose, born c.1869. Again, I have found no trace of any marriage between Samuel John and Rosa Jane, and considering that he was again living with Sarah Jane in 1881 I doubt that there was any formal arrangement. Isabella Rose appears to have died young, though there seem to have been three further children born in Lambeth district: twins Florence Kate and Frederick John in 1872, and Amy Louise in early 1874. As far as I can see Rosa later married (or lived with) Joseph Fiveash. In 1891 her two surviving daughters were living with her and Joseph, with their surnames given as Fiveash. Frederick John married Annie Brooks in Camberwell district in 3Q1894 using the Knapman surname, and they used the name Lewis as a middle name for one of their children (and

<sup>148</sup> A notice in the Western Times of 22 December 1849 informed William's customers that he had just moved to 217 High Street, described his business as 'wholesale and retail fruit merchant', and said that he had been in business by then for 20 years.

<sup>149</sup> Source: The London Standard of 10 January 1857.

in 1911 they had a member of the Fiveash family staying with them which, barring a remarkable set of coincidences, confirms Frederick John's link to this family), and the Knapman surname survived at least one further generation in Camberwell.

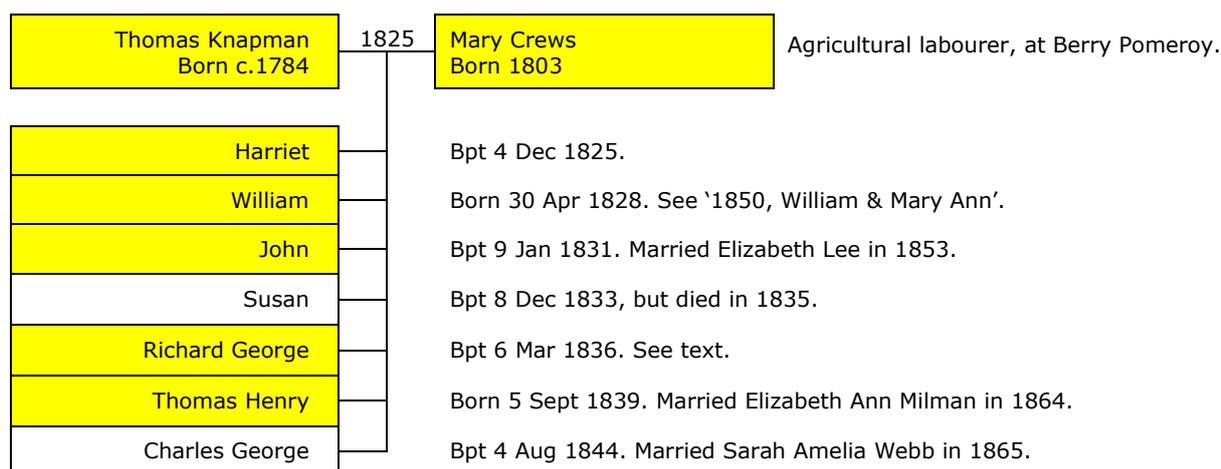
By 1891 Samuel John, still described as an accountant, and as unmarried, was living on his own as a boarder at 103 Guildford Street, St Pancras, and I believe that he died in 1897. I have not found Sarah Jane in 1891 or 1901, but believe she died in late 1901 in Edmonton district.

Theophilus married the somewhat younger Jessie May Loram in Exeter district in 2Q1877, and they had two daughters (Margaret, born c.1879; and Dorothy, c.1891). He was active in the Wesleyan church, as a lay preacher, and in both business and municipal politics in Exeter. He was responsible for founding the firm of T Knapman & Co Ltd, decorator's merchants (later subsumed into K&P (Exeter) Ltd, which survived until 1988). In 1902 he served as Sheriff of Exeter, and was a JP. He died in 1921.

I have been unable to trace Cornelius James after the 1861 census, despite his unusual name. I suspect that he may well have moved overseas.

### 1825, Thomas & Mary

Thomas Knapman married Mary Crews at Berry Pomeroy on 22 May 1825. He was originally from Family '1778, Richard & Joan', and this was his second marriage (his first being '1808, Thomas & Elizabeth'). Mary was originally from Winkleigh. At the time of the 1841 census they were living at Bridgetown, Berry Pomeroy (which is now part of Totnes).



William became a tailor, and his marriage is covered below.

John became a mason. In 1851 he was lodging in St Marychurch with another family headed by a mason, and in 2Q1853 in Newton Abbot district he married Elizabeth Lee. Their children included Harriet (born c.1854), Mary (c.1856), Louisa C (c.1858), Maria (c.1860), William Henry (8 April 1861), Emily (c.1866), Edith (c.1870), John (c.1874) and Edward (c.1876). In both 1871 and 1881 the family was living at Barewell Hill, St Marychurch. I understand that their son William Henry subsequently emigrated to Australia.

I have not found any evidence of Richard George as an adult (unless he was working in Chesea as a groom in 1861).

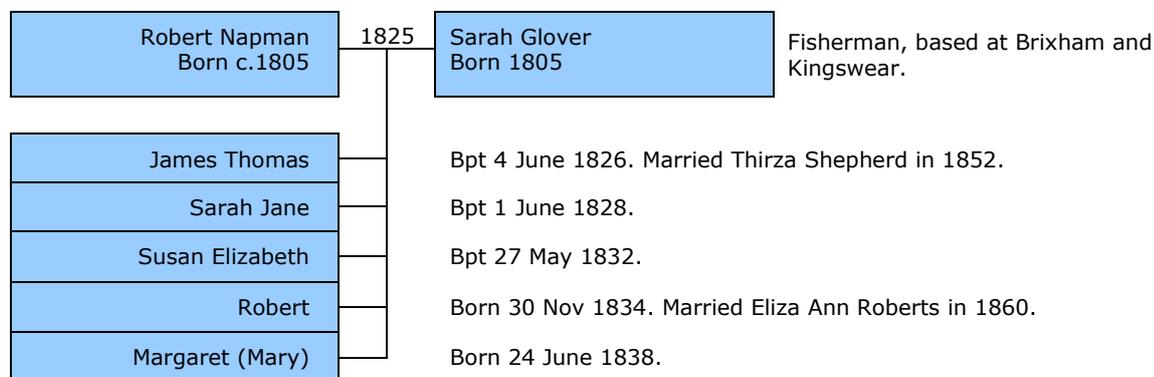
Thomas Henry's date of birth is taken from his naval service record in the National Archives, which also shows that he was a tailor by trade when he volunteered in 1870. He was a tailor, and lodging on Captain's Row, Brixham, at the time of the 1861 census. A door or so away was the 22-year-old Ann Milman, living with her parents and her daughter Mary A (born c.1860 at Totnes). Subsequent evidence suggests that Mary A was Thomas Henry's daughter. He (Thomas Henry) married Elizabeth Ann Milman in Totnes district in 4Q1864, and as noted above he joined the Navy in 1870. He was probably at sea at the time of the 1871 census, but Elizabeth Ann (recorded as Ann, as in 1861, and a launderess) was living on Chapel Street, Brixham with Mary A, Harriet Ann (born 1865) and Samuel (c.1870), the two younger children having been born at Brixham. At the time of

the 1881 census Thomas Henry was on shore in Brixham shown as a tailor, with Elizabeth Ann, Samuel and Emily E (born c.1872) and Edward G (c.1878). Mary A and Harriet Ann were working as servants. In 1891 Thomas Henry was again in Brixham, living on Frogwell Lane, but shown as attached to the Navy<sup>150</sup>, with Elizabeth Ann and their three youngest children. By 1901 Elizabeth Ann had died, and Thomas Henry was staying with Samuel and his family at Southampton.

Charles George was an apprentice coppersmith in London at the time of the 1861 census, staying with his half-sister Mary Winford (see above). He was also a witness at her re-marriage in 1863, and was himself married at the same church two years later, on 20 August 1865, to Sarah Amelia Webb. By 1881 he was a fully-fledged coppersmith and was living at 45 Peekwater Street, St Pancras. They had at least five children: Elizabeth A (born c.1867), Harriet (c.1870), Ada S (c.1873), Mary Ann (c.1876) and Lillie (c.1884) before Charles George's relatively early death in 1888.

## 1825, Robert & Sarah

Robert Napman married Sarah Glover at Brixham St Mary on 6 October 1825. I do not know where he came from, but she was the daughter of John Glover and his wife Jenny (née Dart), and had been baptised at Brixham on 30 June 1805. They had a family as shown below, all baptised at Brixham St Mary.



I have been unable to find them at the time of the 1841 census, but I understand that they can be found using sources other than ancestry.co.uk, and that Robert was a fisherman. In 1851 Sarah (by then recorded as a widow) was living at Brixham with all of the children except Sarah Jane (who was also in Brixham, working as a servant). Margaret was recorded as Mary at that time, James Thomas was a labourer, and Robert was apprenticed to a ropemaker.

James Thomas married the somewhat older Thirza Shepherd in Totnes district in 3Q1852. She was evidently a widow<sup>151</sup>, and I have seen no evidence to suggest that they had any children of their own. James Thomas worked as an agricultural labourer in Brixham.

The younger Robert was a ropemaker at the time of the 1861 census, living on St John Street, Stoke Damerel. He had by then married Eliza Ann Roberts from Mevagissey (in Stoke Damerel district, in 4Q1860). He subsequently joined the Navy, and his Naval service record is in the National Archives. Although that record gives his date of birth as 30 November 1833 rather than 1834, it shows that he volunteered on 6 December 1865, and served (as a stoker) until 1885. He and Eliza Ann had at least four children: Sarah A (born c.1861), Jessie (c.1863), Robert (c.1865) and Charles (c.1870). Robert (the father) was widowed by 1901, at which time he was living with Jessie and Charles.

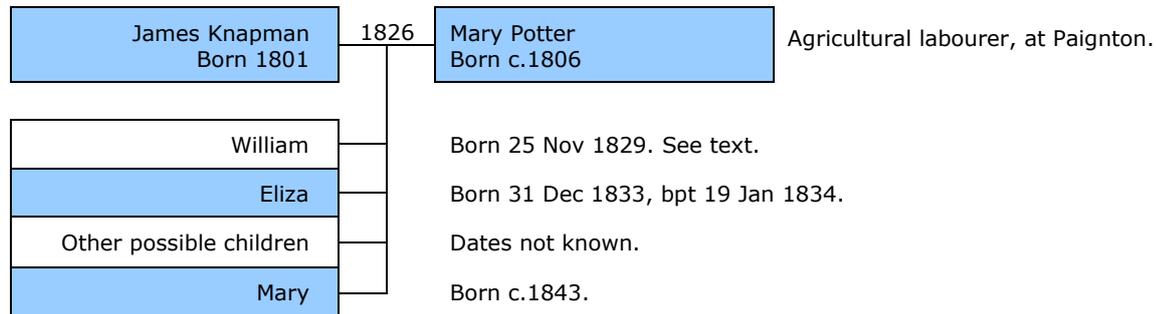
## 1826, James & Mary

James Knapman married Mary Potter at Paignton on 3 February 1826. He was from Family '1780, William & Rose', and Mary was also from Paignton. Their first two children were born at Paignton.

<sup>150</sup> There appears to be an error on the 1891 census, inasmuch as Thomas was also recorded on a vessel at Dartmouth. The error was probably to have included him on the Brixham return as well.

<sup>151</sup> She may well have been widowed twice. At the time of the 1861 census, children with the surnames Tuckerman and Shepherd were living with James and Thirza. Elizabeth Tuckerman and Marion Shepherd were again with James and Thirza at 4 Paradise Alley, Brixham in 1871.

Although they may have had other children between Eliza and Mary, none were baptised at Paignton over the period 1834 to 1844 (I have checked the original register, as well as the wider DFHS transcripts, looking for baptisms in other parishes).

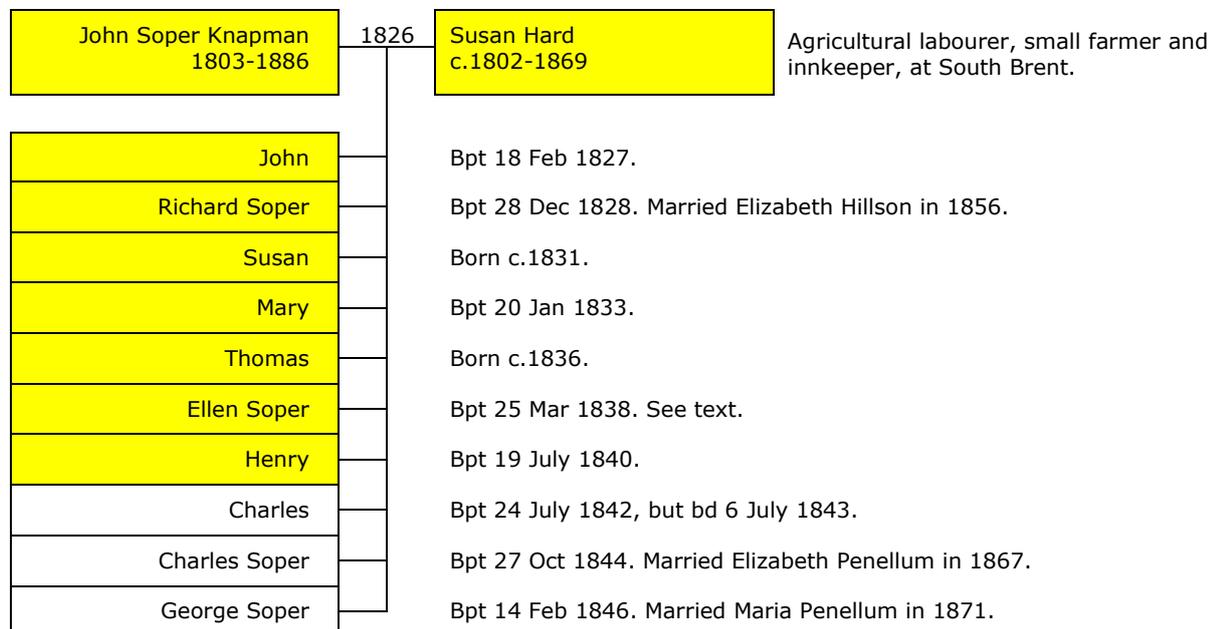


I have not found James and Mary or their family on the 1841 census; however the 1851 census records James Napman as an agricultural labourer at Roundway, Paignton.

I do not know where their son William was in 1851 (or later), but he was not living with his parents. He may well have died in childhood. Eliza was working as a servant in 1851, also in Paignton.

### 1826, John & Susan

John Soper Knapman married Susan Hard at South Brent on 7 November 1826<sup>152</sup>. He was from Family '1801, Anthony & Elizabeth' and she was from Ugborough with her age shown as 24. Both marked (rather than signed) the register, and one of the witnesses was Anthony Soper Knapman, John's father. By the time Henry was baptised in 1840, John Soper was described in the register as a publican. This description is not picked up on the census returns.



At the time of the 1841 census the family was living at Brent Mill (with the surname spelled Napman). Although the parish register only appears to record the baptisms of some of their children, others were baptised with their surname shown as Soper, and with Knapman as a middle

<sup>152</sup> The DFHS transcription of the parish register gives the year as 1836, but the original record clearly shows that the correct year was 1826.

name. There are lots of other Soper baptisms over this period, and Susan and Thomas were probably baptised without any reference to Knapman as either a surname or middle name.

Likewise, the births of their post-1841 children were registered with the surname spelled Napman, and although I have been unable to find any trace of this family on the 1851 census, they can be found in 1861, at which time John Soper and Susan were farming a holding of about 40 acres at Aish Town, South Brent, with Ellen Soper, Charles Soper and George Soper living with them.

Susan died in Totnes district in 2Q1869, and John was re-married in Totnes district in 1Q1873 to Elizabeth Jewell. The two of them were living on parish relief at the time of the 1881 census, and John Soper died in 1886.

I believe that John (the son), Thomas and Henry may all have died in childhood, not least because I have not found them on any later census returns, though I have found no evidence to support this in the parish registers.

Richard Soper married Elizabeth Horton Hillson in Totnes district in 4Q1856. At the time of the 1861 census he was working as a cow keeper at Lutton Village, South Brent, and later he was a carter and coal merchant. Tracing Richard and his family is made more difficult than it should be by his habit of having himself recorded in different official documents as Richard Soper Knapman some of the time, and Richard Knapman Soper at other times. He and Elizabeth had at least the following children: Richard (born c.1858), Philip (c.1860, but probably died young), Mary Elizabeth (c.1864), Philip Henry (bpt 12 November 1865 under the Soper surname), Jane Ann (bpt 16 August 1868, and registered with the surname Soper), and William (bpt 12 April 1874 under the Soper surname). At the time of the 1891 census, Richard and Elizabeth were using the surname Soper, while their sons Philip Henry and William were recorded on the census returns as Knapmans. At the time of the 1881 census a 5-month-old child called Thomas Smerdon was staying with them, recorded as their grandson, but so far as I can see his mother, who had been born Elizabeth Ann L Shilston, was not closely related.

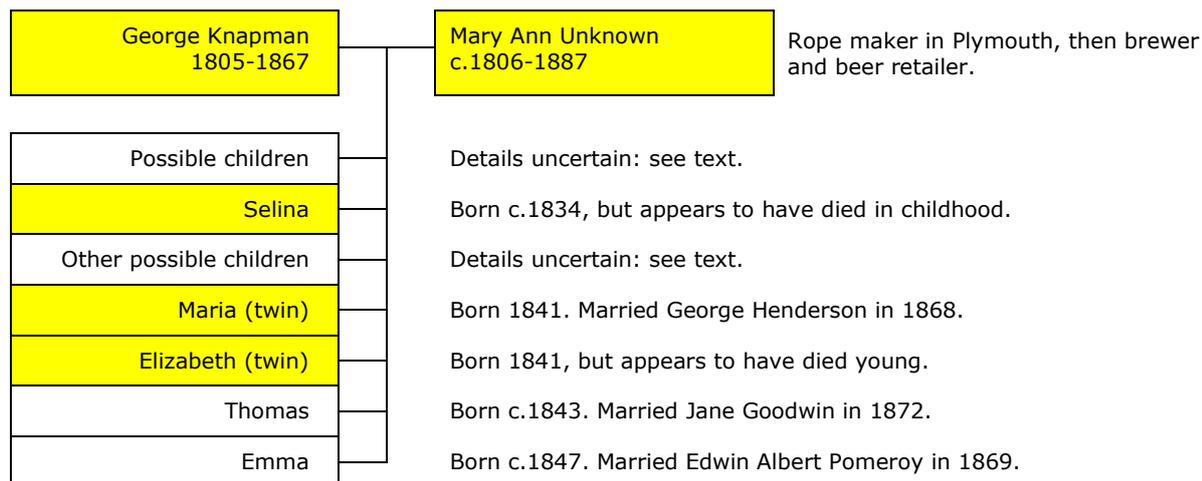
Ellen Soper evidently spent many years in the Totnes Union workhouse. She was there by the time of the 1881 census, and the 1911 census describes her as an 'imbecile'.

Charles Soper married Elizabeth Mitchell Penallum in Totnes district in 3Q1867. Their son Charles was baptised with the surname Soper at South Brent on 25 December 1867, and with Charles described as a 'steward' in the parish register. Unfortunately Elizabeth Mitchell died the following year (4Q1868 in Totnes district, with her surname recorded as Soper rather than Knapman). I have not managed to find Charles (father or son) thereafter, unless Charles (the father) died in 1900.

George Soper married Maria Penallum (younger sister of his late sister-in-law) in Stoke Damerel district in 1Q1871. At the time of the census later that year they were living with Maria's parents in South Brent. At the time of the 1881 census they were living in Ugborough with George Soper (born c.1868, about 3 years before their marriage), John Thomas Soper (bpt 28 July 1872), William Francis Soper (born c.1874 but bpt 4 June 1876), Charles Frederick Soper (also bpt 4 June 1876), and Elizabeth Susan Soper (bpt 17 August 1879). After the census they had James Soper (bpt 19 March 1882), Richard Henry Soper (bpt 1 June 1884), Sydney (bpt 6 May 1888, but must have died in infancy), Sydney (bpt 26 October 1890) and Alfred (bpt 22 October 1893). In almost all cases, George and Maria used the Knapman surname, and from 1879 onwards George was described as a carrier. By 1901 Maria was in the Devon county lunatic asylum at Exminster, where she appears to have died in 1915.

### **c.1826, George & Mary Ann**

I do not know where or when George Knapman married Mary Ann, or what her surname was. They may have married and lived in Cornwall for a time, because neither their marriage nor Selina's birth appear on the DFHS transcripts of marriages and baptisms. However, we know that George was from Family '1798, John & Elizabeth', and the 1861 census gives Mary Ann's place of birth as 'Sennon Ward, Cornwall', which may well be an approximation for Sennen, a small village less than a mile from Land's End, while the 1871 and 1881 census returns give it as Bodmin and 'Great Brewer' (which I cannot identify), respectively. Their four youngest children were all born at Plymouth.



They may have had two sons called George before those shown on the tree. A George Knapman, aged 2, was buried at Stoke Damerel on 13 April 1828 when his parents were living on Mount Street, and then another George was buried at Stoke Damerel on 3 February 1833 aged 14 months when his parents were living on Clowance Street. They may also have had other children born (and died) between Selina and twins Maria and Elizabeth, including Frederick who was buried aged 8 months in 1837, a resident of Quarry Street.

At the time of the 1841 census they were living on Oxford Row, in the Plymouth parish of St Andrew with Selina, Maria and Elizabeth, and George was a rope maker. At the time of the 1851 census they were living on Claremont Place in Plymouth St Charles with Maria, Thomas and Emma. The 1861 census shows George and Mary Ann (plus Maria and Emma, and a grandson called Daniel<sup>153</sup>, born c.1858) living at 10 Granby Street, the same address as his brother James (by then a beer seller).

George proved his brother James' will in 1864, at which time he (George) was described as a ropemaker in the Naval dockyard. George himself died on 15 August 1867, by then described as a brewer and beer retailer of Granby Street. His will was proved by Mary Ann, his widow. By 1881 Mary Ann was living at 17 Quarry Street with her daughter Emma, by then married to Edwin Pomeroy, an innkeeper and ex-Naval man from Saltash, and their children George and Alfred. Mary Ann, Emma and Edwin share a headstone<sup>154</sup>.

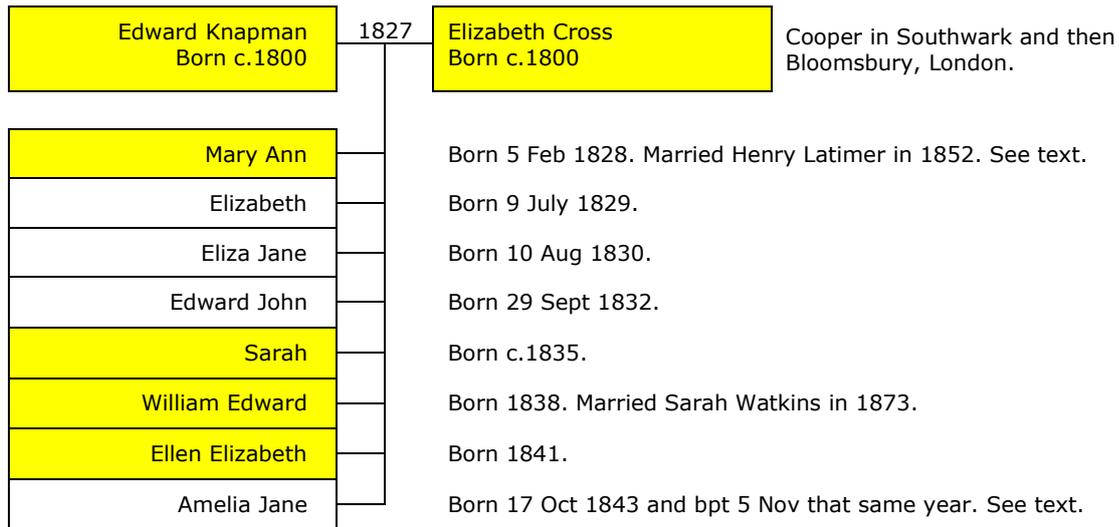
Thomas was a sailor for several years. He married Jane Goodwin in Stoke Damerel district in 3Q1872 and became a labourer in the Naval dockyard. She was originally from King's Lynn in Norfolk, but her family had moved to Plymouth some years before. So far as I know they only had one child: Thomas John (born 1876). At the time of the 1881 census they were living on Mount Street, St Aubyn. Thomas (the father) died in 1895, and Jane went to live with her son and his family.

## 1827, Edward & Elizabeth

Edward Knapman married Elizabeth Cross at East Teignmouth on 26 April 1827, before moving to London. He was a cooper, and was from Family '1798, John & Mary'. Edward and Elizabeth lived in Southwark initially, and their first four children were all baptised at St Olave's, Southwark (according to the IGI, which gives their dates of birth as well as their baptismal dates). I suspect that three of those first four children died, because there was no sign of them at the time of the 1841 census, by which time the family had settled in Bloomsbury, where the next three children were born. At the time of the 1851 census they were living at 1 Bury Street in the parish of St George's, though their youngest child had been born in the St Pancras area (and baptised at Old Church, St Pancras). By then Mary Ann was a dressmaker, and Sarah was a teacher.

<sup>153</sup> Daniel was probably Maria's illegitimate son. In 1871 he was living with her and her (by then) husband George Henderson, and he was still with them in 1901.

<sup>154</sup> This can be viewed via the [plymouth.gov.uk/archivescatalogue](http://plymouth.gov.uk/archivescatalogue) website by putting 'Knapman' into the search box.



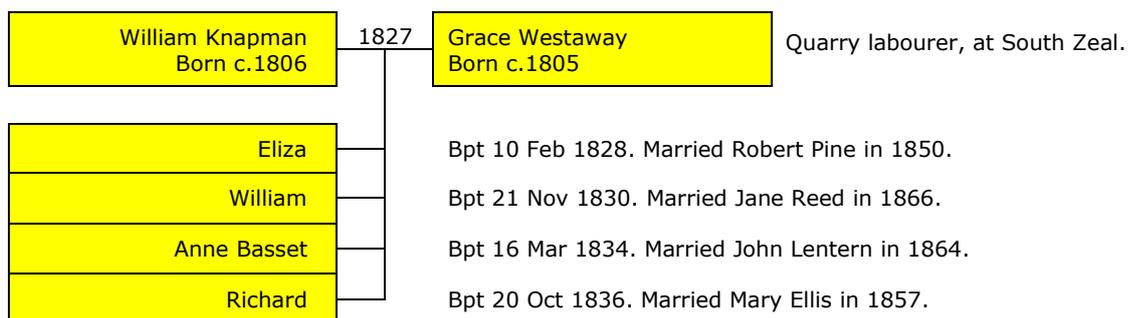
By 1871 Edward had died, and Elizabeth was living at 49 Devonshire Street, Finsbury with William Edward (by then a pianoforte maker) and Amelia Jane.

Mary Ann could have been the person named on the oldbaileyonline.org website as Mary Knapman, who was a witness at the 1839 trial of a William Whittick who was transported for 7 years for stealing washing. Mary (the witness) was a servant in the household of Charles Tudor of Union Place, Lambeth at the time. On 12 August 1852, described as a dressmaker of 1 Bury Street, she married Henry Latimer, a tailor of 23 Duke Street, at St George's, Bloomsbury.

William Edward was single in 1871 and a widower in 1881. He had married Sarah Watkins (or Wilkins) at St Mary's Lambeth on 3 July 1873, but she had evidently died soon thereafter. They do not appear to have had any children. At the time of the 1881 census he was a lodger in Finsbury, and living with his sister, Amelia Jane. He died in 1889.

### 1827, William & Grace

William Knapman married Grace Westaway at South Tawton on 15 May 1827. He was very probably from Family '1793, William & Ann'. When their first child was born they were living at Zeal, in the south of the parish. By the time of the 1851 census William was working in a quarry, which is one reason for believing that he was related to the William who I believe to have been his father.



William had been widowed by 1891, and can be seen on the census return for that year living with his son Richard (see below), with his age shown as about 88.

By the time of the 1851 census Eliza was married to Robert Pine, another quarry labourer, and they had a 1-year-old daughter (Elizabeth). The three of them were living with William and Grace, as was Anne Basset. William (the son) was working as an agricultural labourer in Sampford Courtenay parish at that time, and Richard was a servant in South Tawton.

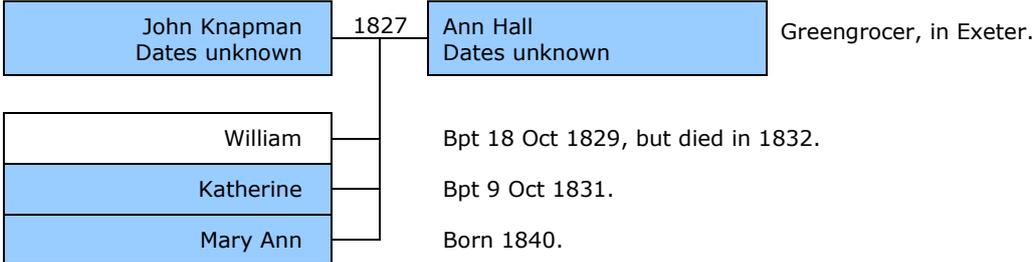
William was still in Sampford Courtenay at the time of the 1861 census, but he married Jane Reed of Cheriton Bishop in Okehampton district in 2Q1866. Although only 3 years younger than him, she had at least six children: Emma (born c.1867), John (c.1869), Eliza Jane (1871), Richard (c.1873), Elizabeth Ann (c.1866) and Grace (c.1880). In 1871, 1881 and 1891 William and Jane were living at South Zeal (in 1871 only a couple of doors away from William's parents).

Anne Basset subsequently married John Lentern of South Tawton (in Okehampton district in 1Q1864), and had a family.

Richard married Mary Ellis from Belstone, in Okehampton district in 2Q1857. At the time of the 1861 census they were living at Higher Sticklepath, Belstone with their daughter Mary Ann (born c.1861). Richard was a labourer and Mary was a dressmaker in 1861, but by 1871 they were running the Devonshire Inn in Sampford Courtenay, and by 1881 they were at the Taw River Hotel in Sticklepath, Sampford Courtenay with a second daughter (Louisa, born 1880). The 1891 census describes Richard as the proprietor of the Taw River Hotel as well as a farmer, so he had done very well for himself and his family.

**1827, John & Ann**

John Knapman married Ann Hall at St George's, Exeter on 2 September 1827, with both of them shown as residents of the parish. The witnesses were William Knapman and Joseph Hall. I do not know where John came from, but he was a grocer, and it is possible that the William Knapman who acted as witness could be from Family '1824, William & Ann', and his brother, though this is pure speculation. However, that William had two children baptised at St George's and one of them buried in the 2 months before John and Ann's marriage. Also, like that William, the 1850 edition of the Exeter Journal & Almanac shows that by then John was a greengrocer, with a shop on St Mary Arches street.



Although I cannot find any trace of them on the ancestry.co.uk transcription of the 1841 census, they can be seen on the version provided via the 1901censusonline.com website with their two daughters. That census return suggests that they had both been born in about 1811, though they must have been older than that, given that they were married in 1827. Their son William was baptised at St Mary Arches, and Katherine at St Paul's, also in Exeter.

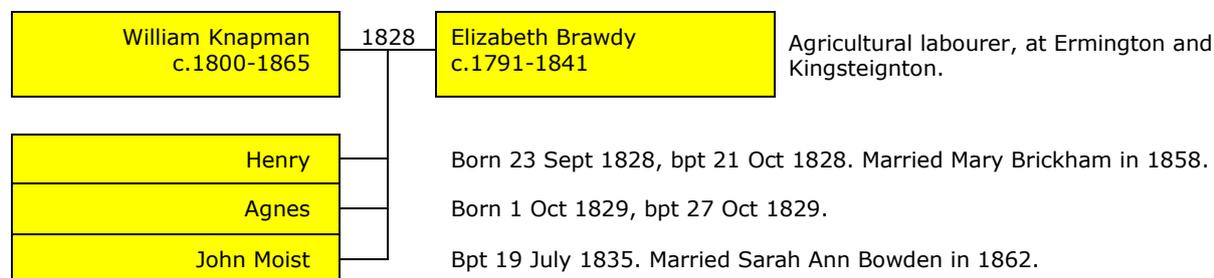
By the time of the 1851 census all four of them had either died or disappeared from Exeter. I have been unable to find any 'candidate' registrations of death, other than Mary Ann, possibly in 4Q1843 (the Exeter death of a John Knapman in 2Q1850 was not this John, but the father from Family '1833, John & Mary'). The other three may therefore have emigrated.

In any event, the Knapman surname does not appear to have survived via this family.

**1828, William & Elizabeth**

William Knapman (a sojourner) married Elizabeth Brawdy (a widow) at Ermington on 4 May 1828. The witnesses were John and Maria Taylor. I believe that William was the illegitimate son of Mary Moist, and that he had been baptised at Kingsteignton as William Napman Moist on 19 January 1800, and later assumed the Knapman surname. I do not know who his father was, though see below for some further information about Mary Moist. I believe (based on research by Carol MacKay in Canada, who has researched this family in detail, and who has kindly shared the fruits of her research) that she had been born Elizabeth Bowden, and had married Alexander Brody, a husbandman from Ermington, at Wolborough in 1813. They had a family before Alexander's death at Ivybridge in 1822.

William and Elizabeth moved around quite a bit, and I am indebted to Carol MacKay (see above) and Roxanne Knapman of Ontario who have both provided information that has helped to turn this family from a group of individuals into a unit, and thrown light on what happened later. Henry and Agnes were both baptised in the Ashburton Methodist circuit when the family was living at Ermington and Ivybridge respectively. John Moist was baptised at Kingsteignton, and his middle name provides a clear link back to his father's origins.



There is a record of William and Elizabeth being removed to Kingsteignton from Ermington parish in 1830 with Henry (then aged 16 months) and Agnes (4 months). Henry's place of birth was generally given on later census returns as Kingsteignton rather than Ermington or Ivybridge (which appears on the 1861 census).

At the time of the 1841 census William was an agricultural labourer at Kingsteignton, living with Elizabeth (who died later that same year, on 6 December, and was buried 3 days later with her age given as 50), and John Moist.

Henry and Agnes were both working as servants in 1841, Henry in Bishopsteignton and Agnes in Coffinswell. In 1851 Henry was a servant at Weare Barton, Kingsteignton, and Agnes in Bishopsteignton. I have not found her thereafter. John Moist was staying at West Teignmouth in 1851 with William Gilley and his wife Mary (born c.1780 at Kingsteignton), described as their grandson. Mary Moist had married John Williams at Kingsteignton in 1805, and then after his death (in 1826) she had married William Gilley at Holy Trinity, Exeter in 1830.

The Western Times of 8 November 1845 reported that William (the father) had been caught in the act of stealing turnips on the farm of T Pinsent Esq, who was (I believe) Henry's employer at that time. William died in 1865 in the Newton Abbot workhouse, where he had been since at least the 1861 census.

Henry married Mary Brickham at Highweek All Saints on 21 March 1858. She was originally from Ashburton. He worked as a clay cutter and agricultural labourer and they lived for many years in Abbotskerswell. He and Mary had a daughter called Mary Agnes (born at Abbotskerswell in 1867). The 1911 census shows that Henry (whose age at that time was estimated at 78 rather than 83) and Mary had had three children in all, of whom only one was still alive at that time. I believe that Mary Agnes survived, while the other two children died very young. Henry died in 1916, with his address shown as 5 Hilton Road, Wlborough.

John Moist did not generally use his middle name in later life, so there is some doubt about the following, though I believe it is probably largely correct. In 1861 he was staying at Abbotskerswell with his brother Henry and his wife Mary, albeit with his age shown as about 22 rather than 26. In fact he appears to have consistently understated his age, but I have checked the Kingsteignton baptismal register to see whether he died and a younger brother also called John was born a few years later, but this did not happen.

He married Sarah Ann Bowden at Newton Abbot Register Office on 3 August 1862. His address at that time was shown as East Oggwell; hers was Quay Road, Newton Abbot. In later life, Sarah Ann and her family gave her maiden name as Nias, Niass, Nyass and Knees on various official documents, and named her parents as William Nias and Sarah Hayman. Given how confusing this is, I have set out in a footnote<sup>155</sup> what appears to have happened prior to her marriage to John Moist (this information being a synthesis of what Carol MacKay and I had separately concluded).

<sup>155</sup> Sarah Ann Bowden was born on 6 January 1839 and baptised on 3 February at Tormoham (Torquay) to parents names as Edward and Sarah Bowden, with Edward described as a mason. On her birth certificate,

By 1871 John and Sarah Ann were living at Hoppaway Hill, Tormoham, with four children: William (born c.1861 at Blackawton), George (c.1866), Henry Thomas (17 January 1868) and Albert John (28 May 1870). At that time John was a labourer, and Sarah Ann was a charwoman. George was probably the George Alfred Knapman registered in Newton Abbot district (which included Tormoham) in 4Q1865. William was not the William Henry Knapman whose birth was registered in Newton Abbot district in 2Q1861, though his birth does appear to have preceded John and Sarah Ann's marriage. Blackawton was also the place where Sarah Ann was working on the day of the 1861 census.

Later in 1871 the family emigrated to Canada, and lived at Muskoka and Parry Sound, where John and Sarah Ann had another three children: Sara Ann (c.1874), David Clarence (1878) and Samuel E (c.1880). John Moist became a builder in Hamilton City, Ontario and died in July 1905, with his age given on his headstone as 68 (whereas I believe it was really 70), and described as a native of Torquay<sup>156</sup>. He was by then the owner of a farm.

Sarah Ann was buried beside John on 5 May 1922. The registration form completed at the time of her death (by her son William) gives her date and place of birth as December 1844 in Devon, and her age as 68 years and 4 months. These three 'facts' are totally incompatible, and either one or two of them are clearly wrong. The same form gives her birth name as Sarah Ann Niass (daughter of William Niass and his wife Sarah Hayman) rather than Sarah Ann Bowden. Other Canadian records (e.g. Albert John's 1926 death certificate) give her maiden name as Knees.

I can only conclude that John and Sarah Ann were both hazy about their ages, and that their children accepted what they were told without checking it. As further evidence on this point, Albert John gave his own date of birth as 15 May 1871, whereas his birth was registered 12 months earlier (see above).

What we can say is that if the John Knapman who went to Ontario was indeed John Moist (and there are no other convincing 'candidate' Johns), then from unpromising beginnings he and Sarah Ann did very well for themselves and their family.

Their son William married Margaret Thompson in about 1884, and was living at Huron Street in 1922 when he registered his mother's death. George married Kate Hayes in 1887 and was a baker. Henry Thomas was a successful builder, married Margaret Elizabeth Potter in 1902. It is from his family that Carol MacKay is descended. Albert John married Arabella Cunningham in 1890 and had a large family. He died in 1926, a resident of Orchard Hill. Sarah Ann married Valentine Draycott in 1894. The Knapman surname definitely survives into the 21<sup>st</sup> century via David Clarence and his wife Nettie Louisa (née Freed, married in 1901), including Roxanne Knapman, who has very kindly shared so much of her research on which I have drawn above. Samuel Edward married Christina Bain in about 1904.

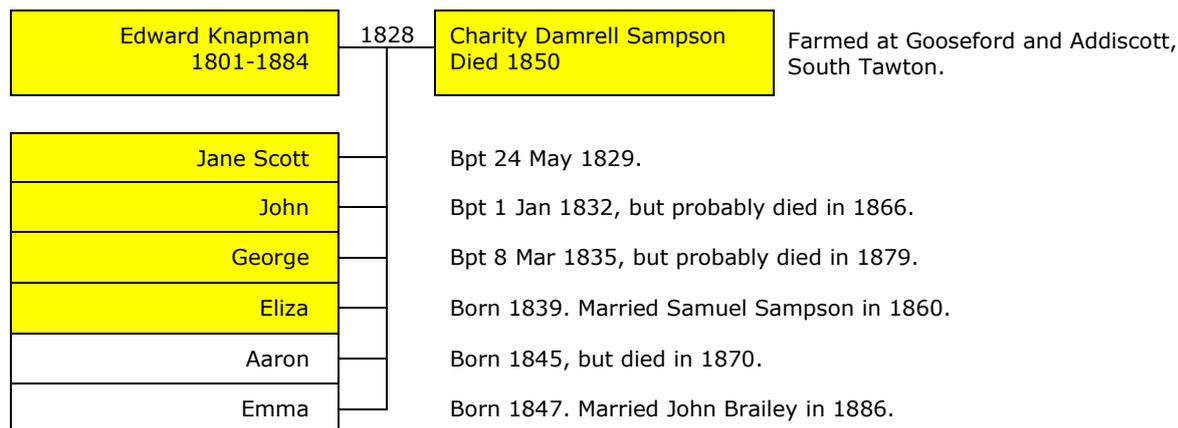
## **1828, Edward & Charity**

Edward Knapman married Charity Damrell Sampson at South Tawton on 28 July 1828. He was from Family '1799, John & Jane', and their family was as shown below. It would appear that Edward worked as an agricultural labourer as well as farming on his own account, because that is how he was generally recorded when his younger children were baptised.

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however, her father's name was not given, and her mother's name was Sarah Bowden. I am unsure who the person named as Edward Bowden really was. Sarah was then married to Henry Nieass (transcribed as Nicass on the ancestry.co.uk website) on 28 November 1840, with her father's name given as Joseph Bowden. At the time of the 1841 census Sarah Bowden (born c.1839) was living at Tormoham in the same household as Sarah Nias (born c.1821), and Henry Niass, a mason, was in Exeter gaol. Henry died on 7 April 1849, followed by Sarah on 25 October the same year. Sarah Ann can be forgiven for being uncertain of the details of her early life. In 1851 Ann B Nias (with the B presumably standing for Bowden) was a farm servant at West Ogwell. In 1861 she was a servant on a farm in Blackawton.

<sup>156</sup> Whereas he was living in Torquay at the time of the 1871 census, which may have confused his children, several of whom were born there, that census return confirms that he was born at Kingsteignton, which provides some of the strongest evidence for John Moist Knapman being the John Knapman who emigrated to Ontario.

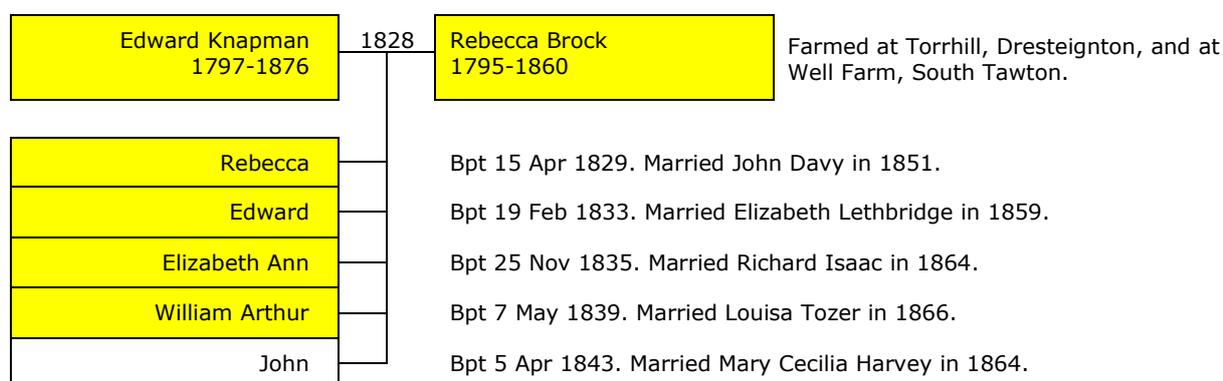


Charity Damrell died in 1850, while the younger children were only a few years old. Edward did not re-marry, and died on 16 July 1884 leaving a will which described him as 'of Addiscott', and which was proved by his (then) unmarried daughter, Emma, who had been living with him as his housekeeper in 1871 and 1881. She married John Brailey, a slightly older widowed farmer from South Tawton, in Okehampton district in 4Q1886, and as far as I know they had no children.

I have been unable to find any evidence to show that the Knapman surname survived via this family.

### 1828, Edward & Rebecca

Edward Knapman married Rebecca Brock at Gidleigh on 18 August 1828. He was from Family '1797, Arthur & Elizabeth', and their family is shown below.



Edward farmed at Torhill / Tarhill in Drewsteignton, where all of his children were baptised. At the time of the 1841 census the younger Edward was not at Torhill: he was apparently staying at Way, in Throwleigh parish. Following the death of Edward's father (Arthur) and the retirement from farming of his older brother (also Arthur), Edward took over Well Farm, South Tawton.

Their joint headstone in South Tawton churchyard appears to show that Rebecca died, aged 56, on 27 January 1852, though in fact an item in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 4 February of that year shows that she died on 28 January 1860 at Well Farm "... after a long and painful illness". Edward died on 10 April 1876, aged 78, and the headstone describes him as 'of Well in this parish'. His will (made in 1872) also gives Well Farm as his address. The 1871 census shows him staying with his son Edward at Wood (see below), and he died on 27 March 1876 at Wood. His will was proved by Edward.

Rebecca married John Davy, a grazier from Drewsteignton, and they farmed at Chaddlehanger, Lamerton. They had a substantial family, several of whom died young. John subsequently became the District Road Surveyor and they moved to Tavistock.

Edward (the son) married his cousin Elizabeth Lethbridge (daughter of his father's sister Elizabeth) at South Tawton on 26 September 1859. Initially they farmed at 'Wood', South Tawton, following the death of both of her parents, but later they moved to Hayne Farm, Eggesford, a property of 270 acres. In all they had 10 children born at these two locations, namely: Norah Elizabeth (born 1860), Maria Evelyn (1863), Melina (1865), Florence Rebecca (1868), Edward Arthur (1870), William Arthur (1872), Elenora Lethbridge (1874), John Sydney (1876), Elizabeth (1879) and Ada Lethbridge (1881). Prior to the 1901 census they moved to Dunley Farm, Bovey Tracey. All 10 children survived to adulthood, and although all three sons married, so far as I know the Knapman surname died out in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in this branch of the family.

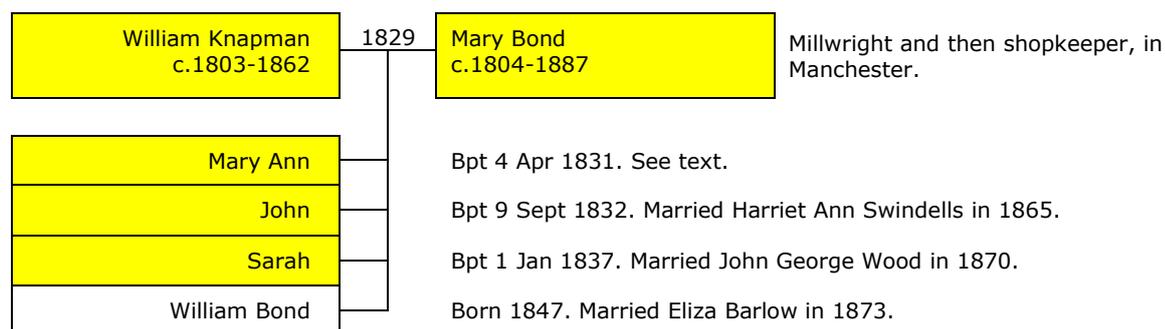
Elizabeth Ann married a farmer called Richard Isaac, and had a substantial family. At the time of the 1871 and 1881 censuses they were at Hill Farm, Uplowman. By the time of the 1891 census Richard and Elizabeth Ann had moved to Idbury in Oxfordshire, near Chipping Norton, with several of their children. Elizabeth Ann died there in 1893, followed by Richard in 1905.

William Arthur emigrated to Christchurch, New Zealand in about 1862, and an 1864 directory (accessible via the Christchurch public library website) shows him to have been in business as a shopkeeper as 'Trent & Knapman'. Then on 23 October 1866 at St Michael's, Christchurch he married Louisa Tozer. She had also emigrated from Devon at about the same time as him. The on-line Christchurch City Council cemeteries database shows that he died aged 60 on 20 February 1900, followed by Louisa on 21 June 1920. I have seen no evidence to suggest that they had any children.

John married Mary Cecilia Harvey on 31 December 1864, and they had eight children, namely John William Edward Arthur (born 1865), Ernest Harvey (1867), Susanna Cecilia Elizabeth Ann (1870), Reginald John (1872), Bessie Rebecca (1874), Robert Egbert (1876), Louisa Mary Ann Harvey (1879) and Ethel Amy (c.1880). The Knapman surname survived into the 20<sup>th</sup> century via this family, but not, so far as I know, into the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mary Cecilia died at Okehampton on 26 November 1897, and John was subsequently re-married (in 1900) to Matilda Ann Harvie. An entry in the 'Transactions of the Devonshire Association' (Vol 37, p.371) from 1905 refers to John as 'Lord of the Manor of East Ash' and describes him as a well known breeder of Dartmoor sheep. John died on 29 August 1906 while resident at 33 Northfield Road, Okehampton.

## 1829, William & Mary

William Knapman married Mary Bond at Exeter St Thomas on 20 April 1829, and very soon thereafter they moved to Manchester, based on the fact that his first three children were all baptised on the dates shown below, at the church of St Mary, St Denys & St George in central Manchester. He was from Family '1798, John & Mary', and she was from a parish that is recorded on at least one census form as Kingston, which may well have been an approximation to Kingsteignton.



When Sarah was baptised, William was described as a millwright. I have found no evidence of them on the 1851 census, but the 1850 Slater's Directory for Manchester and Salford shows William as a shopkeeper at 5 Gordon Street, and the 1861 census picks them up living at 3 Gordon Street, Ardwick. William was described at that time as a former wheelwright, and blind. Mary Ann died in 1860, and by 1861 John was an 'engineer' (later described as an ironmonger), and Sarah was a milliner. William (the father) died on 24 July 1862 leaving a will which was proved by Mary. She in turn died on 12 November 1887 (described as 'of Moss Side'), and her will was proved by her son John, by then an ironmonger.

John married Harriet Ann Swindells in Ashton under Lyne district in 2Q1865, and their daughter (Lily) was born in Belfast in about 1867. They were back in Gorton by 1871, and living at 55 Moss Side when John died on 31 October 1891, his will being proved by Harriet Ann and Lily.

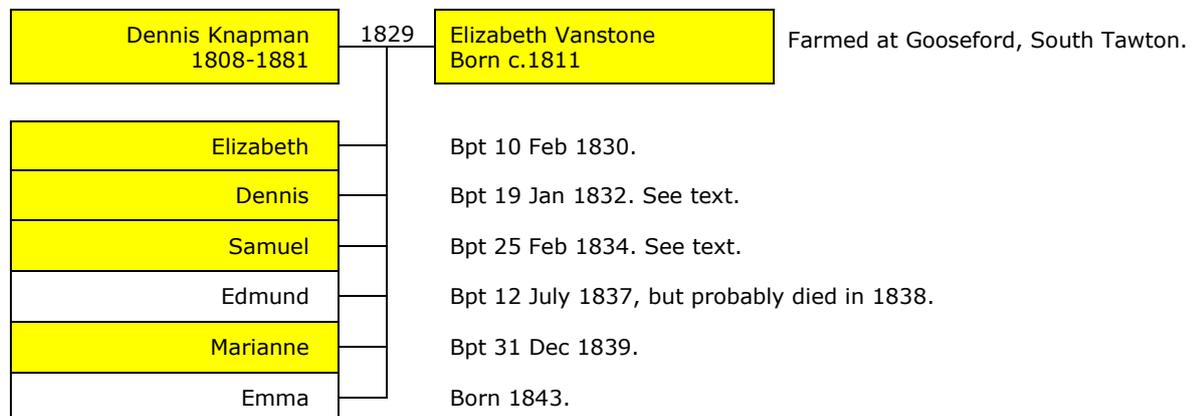
Sarah married John Geroge Wood in Chorlton district in 1Q1870. By the time of the 1881 census she had been widowed, and was living at 40 Freme Street, Chorlton on Medlock with her two children (Ada and Ernest) and her mother, Mary.

William Bond was a railway engineer with his own business employing 8 men by the time of the 1881 census. By then he had married Eliza Harriet Barlow, daughter of Roger Barlow of Pendleton, on 30 August 1873 at St Mary, St Denys & St George. They had six children in all: Rose Martha (born 1874), Norman Kynaston (1875, but died the same year), Florence Mary (1876), Helen (1877) John Henry (1879, but died 1882) and Lucy (1882). Eliza Harriet died in 1886 aged about 34, and William Bond moved to 106 Cambridge Road, Southport.

The Knapman surname evidently did not survive via this family.

### 1829, Dennis & Elizabeth

Dennis Knapman married Elizabeth Vanstone at Broadwood Kelly on 2 July 1829. He was from Family `1807, Edmund & Philippa`, and some further information about him can be found in the account of that family. The children shown below were all baptised at South Tawton.



Edmund was not living with his parents at the time of the 1841 census (or 10 years later), and I believe that he had died, in 1838. At the time of the 1851 census Samuel and Emma were living with their parents, while Elizabeth and Marianne (wrongly shown as her daughter, despite their age difference being only 10 years) were staying in Exeter, and Elizabeth was working there as a servant. I have not found Dennis (the son) in 1851, but by 1861 he was back at Gooseford living with his mother, but with Samuel shown as head of household (i.e. Dennis the father was not present). Marianne was also living with them (as was James Underhill who, although considerably older, was very probably first cousin to Samuel and his siblings). There was also an item in the Western Times of 7 July 1855 which tells us that Higher Gooseford was to be sold, and that Dennis was the occupier at the time.

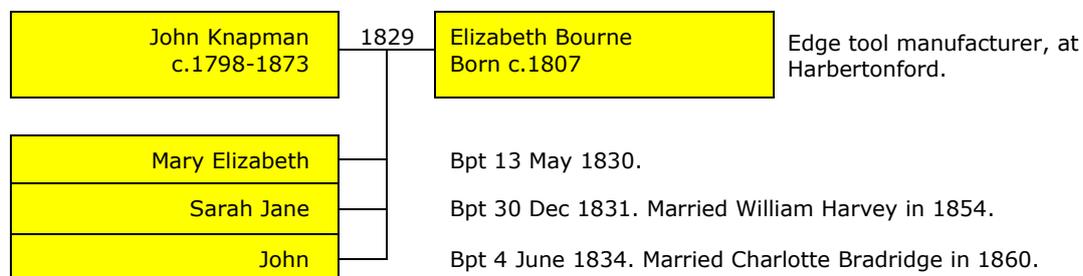
Although Elizabeth was recorded as a widow in 1861, we know (see under Family `1807, Edmund & Philippa`, in the context of his brother Edmund) that Dennis (the father) was involved in a lawsuit in the middle of 1861, and although I have not found him in either 1861 or 1871, in 1881 he was back in South Tawton living with Elizabeth and Samuel, both of whom were still single. He (Dennis, the father) died soon after the 1881 census.

As to where he was between 1861 and 1881, there is a piece of evidence, in the form of a record accessible via the National Archives website, that suggests that he too had some form of breakdown. That record, from May 1859, concerned a hearing regarding arrangements for his care, on which Edmund (presumably his brother) was consulted. This was just 2 months before a comparable hearing into the health of Edmund. It appears from this that epilepsy may well have run in the family.

Dennis (the son) died in 1875, and I have not found any evidence to suggest that the Knapman surname survived into the 20<sup>th</sup> century via this branch of the family.

### 1829, John & Elizabeth

John Knapman married Elizabeth Bourne at Harberton on 26 November 1829. He was from Family '1798, John & Mary', and one of the witnesses to the marriage was John Lear (see below). Their children were all baptised at Harberton.



John founded an edge tool manufacturing business at Hill Mill, Harbertonford in partnership with Robert Elliott, presumably using water power (in just the same way as can be seen today at Finch's Foundry, a National Trust working exhibit at Sticklepath, near South Zeal). In 1855 the partnership was dissolved, and Robert Elliott died in 1859. The business was then known as Knapman & Son, a name it retained even after the family was no longer involved in the business. I owe this information to Stanley Oldfield who is researching the history of the Hill Mill business. His researches also show that in an early land lease John Knapman and Robert Elliott were both described as nephews of Robert Elliott the elder, who owned the property. The relationship was probably via Robert Elliott's first wife.

At the time of the 1841 census, as mentioned above in the context of Family '1796, Edward & Sarah', John's uncle Edward was staying with John and his family at Hill Mill (other than Mary Elizabeth, who was staying in Exeter recorded as Mary, with John Lear, a grocer in South Street who had been a witness at her parents' marriage). Robert Elliott (and his uncle, also Robert Elliott) was living next door. A Mary Rowell and a Mary Lear were also both staying at Hill Mill, emphasising the strong links between the four families.

In 1851 Sarah Jane was at home with her parents, and Mary Elizabeth and John were visiting a family at Ashprington. John (the father) died on 13 March 1873 leaving a will which was proved by his son John. The younger John in turn left a will worth over £4,400 which shows that he died on 23 October 1888.

Sarah Jane was subsequently married to William Harvey of Leigh Farm at Harberton on 15 August 1854, according to a report in the Western Times of 19 August of that year.

John married Charlotte Bradridge from Dean Prior in Totnes district in 1Q1860. Their sons John H and Charles were born in c.1863 and c.1867 respectively. At the time of the 1871 census they were living at Harbertonford vicarage, but farming, and in 1881 they were at Trustford Farm, Harbertonford, a property of 250 acres.

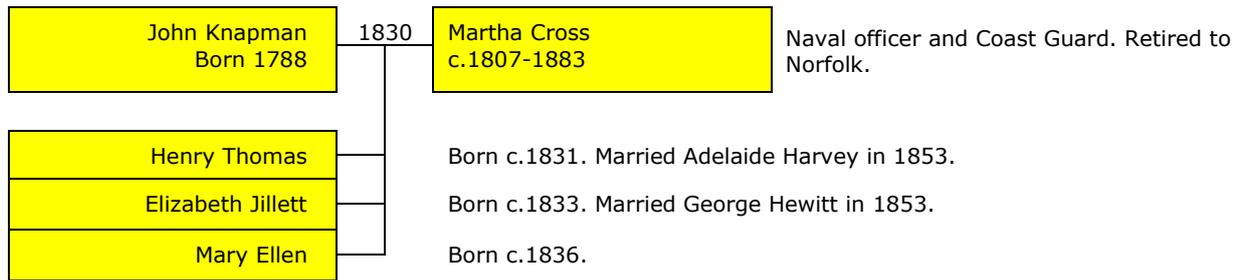
### 1830, John & Martha

John Knapman married Martha Cross at Worstead, Norfolk on 8 May 1830. He was the oldest (but last to be married) of three Naval brothers from Family '1786, John & Sarah', and she was a butcher's daughter from Worstead.

We know<sup>157</sup> that in 1827, having left the navy, John joined the Coast Guard service (also known as the 'Preventive Service'), initially in Norfolk. He remained with them until 1832, when he retired on half pay. Based on the birth details of their three children as recorded on the census returns they must have been living at Wakering in Essex (near Southend) in 1831, then at Seasalter (near Whitstable, on the north Kent coast) in 1833, and then at North Walsham, north of Norwich in

<sup>157</sup> Source: The Naval & Military Magazine, Vol.3, accessible on-line via Google Books.

1836, where they were also living at the time of the 1841 census, a few miles from Martha's birthplace.



By the time of the 1851 census the family, plus John's sister Louisa, had moved to Bait Hill, Forehoe, near Wymondham, to the south west of Norwich. The following year John was promoted to the rank of Commander on the Naval Reserve List<sup>158</sup>. John's presence in Norfolk at this time is corroborated by other sources, which show him in the Downham area in 1850 and near Wymondham in 1854. John's sister Louisa died in 1871, and his wife Martha died in 1883.

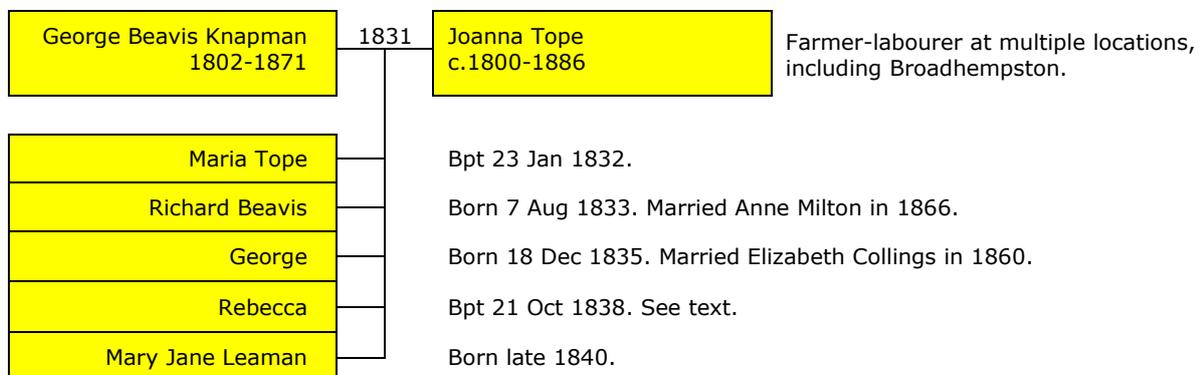
Their son Henry Thomas was a Lieutenant in the army in the 1850s, attached to various regiments in Norfolk, Essex and Lancashire. On 25 October 1853 he married Adelaide Harvey, daughter of W Harvey of Wymondham<sup>159</sup>, and they had a daughter (Amy, in c.1860) and may have had a son (Henry Thomas, in 1866). Later Henry Thomas and Adelaide lived at Frimley in Surrey. Adelaide died in 1891, and Henry Thomas in 1899. Their probable son (also Henry Thomas) appears to have been a naval engineer, to have married Kate Johnson in 1891, and to have had a daughter called Amy. So far as I can see the Knapman surname was not carried forward via this family.

The Norfolk Chronicle of 15 January 1853 reported the recent marriage of Elizabeth Jillett Knapman, eldest daughter of Commander John Knapman, to George Hewitt of Castle Hedingham, Essex, son of William Hewitt, surgeon of North Walsham. The marriage probably took place on 6 January of that year.

### 1831, George & Joanna

George Beavis Knapman married Joanna Tope at Broadhempston on 13 January 1831. He was from Family '1799, John & Mary', and she was the daughter of Silvester Tope and his wife Rebekah (née Leyman).

Maria Tope was baptised at the Ashburton Wesleyan chapel, whereas Richard Beavis was baptised at Woolston Green Wesleyan chapel, with George's address given in the register as Waytown, Broadhempston. George was then baptised at Teignmouth Wesleyan chapel, and the family was by then living at Newton Bushel in the parish of Highweek, just outside Newton Abbot. Rebecca was baptised at Kingskerswell, and Mary Jane was born back at Broadhempston.



<sup>158</sup> Source: The Annual Register Vol.94, accessible on-line via Google Books.

<sup>159</sup> Source: The Bury & Norwich Post and Suffolk Herald of 2 November 1853.

George Beavis was described as a farmer-labourer at Broadhempston at the time of the 1841 census (with his daughter Mary Jane being shown as 7 months old at that time). By 1851 only George had left home, but in both 1861 and 1871 only Rebecca was at home with her parents. George Beavis died a few months after the census of 1871.

Richard Beavis was still single, and a labourer in Stoke Damerel, at the time of the 1861 census, whereas his brother George was married by then and working for the railways in Plymouth (St Andrew).

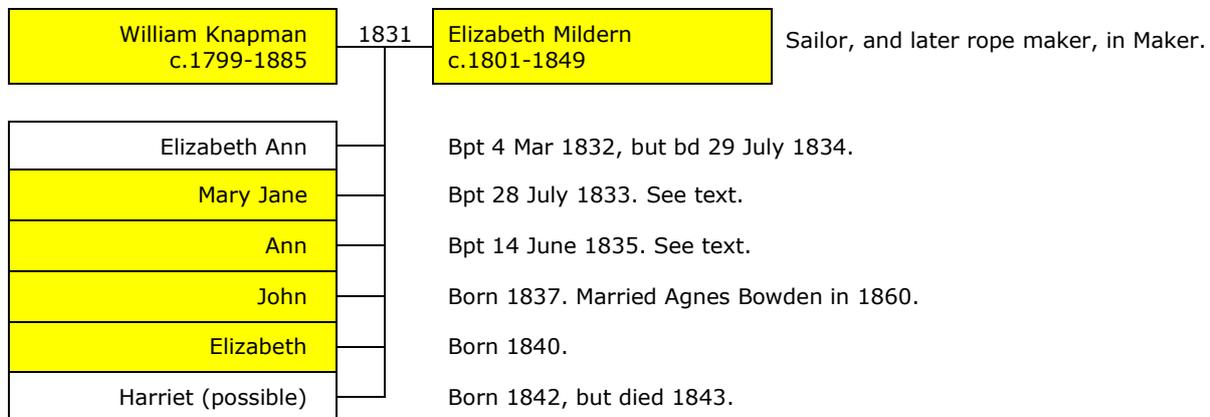
Richard Beavis subsequently married Anne E Milton in Keynsham district (near Bristol) in 3Q1866. She was from Westbury on Trym. At the time of the 1871 census they were living at 38 Letitia Street, Toxteth (near Liverpool) and had started a family. Their children were Henry (born c.1868), Eliza J (c.1870) and George (c.1872). By 1881 they had moved back to Devon and were living at 1 Mount Pleasant Place in the St Andrew district of Plymouth. By 1891 both Richard Beavis and his son Henry were described as manufacturers of herb beer.

George married Elizabeth Ann Collings in Plymouth on 20 June 1860 (according to an on-line family tree). George worked as a labourer, including periods on the railways and in the docks, and they lived at 6 Edgecombe Place (in 1871) and 6 Bounds Place (in 1881). Their children included Maria J (born c.1863), Elizabeth (c.1867), Emily G (c.1870), George T (c.1873) and Marina L (c.1879). George died in 1919.

### 1831, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman married Elizabeth Mildern at Maker, on the Cornish side of Plymouth Sound, on 18 April 1831. He was from Family '1798, John & Elizabeth'. She already had a daughter called Mary Ann, who had been baptised at St Cleer on 11 March 1827 to parents identified as Daniel and Elizabeth Mildren. **Mary Ann** was living with William and Elizabeth at the time of the 1841 census, with her surname shown as Knapman, so she may well have been adopted.

Their first three children were baptised at Maker, with William described as a ropemaker living at Millbrook.



The three youngest surviving children were living at West Street, Maker with William in 1851. He had been widowed by then, and is described on the census return as a Greenwich pensioner (which I take to mean that he had served in the Navy) and rope maker, but the family's surnames was wrongly transcribed as Knatman.

William was then re-married in St Germans district in 3Q1853 to Charlotte Armstrong. In 1861 they were living at Maker, after which they moved across Plymouth Sound. In 1881 they were in East Stonehouse, where they died in 1885 and 1886 respectively.

In 1861 Mary Jane and Ann were working as servants in Maker.

Their son John was described as an agricultural labourer in 1851, but by 1861 he was a joiner at Greenland, Millbrook. He had married Agnes Bowden, also from Maker, in St Germans district in 3Q1860, and their daughter Elizabeth Ann was born in 1861 before the census of that year. They then had Annie Maria (born 1863), John Samuel (1866) and Rosa (1869) in England, before

emigrating to Canada where they had two further children: William Edward (1874) and Lilly (1879). John was unfortunately killed in an accident on a building site in 1883, and Agnes died 5 years later. Their daughter Elizabeth Ann (Bessie) was the mother of a Canadian Federal MP (Gordon Knapman Fraser).

I am obliged to Carol MacKay of Canada for some of the facts above. Although not descended from this family, she researched it in order to disentangle it from her own ancestors.

### 1831, William & Joanna

William Knapman married Joanna Hamburg Knott at South Tawton on 20 August 1831. He was almost certainly from Family '1807, John & Grace'. Their children were all born and baptised in Drewsteignton, where William worked as an agricultural labourer at Veet. Later they moved back to South Tawton.

William Knapman Born c.1808	1831	Joanna Hamburg Knott c.1811-1887	Agricultural labourer, at Drewsteignton and South Tawton.
Johanna			Bpt 12 Aug 1832.
Mary Ann			Bpt 12 Feb 1837. See text.
John			Bpt 10 Feb 1839. Married Emma Dawe Gill in 1862.
Elizabeth			Bpt 31 Jan 1841. See text.
Harriet			Bpt 12 Feb 1843. See text.
William			Bpt 24 Aug 1845.
Thomas			Bpt 29 July 1849.
Laura			Bpt 15 June 1851. Appears to have died young.

At the time of the 1841 census the children were recorded as Hannah, Maria, John and Elizabeth, and then in 1851 as Anna (instead of Johanna or Hanna, by then a seamstress), Elizabeth, Harriet, William and Thomas. John was working as a servant at Fursham Farm, Drewsteignton in 1851. By 1861 William and Joanna Hamburg had moved back to South Tawton, with (Joh)anna and Thomas. By 1881 William and Joanna Hamburg were living alone on Exenham Lane, South Tawton.

I believe that Mary Anne was probably lodging with an agricultural labourer at 69 West Street, Exeter in 1851, with her occupation recorded as 'rag sorter and paper mills'. I hope I am not libelling her by suggesting that she is the strongest candidate I have been able to find for the person of that name who was routinely described on Exeter police reports (accessible in summary via the genuki.org website) as a prostitute, and who was repeatedly cited for being drunk, disorderly and involved in low-level criminality in Exeter over the period from 1850 to 1856. She was usually described as having been born in Drewsteignton; occasionally in Okehampton. In both 1855 and 1856 she was accused of theft, and in 1855 she was sentenced to a month's imprisonment and (apparently separately) to a month's hard labour. Since I have been unable to find her thereafter, there is a possibility that she may have re-offended and been transported.

I believe Johnanna is the only realistic candidate to have died on 23 January 1887 leaving a will valued at £20 11/9d and naming her son John (a dairyman of 28 Kinterbury Street, Plymouth) as executor. The will was then revoked in 1887. The probate record gives her address at death as 'Shellyham, South Tawton', an address I have not found.

I believe that it was the John from this family who married Emma Daw Gill in Plymouth district in 1Q1862 (having moved to Plymouth prior to the 1861 census, at which time he was working as a brewery labourer). He became a dairyman, and had a large family including Edred (born c.1863), Ernest (c.1864), Harry / Alfred (c.1868), Herbert (c.1871), Frederick (c.1874), Adolphus (c.1876), Harold (c.1878) and Mabel (c.1882). The 1891 census confirms his address as 28 Kinterbury Street.

Elizabeth was a servant in Dawlish at the time of the 1861 census, but I have not traced her thereafter. Harriet was a servant in Dorset in 1861, 1871 and 1881.

### 1831, Martin & Mary

Martin Wood Knapman married Mary Skelly at Blackawton on 27 December 1831. He was from Family '1805, Thomas & Dorothy'. So far as I am aware they did not have any children, and I have not found them on any census returns.

Mary Knapman, a widow of East Allington married Richard Johns, a widower of the same parish at East Allington in 1850 (the third reading of the banns was on 27 January). I believe she was probably Martin's widow.

### 1832, Robert & Jane

**Robert** Knapman married **Jane** Morris at Paignton on 12 January 1832. He was from Family '1780, William & Rose', and she had been born in about 1790. At the time of the 1841 census they were living at Paignton, with Jane described as a 'mantle maker'. According to her headstone<sup>160</sup> at St John the Baptist, Paignton Jane died on 11 March 1848. Robert was re-married a few months later (his second marriage being '1848, Robert & Grace').

### 1832, Joseph & Ann

Joseph Knapman married Ann Corner in Bristol<sup>161</sup> on 9 February 1832. He may well have been from Family '1807, Jacob & Mary'. So far as I know there were no children born to this marriage, and Joseph's second marriage (assuming that this was indeed his first) is dealt with below as 'c.1841, Joseph & Ann'.

### 1832, James & Betsey

James Knapman married Betsey Dawe at Woodland on 6 March 1832. He was an illegitimate grandson from Family '1758, Alexander & Mary', and this was apparently his second marriage.

I have been unable to find details of his first marriage beyond the facts that his wife was called Sarah, and they had at least one child called James (again, no record of the birth found) who was buried at Woodland on 31 December 1824, with the family's address given as the Almshouse (presumably in Woodland rather than Ipplepen). Sarah was buried at Woodland aged 37 on 23 July 1828.

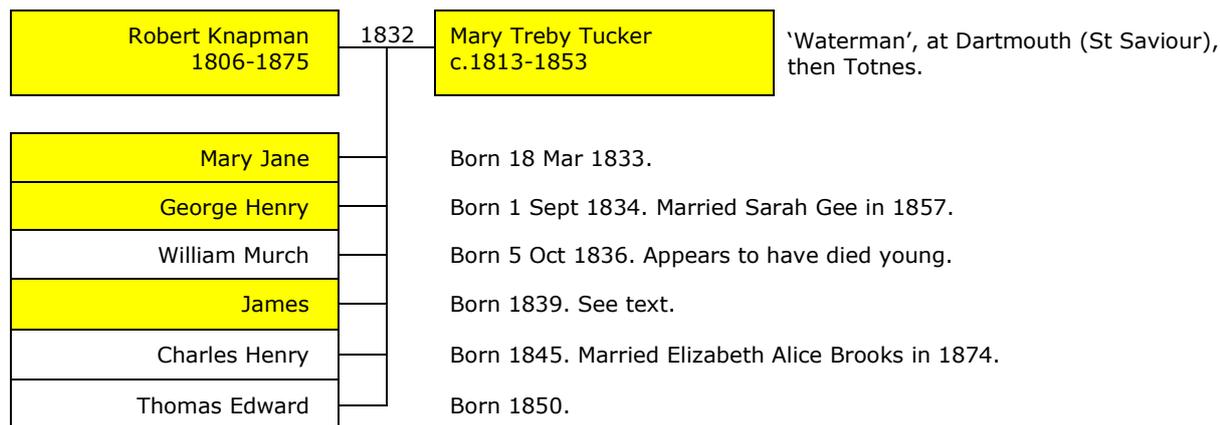
**James** can be found on the 1841 census with his year of birth estimated as 1787, living in an Almshouse at Ipplepen with **Betsey**. By the time of the 1851 census James was a widower (presumably for the second time), living back in Woodland, supporting himself as a poultry dealer.

### 1832, Robert & Mary

Robert Knapman married Mary Treby Tucker of Slapton at Dartmouth St Clement on 24 May 1832. He was from Family '1801, William & Jane', and on the 1841 census return he was described as a waterman. Their family is shown below. According to the IGI their first three children were baptised at the Brixham Wesleyan Chapel. James' birth year is based on the 1841 census return.

<sup>160</sup> An image can be found on the Findagrave website, though the transcription given there gives her year of death as 1818 rather than 1848.

<sup>161</sup> The source, accessible via [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk), does not specify the parish concerned.



In 1851 Robert and Mary Treby were at Dartmouth with their three youngest children. Mary Jane was a servant at Dartmouth, and George Henry may well be the agricultural labourer at Dartmouth Townstal shown as having been born at Stoke Fleming. Mary Treby evidently died, very probably in 1853, and Robert was re-married in Totnes district in 4Q1854 to Sarah Clements, the widow of William Clements, an agricultural labourer. She was originally from Halwell. At the time of the 1861 census Robert was a 'lighterman' and Sarah was working as a cook in Dartmouth. A decade later they, together with Charles Henry, were both in Dartmouth. Charles Henry was at that time apprenticed to a cooper. Robert died in 1875, and at the time of the 1881 census Sarah was living in the Townstall almshouses.

George Henry married Sarah Gee in Totnes district in 2Q1857. She was originally from Stokenham. He was working as a lighterman at Dartmouth in 1861, as a labourer in 1871 and 1881 and as a coal porter in 1891. He and Sarah did not have any children (at least not any that survived), and in both 1871 Geprge Gee, Sarah's nephew, was living with them.

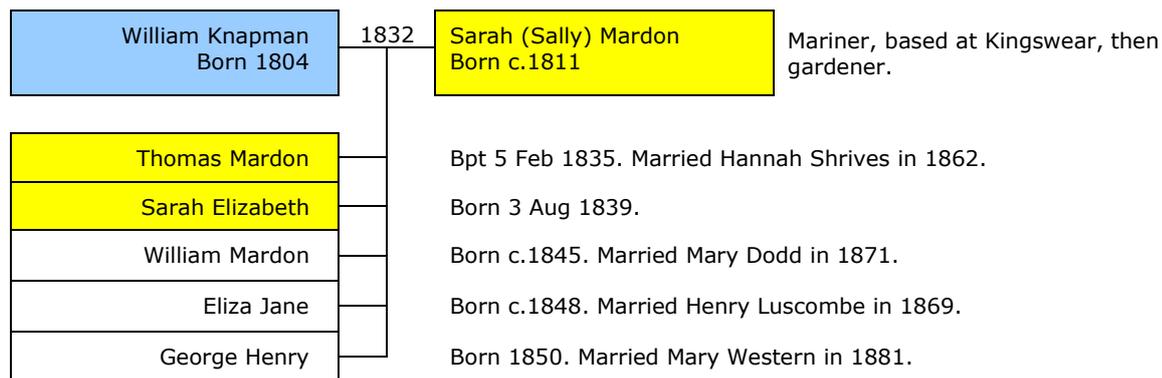
James also became a sailor, and in 1861 can be seen (with his surname transcribed as Knatman) working on the 'Crocodile' in Salcombe harbour. He may well have died in 1867: certainly I have been unable to find him on any census returns after 1861.

Charles Henry only used the name Henry as an adult. He married Elizabeth Alice Brooks in Plymouth district in 1Q1874, and worked in Plymouth as a cooper. At the time of the 1881 census they were at Thistle Park Cottages in the Charles district, and in 1891 at 34 Clare Building, Charles. They had at least two children: William (born c.1877) and Sarah (c.1885). In 1891 Sarah's mother Hannah Brooks was staying with them.

I have been unable to trace Thomas Edward into adulthood, and suspect that he died in childhood.

### 1832, William & Sally

William Knapman married Sarah (Sally) Mardon at Kingswear on 22 July 1832. He was from Family '1801, William & Jane', and was a sailor. Sally may very well have been the sister of Joseph Mardon, who had married William's elder sister Mary Ann at Kingswear on 21 January 1830. William was presumably away at sea when the 1841 census was taken. Sarah and their first two children were at Kingswear, where all of their children were born.



In 1851 William and Sally were both in Kingswear, with their four youngest children. A decade later they (William and Sally) were at Calstock, on the Cornish side of the Tamar, and William was described as a gardener.

Thomas Mardon became a sailor, like his father. He married Hannah Shrives (originally from Kettering, Northamptonshire) in Totnes district in 3Q1862, and they had a family at Kingswear, including Ellen (born c.1864), Priscilla (c.1866), William (c.1879), Leonard (1870, but died young), and Frank (c.1876). In 1881 Thomas Mardon was working on HMS Britannia as a lamplighter. In 1911 Thomas and Hannah were living at Kingswear, with Frank, who was a sailor and unmarried at that time.

After working as a ploughman (at Brixton in 1861) William Mardon also followed his father to sea. He obtained his ship's master certificate in 1871 and moved to the West Derby area of Liverpool, where in 4Q1871 he married Mary Elizabeth Dodd (who was also originally from the Kingswear area). They had a substantial family on Merseyside born between 1872 and 1890, comprising Ada, Charles, Florence, Lillian, Sidney, Mabel, Henry and William J. In 1881 they were living at 47 Nickleby Street, but later moved to 29 Twiss Street. They were both still alive in 1911, and William J was living with them.

In 1861, Eliza Jane and George Henry were staying with cousins at Kingswear. Eliza Jane married Henry J Luscombe in Totnes district in 2Q1869, and they had a family. George Henry was still single at the time of the 1881 census, and living with his parents in the Kingswear Alms Houses described as a mason. His father (William) was still a gardener, and his place of birth was confirmed as Dittisham.

George Henry married Mary Western from Witheridge in Totnes district in 2Q1881. They lived on Brixham Road, Kingswear, where they too had a large family born between 1882 and 1905, including George H, William E, Ethel M, Charles F, Bessie M, Beatrice, Emily M, Ada A, Frederick J and Gladys.

### 1833, William & Sarah

William Knapman married Sarah Loosemore of Knowstone (a village between Taunton and South Molton) in 1833, though I have not found either the date or location of the marriage. This was William's second marriage, his first being '1790, William & Sophia Maria'.

When William died on 19 September 1835, his age was given<sup>162</sup> as 73 (suggesting that he had indeed been born in c.1762). He was also described as having been "... *one of his Majesty's Deputy Marshalls ...*" prior to his death. His will (which can be seen via the National Archives website) was the subject of a much-cited lawsuit<sup>163</sup> which confirms that he had indeed married Sarah in 1833. Sarah Knapman, by then widowed, was recorded on the 1841 census living (or staying) at Knowstone, with her surname spelled Napman, and shown as born c.1806, but actually older than

<sup>162</sup> Source: The Gentleman's Magazine Vol.158 page 442 of September 1835, accessible on-line via Google Books.

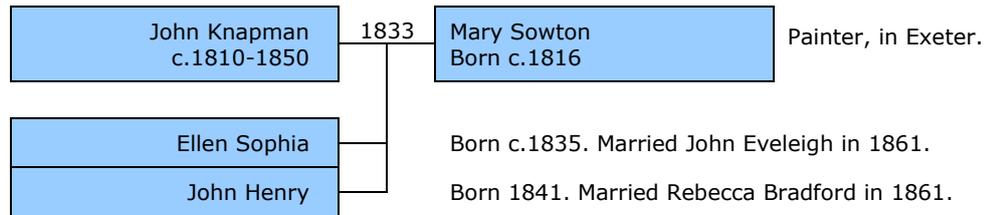
<sup>163</sup> Source: The Law Journal Reports for the year 1854, Vol.23 pages 174-175, accessible on-line via Google Books. The case was mounted by plaintiffs called Loosemore and Topping, and turned on how to deal with the fact that William's estate had been insufficient to provide Sarah with what she had been promised, presumably by seeking to recover the shortfall from Mary Knapman.

this. A decade later she was living at 22 Ebury Street, shown as a house proprietor who had been born at Knowstone. She died there on 27 March 1852, with her age given as 54<sup>164</sup>.

William's will also mentioned his children by his first marriage, describing them as his 'only son Henry' (of Sidney Terrace, Chelsea) and daughter Caroline Blake (by then of Jersey). It was proved on 10 September 1835 by Sarah and Henry.

### 1833, John & Mary

John Knapman married Mary Sowton at Exeter St David on 10 August 1833. I do not know where he came from, but he was a painter, and they had two children, as follows.



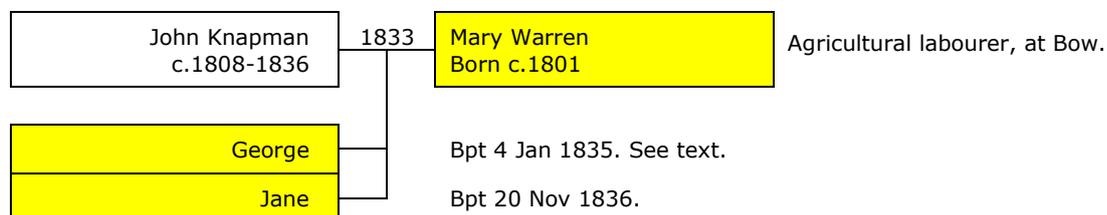
I have been unable to find them on the ancestry.co.uk transcription of the 1841 census, but they can be seen on the version provided via the 1901censusonline.com website, with John, Mary and their two children living in the St Sidwell district of Exeter. However, on 16 May 1850, aged just 40, John died from enteritis, possibly linked to the lead that was present in many paints at that time. He died at 22 Albert Street, and the person named as being present at the death was Mary Ann Dare, a near neighbour and wife of a plasterer. A year later Mary and the children were still at 22 Albert Street.

When Ellen Sophia was married (at Exeter St James on 28 March 1861 to John Eveleigh, an ironmonger from Wiveliscombe), her brother John Henry was a witness. John and Ellen Sophia moved to Newport, South Wales, where they had a daughter, Mary Ellen (in 1864) and a son, Richard Frederick (1872). Her family evidently survives to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in Canada, and it is to her descendant Margaret Atchison (née Eveleigh) that I owe most of the details above.

John Henry married Rebecca Combe Bradford in Exeter district in 3Q1861, and they moved to Lambeth (South London) in about 1866, where he worked as a shorthand writer. Their children included Mary Ann (born c.1863), Harry J (c.1867), Alice Rose (c.1870), Walter Evel (c.1872), Louise (c.1874) and John Henry (c.c.1876).

### 1833, John & Mary

John Knapman married Mary Warren at Bow on 10 November 1833. I believe he was very probably from Family '1805, Edward & Mary', and both of their children were baptised at Bow.



Unfortunately John died in 1836 (and was buried at Bow on 2 October 1836). Mary, whose mother still lived there, stayed in Bow, where she can be seen with her two children at the time of the 1841 census.

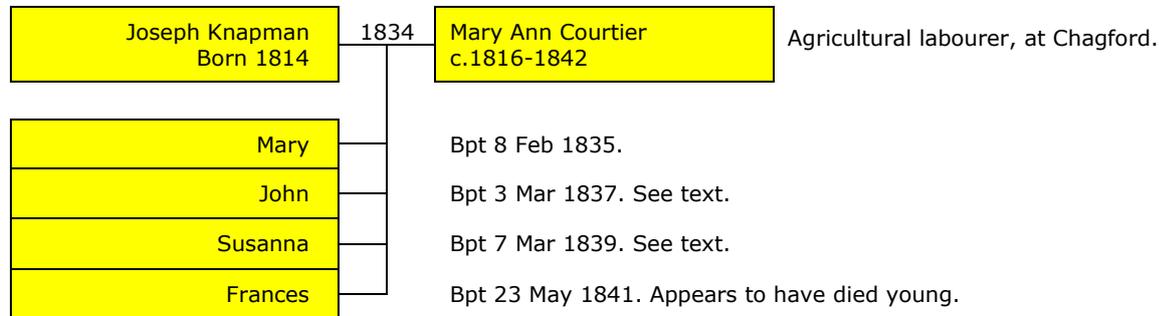
George evidently moved to East Stonehouse where he worked as a labourer (and, in 1881, as a sack collector). Although the 1871 and 1881 censuses show that he had a wife called Elizabeth, I have been unable to find a record of their marriage. They had a daughter (Mary) at Plymouth in

<sup>164</sup> Source: The Western Times of 3 April 1852.

c.1866 followed by at least four more children at East Stonehouse: Fred (born c.1870), George (c.1871), Emily (c.1873) and Sophia (c.1880). In 1891 they were living at 19 Union Place.

### 1834, Joseph & Mary Ann

Joseph Knapman married Mary Ann Courtier at Chagford on 14 March 1834. He was from Family '1804, John & Frances', and their family is shown below. Their children were baptised at Chagford.



There is an account (accessible via the National Archives website) of an examination held when Joseph was injured, and removed from Chagford back to South Tawton, his home parish, at some point after his marriage. We know that his injury affected his leg, and that it happened in about 1840. Prior to that he had apparently been doing reasonably well, being described in the baptismal register as a farmer in 1837 (though he was back to a labourer by 1839). He evidently got over his injury, because the family was back in Chagford, living on Mill Street with their 1-month-old daughter Frances, when the 1841 census was taken.

Unfortunately it appears that Mary Ann died in 1842. Joseph's second marriage is covered below as '1843, Joseph & Susanna'.

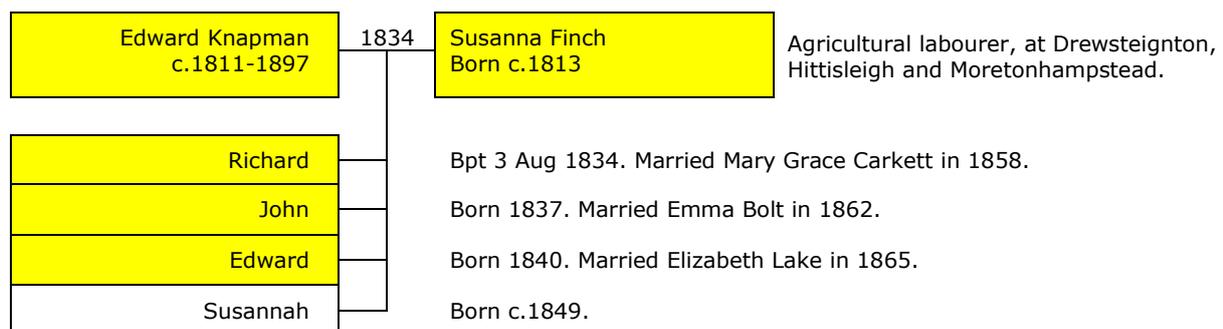
Susanna was living with Joseph and his second wife at the time of the 1851 census (see that marriage for details). I have found no further details regarding John.

### 1834, John & Isabella

John Knapman married Isabella Sattford at Stoke Damerel on 31 March 1834. I do not know where he came from, but they were very probably the couple living in Bovey Tracey at the time of the 1841 census with John shown as aged c.70 (and therefore born c.1771) but still working as an agricultural labourer, and Isabella born c.1786. If this is correct, then John would apparently have been over 60 by the time they were married.

### 1834, Edward & Susanna

Edward Knapman married Susanna Finch at Hittisleigh on 15 April 1834, with both of them recorded in the register as 'sojourners within parish' (i.e. residents, but not permanent ones). I am confident that he was from Family '1805, Edward & Mary', and she was probably from Lustleigh. Later that year their son Richard was baptised at Drewsteignton, at which point Edward was working at Drewsteignton mill.



Whereas Edward and Susan(na) were living at Merrymeet, in Hittisleigh parish at the time of the 1841 census with two children (John and Edward, born at Drewsteignton and Hittisleigh respectively), Richard was staying with his grandparents at South Zeal, as reported above.

By 1851 Edward and Susan(na) were living at Lower Willowray, Moretonhampstead with three children (Susannah having been born there), but again Richard was not with them. John and Edward (the sons) were both baptised at Moretonhampstead as adults, on 25 November 1866, with their occupations given as baker and blacksmith respectively.

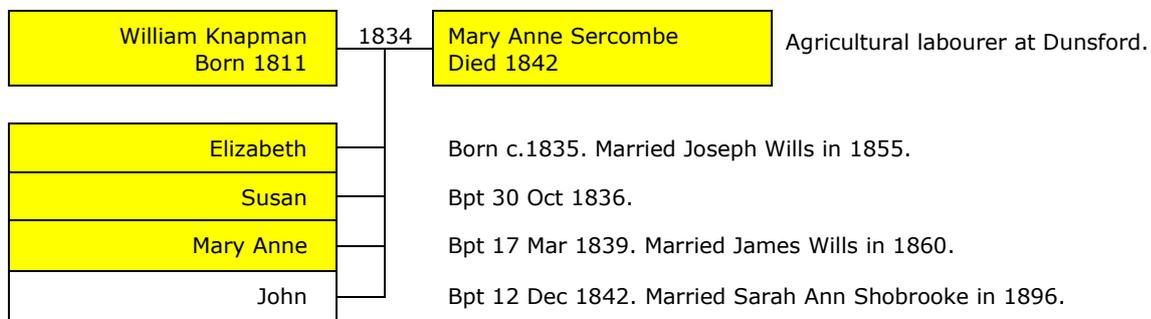
Richard may well have been the person of that name who was working as a servant in South Tawton in 1841. He subsequently moved to Plymouth where he married Mary Grace Carkett in 4Q1858, and by 1861 they were living in the St Andrew's area of Plymouth, with Richard working as a tailor. They had a daughter, Tryphena Carkett in 1859, but she died the following year. Richard then died in 1861.

John married Emma Bolt in Exeter district in 3Q1862. They had a daughter, Emma, baptised at Moretonhampstead on 12 November 1865, but she does not appear to have survived. By 1871 John was a baker at Cheriton Bishop, and so far as I can see they did not have any further children.

Edward married Elizabeth Lake from Tedburn St Mary in Okehampton district in 3Q1865. He was a blacksmith, and at the time of the 1871 census they were living at East Brent, Somerset with Tryphena Lake and Albert Edward Lake (bpt 25 February 1866 and 27 October 1867 respectively at Moretonhampstead). Tryphena Lake died later in 1871. By 1891 Edward, Elizabeth and Albert (by then also a blacksmith) had moved to Penarth in South Wales, and Edward (the father) was staying with them. Edward (the father) appears to have died in 2Q1897 in Tonbridge district, Kent, though I do not know why he was there.

### 1834, William & Mary Ann

William Knapman married Mary Anne Sercombe at Dunsford on 27 July 1834. He was from Family '1808, Richard & Grace'. Their first daughter was (apparently) not baptised at Dunsford, but she appears clearly on the 1841 census living with the others, at Coombridge, Dunsford. Their family was as follows.

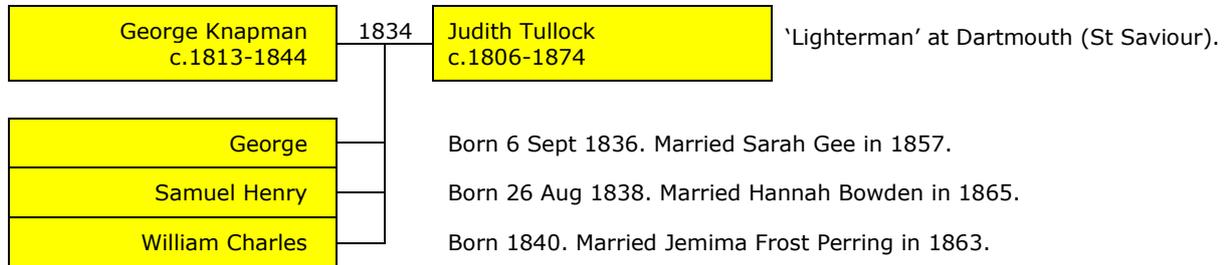


By 1842, when John was baptised, and when (as far as I can see) Mary Anne died, the family was at Green Farm, Dunsford. At the time of the 1851 census William was living at Warnscombe in Dunsford, with Susan and John. Both Elizabeth and Mary Anne were working as house servants in Bridford. William was re-married in 1852 to Sarah Cornelius.

John worked in Christow for several years (in 1871 he was staying with his sister Mary Anne and her family), and then for many years he worked in and around Exeter as a gardener. In 3Q1896 he married Sarah Ann Shobrooke in Exeter district. The 1911 census confirms that they had no children. They were living at 88 Cowick Street in the St Thomas district of Exeter at that time.

## 1834, George & Judith

George Knapman married Judith Tullock at Dartmouth St Saviour on 30 October 1834. He was from Family '1801, William & Jane', and she was from Ashprington. Their children were all born at Dartmouth, as follows. At the time of the 1841 census they were living in Dartmouth, and George was described as a lighterman.



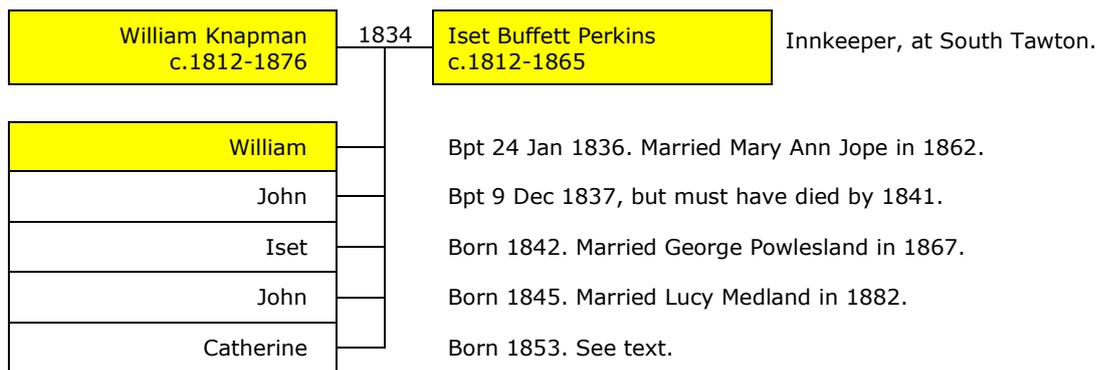
George (the father) had evidently died by 1851, when Judith was recorded as a pauper living in Dartmouth with her two youngest children. George (the son) and Samuel may well have become the two sailors of those names who served on the 'Pique' and 'Encounter' respectively in the 2<sup>nd</sup> China war of 1856-60.

The three sons married the wives indicated above in Totnes district, in 2Q1857, 3Q1865 and 4Q1863 respectively.

George and Sarah had no children of their own, but Gee nephews were staying with them in 1871 and 1881. By 1891 George was still working, as a coal porter. Samuel Henry and Hannah had a daughter (Hannah, born c.1867), but she died young. William Charles evidently died soon after his marriage, and Jemima was re-married (to William Perring, possibly a cousin) in 1867. The Knapman surname was not, therefore, carried forward via this branch of the family.

## 1834, William & Iset

William Knapman married Iset Buffett Perkins at Exeter, St Paul on 29 December 1834. He was from Family '1811, John & Catherine', and their family is set out below. At the time of the 1841 census his grandfather (William) was living with him and his family.



William and his family can be seen in 1851 and thereafter at the King's Arms, South Zeal. However, a report dated in the Western Times of 23 August 1851 may well refer to him when it states that Mr Knapman's dwelling house was saved due to the efforts of local residents, but that much of his malt house, stabling and a long room used as a club room were destroyed by fire.

Iset Buffet died in 1865, and in 1871 only Catherine was living with her father. William, described as an innkeeper of South Zeal, died on 17 April 1876 leaving a will which was proved by his sons William (a shopkeeper of South Zeal) and John (a registrar of Okehampton).

William (the son) married Mary Ann Born Jope of South Tawton in Okehampton district in 4Q1862. They had three children: Alberta Annie Jope (born c.1867), Mary Ann Jope (1869), and John Jope

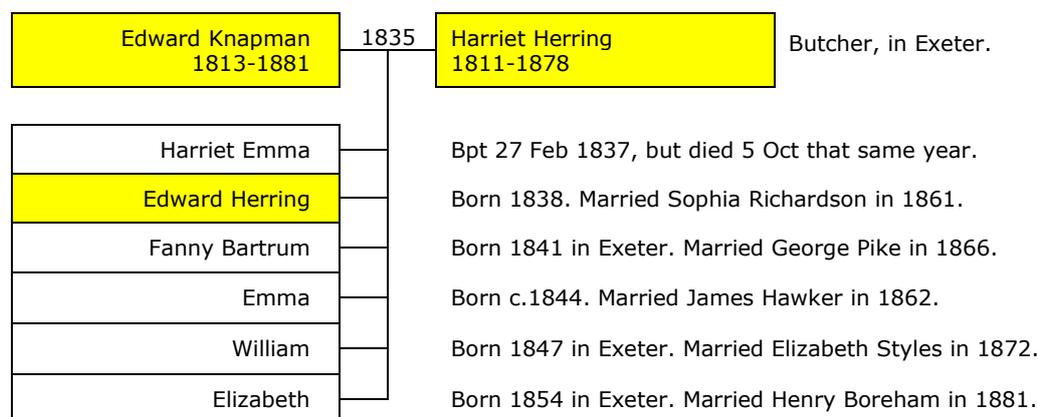
(c.1871). William ran a shop in the village for several years, but by 1891 he was recorded as an auctioneer and manager of a lime quarry, assisted by John Jope.

John married Lucy Elizabeth Medland in Okehampton district in 2Q1882, and worked as a registrar and relieving office in Okehampton. The 1911 census shows that they did not have any children, and they were still living in Okehampton at that time.

I have not found Catherine after 1871.

### 1835, Edward & Harriet

Edward Knapman married Harriet Herring at Newton St Cyres on 14 March 1835. He was from Family '1807, William & Mary', and their family is shown below. Their children were all born in Exeter, where Edward, like his father, was a butcher. At the time of both the 1841 and 1851 census they were in the Exeter parish of St Sidwell. White's directory for 1850 gives the address of his shop as 20 Sidwell Street.



At the time of the 1861 census Edward and Harriet were living on Guinea Street with their three youngest children, and Emma was shown as a dress maker. At the time of the 1871 census they were at 4 Market Street in the parish of St Mary Major, and of the five children only Elizabeth was still at home. Harriet died in 1878, aged c.67, and Edward died in Exeter in 1881.

Their five surviving children all moved to London, and all got married (twice in the cases of Edward Herring and Fanny Bartrum). Most of them retained strong links to the butchery business.

Edward Herring married Sophia Richardson at St Marylebone on 6 January 1861, and the census of the same year shows them living in Marylebone. They had a daughter, Harriet Sophia (born 1861), but Sophia died in 1870. Edward Herring was then re-married to Catherine Austin at St Marylebone on 15 November 1871. She had been born at Bovington in Hampshire, and her father was a farmer. The 1881 census shows them living at Market Place, Paddington, and the 1891 census shows them at 862 Old Kent Road, Peckham. Their children were William Thomas (born 1873), Frederick John (1875), Albert Benjamin<sup>165</sup> (1879), Edward Henry (1881) and Frank Austin (1883). By the time of the 1901 census Edward Herring and Catherine were living in Hackney, at Clifton Grove. Edward Herring died in Kingsland, London in 1904.

William married Elizabeth Styles in Kensington district in 4Q1872, and a combination of the 1881 and 1891 censuses and BMD births register shows that their children were William Edward (born 1873), Edward (1876), James Ernest (1878), Elizabeth Caroline (1880), Walter John (1883) and Charles (1886). In 1881 they were living at 5 Cuthbert Street, Paddington, and both 10 and 20 years later at 137 Canterbury Road, Willesden.

Although Edward Herring and William had lots of sons between them via whom the Knapman surname may have survived, I have not yet traced those leads beyond the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>165</sup> The 1881 census names a son of this age as Robert. In 1891 he is recorded as Benjamin, and in 1901 as Albert B. However, it also mis-records Catherine as Clara. The BMD transcription for his birth calls him Albert Bennett.

## Chapter 9: Marriages from 1836 to 1850

### Introduction

#### *Sources:*

This chapter starts just before 1837, at the point when all births, marriages and deaths were required to be registered with the State, rather than just being recorded in parish registers. Where these events appear on both the DFHS lists and the BMD registers, I have used the detail provided by the DFHS information. It ends just after 1850, with the last registered marriage involving a bridegroom called Knapman to be contracted prior to the 1851 census.

As with many government reforms, the BMD registration system took some time to get going properly. Also, events which took place right at the end of one quarter may well not have been registered until the following quarter, so some care is required on that score. It is also clear that quite a few births in particular slipped through the net, and it appears that not all apparent marriages were formally contracted and registered. For the purposes of this document I have treated as marriages all those arrangements where the partners were described on subsequent census forms as man and wife, with the surname Knapman.

Because registration was by district rather than by parish, with 15-20 parishes in many districts, it is not always easy to find the original baptism, marriage or burial record even where a BMD registration record can be found. For anyone unfamiliar with the administrative geography of Devon, the guidance to registration districts which is available via the [genuki.org.uk](http://genuki.org.uk) website is invaluable.

#### *Context:*

The year 1837 marked the death of King William IV, and the coronation of Queen Victoria.

The early years of Victoria's reign were marked by wrenching social changes and tensions as the process of large-scale industrialisation intensified. For example, the 1840s saw agitation for much greater political change on the part of the Chartists.

The years 1845 and 1846 are known for the Irish potato famine, and the mass emigration (predominantly to North America) which it prompted, but the same conditions which caused the Irish potato crop to fail so dramatically also affected other parts of the UK, albeit to a much lesser degree of intensity.

1846 also saw the repeal of the Corn Laws, marking the point at which the political power of more traditional land-owning families bowed to the inevitable, and recognised that England in particular had become a country of urban food consumers rather than a country of farmers who supplied the needs of their urban compatriots.

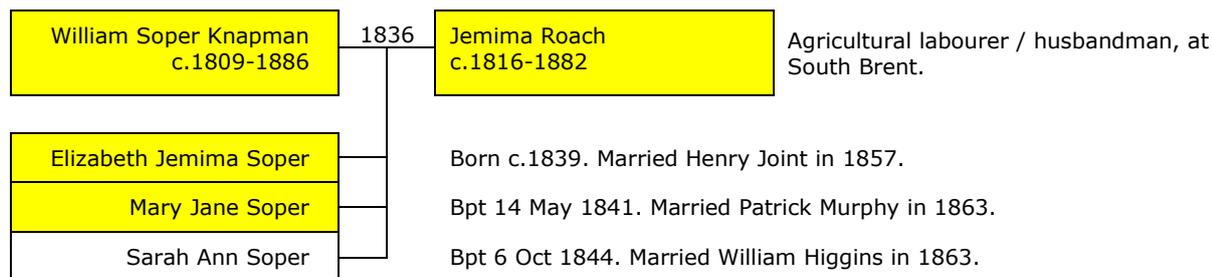
Although people had been travelling from Devon (and the rest of the UK) to work, fight and settle overseas for centuries, this had generally been on a small scale. Some of those who went had done so involuntarily, as convicts and indentured servants. By contrast, the period covered by this chapter saw the start of large-scale emigration to North America, including whole families travelling together. Comparable large-scale emigration to Australia came a bit later.

#### *Weather:*

There were no particularly striking weather events which would have led to unusual patterns of births, marriages and deaths during the period covered by this chapter.

### **1836, William & Jemima**

William Soper Knapman married Jemima Roach at Ugborough on 11 October 1836. He was from Family '1801, Anthony & Elizabeth'. By the time of the 1841 census they were living at Binnington, South Brent, and William Soper was working as an agricultural labourer. Their first two children had been born by this time, and the second two were both registered with the surname spelled Napman. Mary Jane was baptised as Soper, and Sarah Ann as Knapman, both at South Brent.

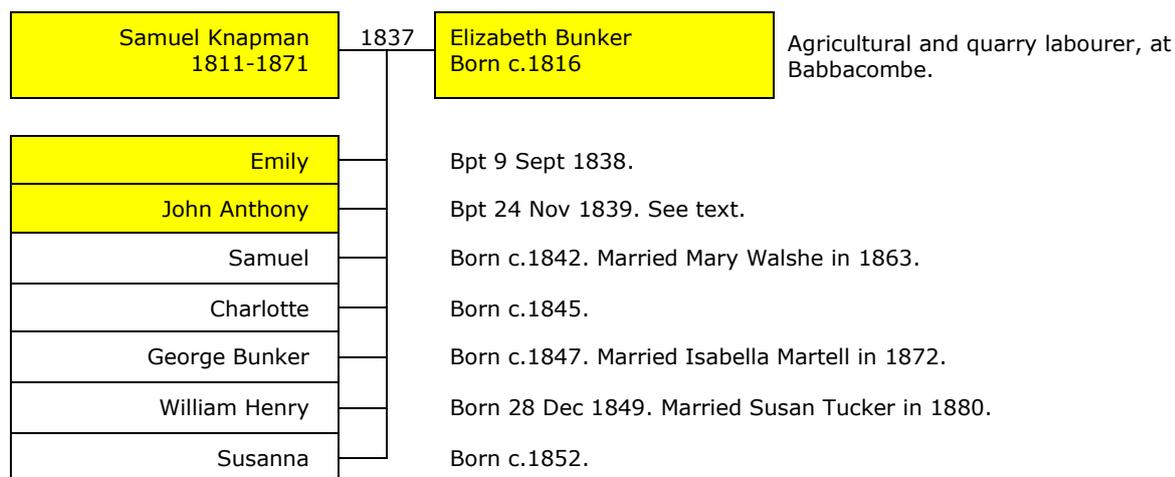


In 1851 they were living in South Brent with the two youngest girls. By 1861 William Soper and Jemima were living on their own, at Lutton Village. By 1881 William Soper had retired, and they both died over the following 5 years, with Jemima being buried at South Brent on 25 June 1882.

Elizabeth Jemima Soper married Henry Joint in Totnes district in 2Q1857, and they had a family. Her two sisters were both married in Plymouth district, in 1Q1863 and 2Q1863 respectively. Mary Jane Soper had been widowed by 1871. Sarah Ann Soper's husband was almost 20 years older than her, and had been born in Ireland. The 1871 census records him as a pensioner. He and Sarah Ann Soper had a family in South Brent.

### 1837, Samuel & Elizabeth

Samuel Knapman married Elizabeth Bunker at Torquay St Marychurch on 12 May 1837. He was from Family '1801, Anthony & Elizabeth', and she was from Churston Ferrers. Samuel was generally recorded as an agricultural labourer, but also, when his first two children were baptised, as a quarryman. The family lived at Babbacombe, on the northern edge of what is now Torquay.



At the time of the 1851 census Samuel and Elizabeth were still in the parish of St Marychurch with their five youngest pre-1851 children (i.e. excluding Susanna), and Emily was living nearby, working as a servant.

Samuel died in early 1871, before the census of that year. I think it is probable that over the previous decade Elizabeth had died, and Samuel had been re-married (in 1Q1866 in Newton Abbot district) to Grace White. By 1881 Grace was recorded as a retired dressmaker and widow, born c.1813 at Paignton, and living in Paignton.

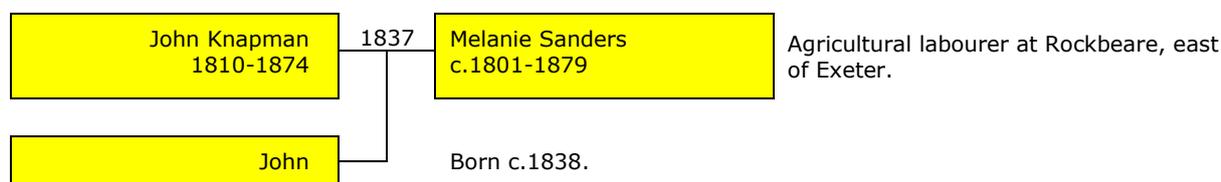
Both John Anthony and George Bunker later appear to have moved to London, at least for a time. John Anthony died in Marylebone in late 1876, and George Bunker married Isabella Harriet Martell at Christ Church, Battersea on 7 April 1872. Their children included Ellen (born c.1874 in Wandsworth) and Etwall Edwin Martell (1874 at Newport, South Wales). They then moved back to Torquay, where George Bunker worked as a decorator. In 1881 they were living on Carew Road, Tormoham, and in 1911 at 6 Muranatha Terrace.

Samuel married Mary Walshe (from Limerick, Ireland) in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1863. He worked as a joiner, and mainly lived in Torquay. Most of their children were born in either Babbacombe or Torquay, though one was born at Chideock, Dorset. The 1911 census shows that they had 11 children in all, of whom only six were still alive at that time. Their children included Mary (born c.1863), Henry J (1866), Ellen Charlotte (1867), George R (c.1871 at Chideock), William Joseph (1872), Catherine Mary (1873), Alice (1875), Frederick (1877) and Samuel (1879).

William Henry's date of birth is taken from his naval service record, held at the National Archives. I understand from one of his descendants, Lyn Chaston, that the Knapman name survives via his offspring. Following his marriage in Totnes district in 1Q1880 to Susan Tucker they were living at Paignton at the time of the 1881 census with their eldest daughter (Emma Matilda M, born 1879), and William Henry was working as a plasterer. They later had several more children, including Thomas Edwin (1881), William George (1885, also known as George William, and Lyn's direct ancestor), Bessie Jane (1887), David Foot (1890), Frederick Walter (1891), Sophie Maidment (1894) and Frank (c.1896). The 1911 census shows that they had a ninth child that I have not identified. By then William Henry was a mason.

### 1837, John & Melanie

John Knapman married Melanie Sanders in the St Thomas district of Exeter in 3Q1837. He was very probably from Family '1804, William & Mary', and the agricultural labourer of that name who moved to Rockbeare. As far as I know they only had one son, as shown below.

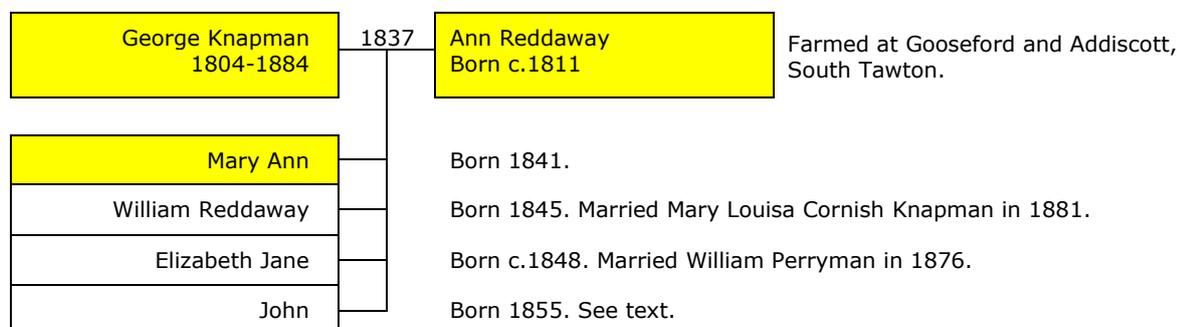


Melanie worked as a nurse, and was living with another family in 1861, but in 1871 John and Melanie were together, at Broadclyst.

John (the son) married Jane Rowland of Luppitt in Exeter district in 2Q1862, and in 1871 they were living at Wellington Place, Bridgwater, where John worked as a railway porter. They had four children: Lucy (born c.1865 at Exeter), James (c.1867, Bridport), Francis William (c.1878, Bridgwater) and Elizabeth (c.1870, Bridgwater). Unfortunately John died later that year (1871), and in 1872 Jane was re-married to Charles Churchill, another railway employee. By 1881 they were living at South Molton, and Jane's children by her first marriage were recorded with the Churchill surname. However, subsequent records show that at least Francis William reverted to Knapman later in life.

### 1837, George & Ann

George Knapman married his cousin Ann Reddaway in Okehampton district in 4Q1837 (probably at Belstone). He was from Family '1804, John & Ann', and their children are shown below.



George died on 8 July 1884 leaving a will that was proved by his son John. George is buried in South Tawton churchyard close to his father and to his son, John, who also farmed at Addiscott,

and did not marry. Another group of headstones very close by belong to William Reddaway Knapman of Tawburn, Sticklepath (where he farmed) and his family. He married Mary Louisa Cornish Knapman (daughter of the younger Arthur Knapman of Well Farm, and therefore a granddaughter of Family '1797, Arthur & Elizabeth') in Torrington district in 4Q1881, and had two children: William Thomas (born 1882), and Anne Louisa M (1884), both of whom died in their teens (in 1897 and 1900 respectively). The Knapman surname was therefore not passed on via this family.

Elizabeth Jane's husband William Perryman was from Yeo Mills, Chagford.

### 1837, James & Sarah

James Webber Knapman married Sarah Brimmicombe at Stoke Gabriel on 31 December 1837. His origins are complex (see below), and she was a granddaughter of Family '1767, James & Mary', being one of nine children born to Elizabeth (née Knapman), who had married John Brimmicombe in 1799.

James Webber Knapman, who was born on 27 August 1816, and baptised at Paignton on 8 September that same year, was the illegitimate son of a mother called Mary Knapman. In 1817 a maintenance award for his upkeep was granted against John Webber, who was described as a labourer from Paignton<sup>166</sup>. Evidence of this ruling can be seen via the National Archives website. Since all children descended from this branch of the family inherited the surname Knapman via the maternal line, this does mean that any Y-DNA testing to establish family links to other Knapmans would not be effective for their descendants.

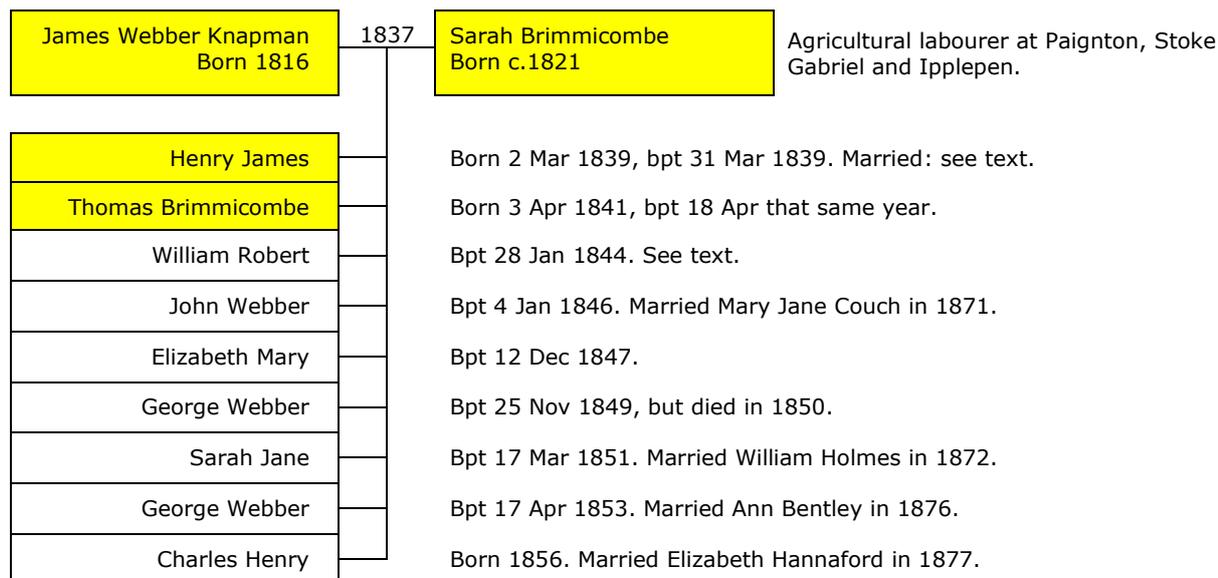
Although there are two 'candidate' Mary Knapmans who could have been James Webber's mother, (the other one being from Family '1767, James & Mary' which, if true would make him his wife's first cousin), on balance I believe that the younger of the two with the stronger ties to Paignton (i.e. the Mary from Family '1780, William & Rose') is by some way the more likely.

To add further to the confusion, the IGI records the marriage of a Mary Knapman to a John Webber at Paignton on 11 February 1817. My feeling is that despite the coincidence of names, this marriage involved the other 'candidate' Mary Knapman, and probably a different John Webber. It seems highly unlikely that the parish would have pursued a bastardy claim if a marriage was imminent. Whatever the truth, James Webber Knapman retained his mother's surname (possibly to avoid becoming James Webber Webber). He (James Webber) was apprenticed to William Bunker of St John's (Paignton) in 1832, when he was 15.

James Webber and Sarah had nine children as shown below, all of whom, with the exception of Thomas Brimmicombe, who was born and baptised at Paignton, were apparently born at Stoke Gabriel. However, at the time of the 1841 census they were living in the parish of Paignton with their two eldest boys, and James Webber was working as an agricultural labourer.

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<sup>166</sup> Source: DHC Ref.3134A-1/PO 62/21.



At the time of the 1851 census James Webber, Sarah and all six of their surviving children were living at Stoke Gabriel. In 1861 they were in Paignton with Thomas Brimmicombe, Elizabeth Mary, Sarah Jane, George Webber and Charles Henry. In 1871 they were at Ipplepen with Henry James (by then widowed: see below, and his three children), John Webber and his wife (see below), and Charles Henry. By 1881 James Webber had probably died, and Sarah was living with Sarah Jane, her husband William Holmes and their family.

Henry James (who generally only used the name James) was very probably married in Totnes district in 2Q1861, though his wife had died prior to the 1871 census. At that time he was staying with his parents, with three children: William H (born c.1862), Charles J (c.1864) and John D (c.1867). The first two had been born at Berry Pomeroy, and the third at Collaton. Then on 6 June 1873 in Newton Abbot district he was re-married to Dinah Milton. They can be seen living at Marlton at the time of the 1881 census with William (from James' first marriage) plus George (born c.1873), Florence (c.1877) and Frank (c.1880), Later they had James (c.1883) and Mabel (c.1887). James was consistently a labourer, but the family moved from Marlton to St Marychurch and Kingskerswell.

There is some confusion as regards William Robert. Whereas a William Robert Knapman, born c.1844, died in Totnes district in 1870, there was also a 24-year-old William Webber Knapman who was convicted of cattle stealing at Exeter on 20 October 1868, with two previous convictions for felony noted in the court record, and who can be seen in Portland prison at the time of the 1871 census described as a married labourer from Stoke Gabriel, born in about 1844.

John Webber married Mary Jane Couch in Newton Abbot district in 2Q1871 (and they were both living with his parents at the time of the census of that year, with Mary Jane shown as being from Churston Ferrers). The 1911 census confirms that they had no children, and that he was at that time a labourer at Churston Ferrers.

George Webber married Ann Bentley in Newton Abbot district in 2Q1876. She was a widow with young children of her own, and her maiden name was Smerdon. George Webber and Ann went on to have a large family between 1877 and about 1897, including Albert E, George F, Maud, Isabelle, William, Ellen (Nellie), Alfred Wallace and Laurance Kimberley. In 1881 they were living in Ashburton, and in 1891 at Wolborough. By 1901 George Webber had moved to working on the roads, and the family was living on Church Street, Kingsteignton. By 1911 he was a foreman, living on Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton. The 1911 census return confirms that they had been married for 36 years, and states that they had had 12 children in all, of whom nine were still alive. It is possible that this total of 12 included Ann's children from her first marriage.

Charles Henry married Elizabeth Hannaford in Newton Abbot district in 2Q1877. At the time of the 1881 census he was an agricultural labourer and they were living at Ilsington. In both 1891 and 1901 Elizabeth was living with her parents, with no sign of Charles Henry or children, but recorded as a wife rather than a widow.

## 1838, Richard & Mary Ann

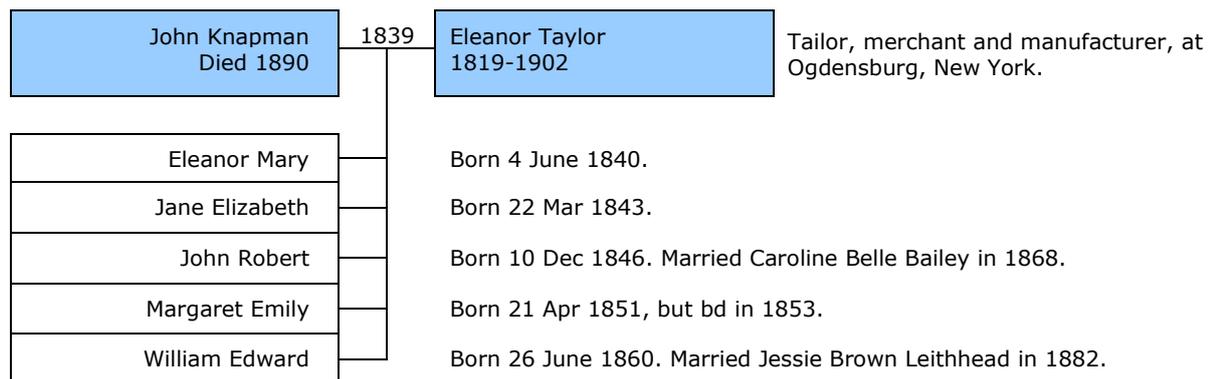
Richard Knapman married Mary Ann Farleigh at Ashburton on 26 February 1838. He was from Family '1814, William & Susanna', and like his father, he was a gardener, with his address given in the marriage register as East Street, Ashburton. She was the daughter of John Farleigh, a labourer. I have not managed to find either of them after their marriage, and I wonder if they emigrated prior to 1841.

## 1839, John & Eleanor

John Knapman married Eleanor Taylor in New York State on 17 January 1839. I do not know where or exactly when he had been born (see below), but he was apparently the only Knapman to have emigrated to the US by 1840. He was recorded on the US census of that year as married, and an English-born tailor. Subsequently he was recorded as a supplier of household goods. The IGI record of their marriage shows that Eleanor had been born in 1819 on Crickle Farm, Great Broughton (on the northern edge of the North York Moors, due east of Richmond). They had probably met either in the US or on the journey from England.

Different sources give different dates of birth for John, which makes it all but impossible to be sure where he came from. The marriage record on the IGI says he was born on 24 September 1808, whereas his headstone<sup>167</sup>, which is in Ogdensburg cemetery, St Lawrence county in upstate New York) apparently says 4 September 1804. Census returns generally indicate that he was 10 years older than Eleanor, and born in about 1809.

John and Eleanor's children were born at Madrid (Eleanor Mary and Emily) and Ogdensburg (the other three) in upper New York State and all recorded by the IGI, as shown below.



In 1858 John went into partnership with Joseph Gilbert to manufacture soap and candles. This partnership lasted through the American Civil War, but was dissolved in 1871. Evidence can be found via the Google Books website that in 1869 Knapman & Gilbert was one of the local businesses lobbying the US Government to improve the local waterways to improve connections to wider markets.

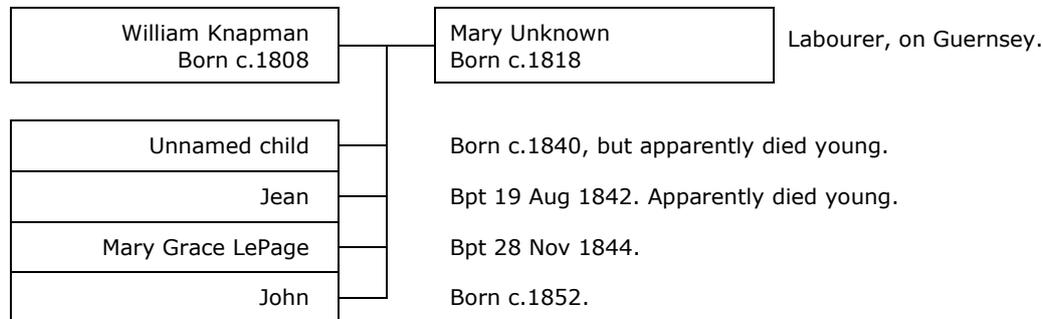
At the time of the 1880 census John and Eleanor were living (or staying) in Detroit, Michigan with William Edward. John (the father) died on 22 June 1890, and was buried back in Ogdensburg. Eleanor lived for another 12 years, dying on 14 April 1902 at Lapeer, a short way east of Flint.

Michigan is where both of their sons initially settled. John Robert married Caroline Belle Bailey at Detroit on 3 March 1868. He became a lawyer, and they had a family at Flint, including Ida (born c.1869), John (c.1871) and Edward (c.1874). William Edward married Jessie Brown Leithhead at Detroit on 26 January 1882, and they also had a family including Robert William (born c.1883), Richard (c.1886), John L (c.1889), Eleanor (c.1891), William H (c.1894), Isabelle (c.1899) and Jessie (c.1903). They later moved to Illinois.

<sup>167</sup> Source: findagrave.com.

### c.1839, William & Mary

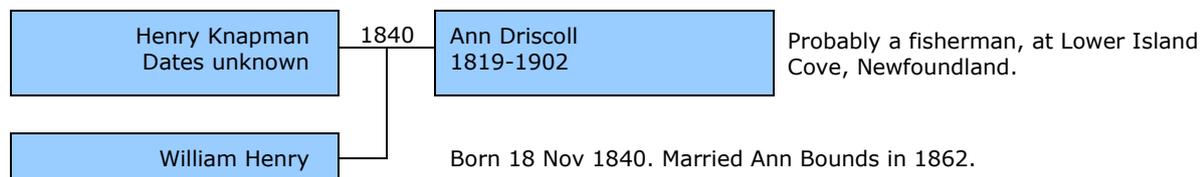
I do not know where or when William Knapman was married, or where he came from. The 1841 census gives his wife's name as Marguerite, and shows that she was born on Guernsey. The two of them were living at that time in the parish of St Martin with an unnamed 5-month-old infant, who may well have died soon thereafter. The IGI then records two children baptised to parents called William and Marie Jehan at St Andrew's, Guernsey, as shown below. Subsequent census returns name William's wife Mary, which is the name I have used below.



By 1861 the family was living at St Peter Port. William was widowed but still alive and on Guernsey in 1891, but his son John had either died or left the island by 1881. In 1891 William was living with his sister-in-law, who was named Martha Leitz, back in the parish of St Martin.

### 1840, Henry & Ann

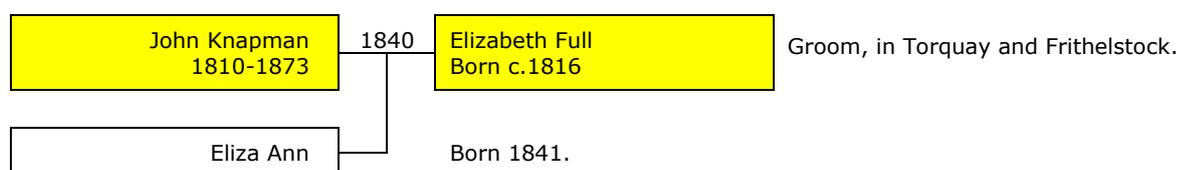
Henry Knapman married a widow called Ann Driscoll in Newfoundland on 14 May 1840. At that time Newfoundland was not part of Canada, but still governed from London, and Henry, very probably a fisherman, had settled at Lower Island Cove, Conception Bay. I owe most of the facts cited here to information provided by my distant cousin David Knapman of Taunton, who received it indirectly from a researcher in Massachusetts who was himself descended from Henry. Their only son was baptised at the local Methodist chapel.



Henry died over the next few years, and Ann was re-married in 1849, to John Day. William Henry married Ann Bounds on 3 June 1862 and they had four children: Joseph, William Thomas, Mary Olivia and Laura. I believe that all of the Knapmans in Newfoundland, and some in New England, were descended from this family.

### 1840, John & Elizabeth

John Knapman married Elizabeth Full in Newton Abbot district in 3Q1840 (possibly at Shaldon, just south of Teignmouth). He was very probably from Family '1793, William & Ann' and she was from Denbury (a short distance south west of Newton Abbot). They moved to Torquay (Tormoham), and at the time of the 1841 census they were living there on Meadfoot Row.

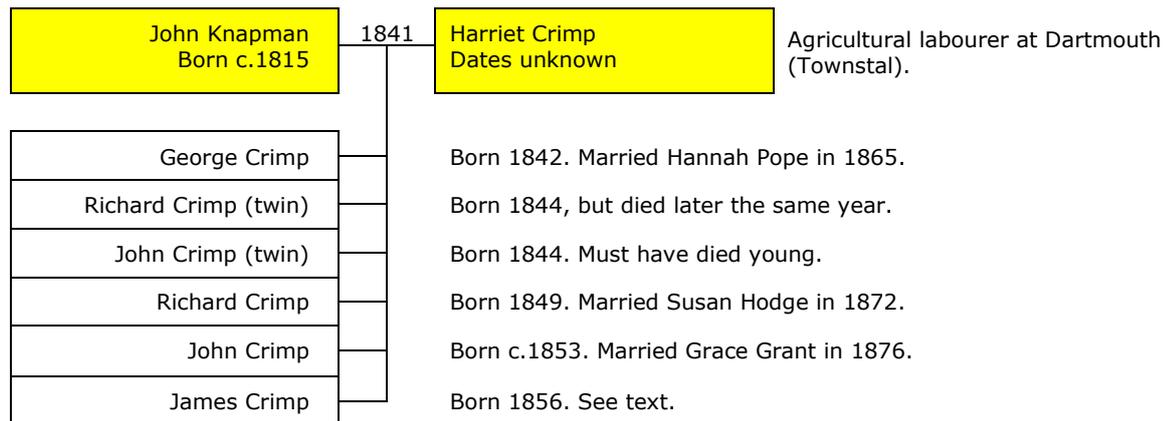


By 1851 they had moved to Glyn Cottage, Frithelstock, where John was working as a groom. They were still there in 1861, and the census suggests that they did not have any other children.

John was very probably the groom of that name who left a will which shows that he died at Getcombe, Littlehempstone on 30 December 1873, leaving a widow called Elizabeth.

### 1841, John & Harriet

John Knapman married Harriet Crimp in Totnes district in 2Q1841. He was from Family `1801, William & Jane', and she was originally from Dodbrooke. As reported above under the account of John's parents' family, at the time of the 1841 census John and Harriet were living (or staying) with them, and Harriet was mis-recorded as Hannah. Their children were all born at Dartmouth (or possibly Dittisham, in the case of George Crimp).



In 1861 the family was at Old Mill, Townstal, and by that time George Crimp was a shipwright's apprentice. The Crimp surname was used as a middle name in subsequent generations.

George Crimp married Hannah Pope in Totnes district in 3Q1865, and he was a ship's carpenter at Dartmouth at the time of the 1871 census. They had two children (George Crimp, born c.1868; and Hannah Maud, c.1869) before both parents died (Hannah in 1878, George Crimp possibly at sea). In 1881 the children were living in the Merchant Seaman's Orphan Asylum at Wanstead, Essex, and The New Orphan Houses at Ashley Down, Bristol respectively. George Crimp returned to Dartmouth where he married and had a family, but Hannah Maud died in 1882.

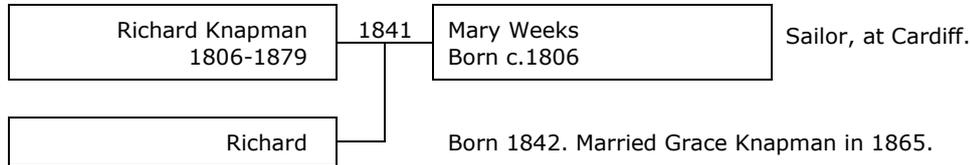
Richard Crimp married Susan Hodge in Totnes district in 1Q1872. He was a labourer and quarryman, and for many years lived at Crowther's Hill, Dartmouth. Their children included George Crimp (born c.1875, became a shipwright), William Henry Crimp (c.1876, became a swimming instructor), Edith B (c.1878), Richard J (c.1880), Ernest (c.1882), Florence Sarah (c.1884) and Alice Maud (c.1890). Susan died prior to the 1901 census, at which time Richard Crimp was living with their four youngest children. In 1911 he was living with Florence Sarah, her husband Harry Cole, and their family. He died on 12 August 1931.

John Crimp married Grace Grant in Totnes district in 2Q1876, and worked as a farm labourer and stone worker. Their children included Eliza A (born c.1877), John George (c.1879, became a plasterer), Clara Ann (c.1880, married Henry Long), George G (c.1882) and Mary G (c.1884). John Crimp died at 37 Clarence Street, Dartmouth on 22 October 1921.

I have not found any evidence to suggest that James Crimp married and had a family, and his apparent absence from census returns suggests that he may have gone to sea. A James Knapman of the right age to be him died in Newton Abbot district in 1902.

## 1841, Richard & Mary

Richard Knapman married Mary Weeks (originally from Stoke Fleming) at the church of St Philip and St Jacob in Bristol on 7 November 1841. The register (which is viewable via [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk)) identifies his father as Edward Knapman, and hers as Richard Weeks. I am confident that Richard was from Family '1805, Edward & Mary', with his mother's maiden name being Weeks, just like his wife's.



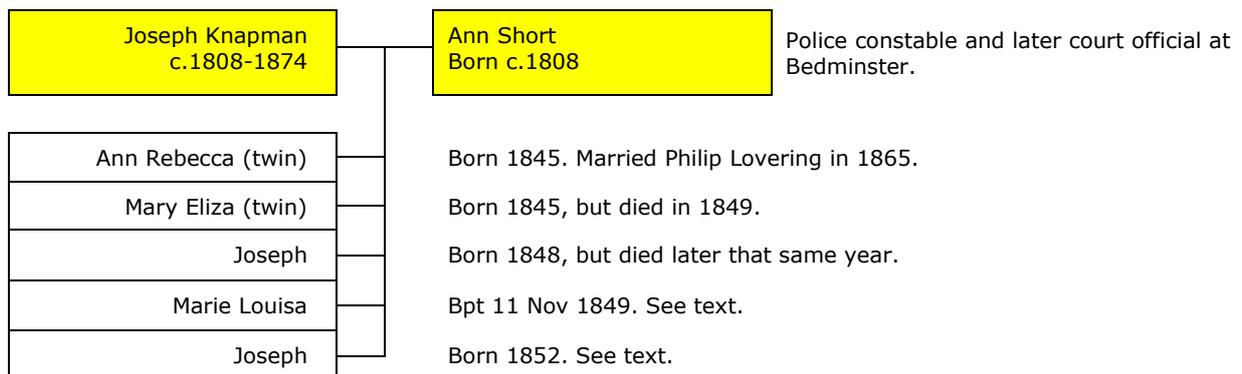
Richard was presumably away at sea on the day of the 1841 census, a few months before his marriage. A decade later, he was again probably at sea, while Mary was living in Cardiff with their son Richard, who had been born there (with his birth registered under the surname Napman).

A decade later Richard (the father) was present, with his place of birth confirmed as Dartmouth, and the family was living at 15 Rodney Street, Cardiff. Richard (the son) was by then working as an assistant teacher.

Richard (the son) married his cousin Grace (from Family '1842, William & Jane') in Cardiff district in 3Q1865. His mother had died by then. By 1871 Richard was a railway goods clerk, and by 1881 a coal merchant. In 1871 Grace's brother William was staying with them, and in 1881 her parents and a nephew (her sister's illegitimate son John) were staying, at 8 North Church Street, Cardiff. The description of her parents' relationship to Richard as uncle and aunt confirms that Richard's father had indeed been born into this family. I have been unable to find Richard and Grace after 1881, and it is possible that they emigrated.

## c.1841, Joseph & Ann

Joseph Knapman married Ann Short in or before early 1841. He was from Family '1807, Jacob & Mary', and this may well have been his second marriage (his first, if I am right, being '1832, Joseph & Ann'). She was from Bristol, and her family may well have come from Bitton in Gloucestershire (based on the details of her father, who was staying with Joseph and her at the time of the 1861 census). At the time of the 1841 census Joseph and Ann were living at Bedminster, and he was a police constable. They had the children shown below, at Bristol, and in the case of Marie Louisa Ann's maiden name (Short) appears on the record accessible via the IGI.



At the time of the 1851 census Joseph and Ann were living at 263 Windmill Hill, Bedminster, next door to Joseph and Ann Short (quite probably Ann's brother and sister-in-law).

When Joseph retired from the police, he worked for the court in Bristol, and by the time of his death (on 3 November 1874, according to the probate register) he was described as an accountant, of St Werburgh's Chambers. Certainly he and Ann were living at St Werburgh in 1871, though

Joseph was described then as a court official rather than an accountant. His will was proved by his widow, Ann.

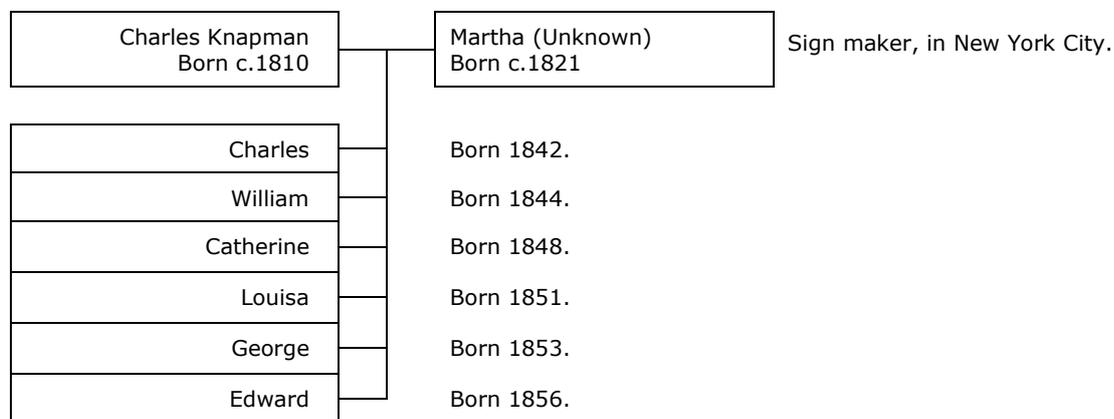
I believe that Ann Rebecca married Philip Lovering in 1865, and that they emigrated to New South Wales, where they had a substantial family.

Marie Louisa was living with her widowed mother at the time of the 1881 census, with a child called Kate Knapman who had been born c.1877 at Clevedon, Bristol. The evidence strongly suggests that Kate was Marie Louisa's daughter (and in 1891 she was living with her father's brother Henry at Ermington, described as his great-niece). At the time of the 1891 census Marie Louisa was a hospital patient in London, and she died a few weeks later.

I have not found any trace of their youngest child, Joseph, beyond his birth (unless he is the person of this name who died in Bedminster district in 1914).

### c.1841, Charles & Martha

Charles Knapman married a wife called Martha in about 1841, probably in New York City. The 1855 New York State Census shows Charles to have been a German-born signmaker, and Martha also to have been German-born. At that time they were living in New York City, Ward 7 with their first five children, all of whom had been born in New York.

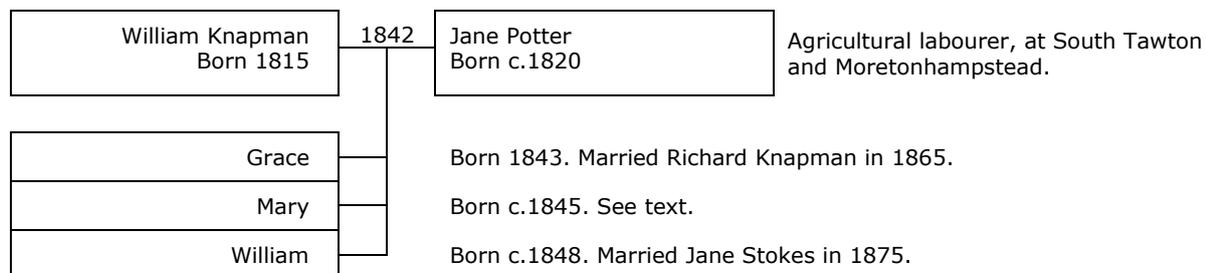


By the time of the 1870 Federal Census Charles (the father) had died. The census return confirms that Martha had been born in Prussia.

I have not traced this family further, other than to note that on subsequent census returns the family name tended to be spelled Knappmann or Knappman.

### 1842, William & Jane

William Knapman married Jane Potter at South Tawton on 25 March 1842. He was from Family '1805, Edward & Mary', and she was also from South Tawton, the daughter of John Potter.



William (the father) subsequently worked at Pinmoor Farm, Moretonhampstead (in 1871). By 1881 it appears that Jane had died, because William had a wife called Grace who appears to have been

born at Bere Alston (near Plymouth), though I have not been able to find any details of the marriage. William and Grace were still at Moretonhampstead in 1891.

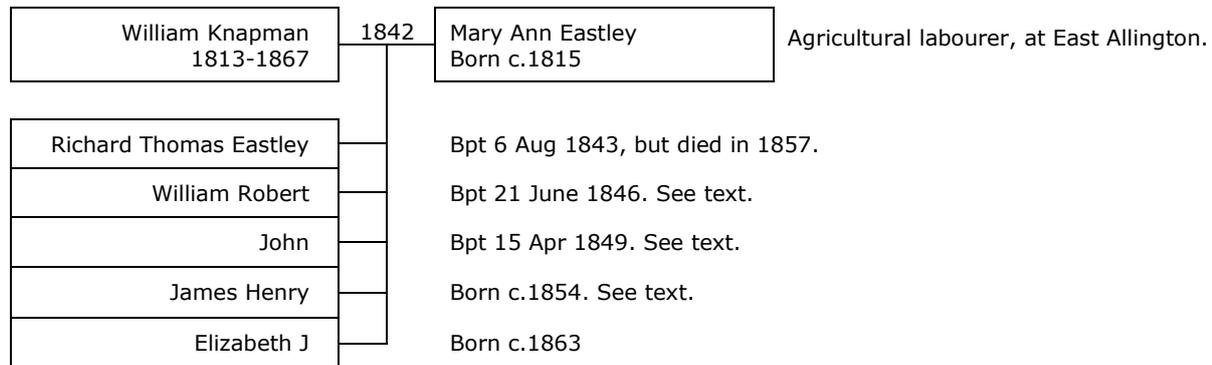
Grace married her cousin Richard Knapman (from Family '1841, Richard & Mary': see above) and moved to Cardiff.

Mary had an illegitimate son called John in the workhouse at Newton Abbot in c.1867 (both of them were living with her parents in Moretonhampstead at the time of the 1871 census); and William (the son) was staying with Grace in Cardiff in 1871.

William (the son) married Jane Stokes in Cardiff district in 3Q1875, and worked as a shoe maker. They had one daughter, Ethel A (born c.1880), and in 1891 were living at 17 Vere Street, Roath (Cardiff).

### 1842, William & Mary Ann

William Knapman (with his surname spelled Napman in the marriage register) married Mary Ann Eastley at Tormoham (Torquay) on 15 October 1842. He was from Family '1810, Thomas & Joan', and she was the daughter of a farmer called Richard Eastley from West Allington, who was living at Blackawton at that time. Neither could sign their name, and both made their 'marks' in the register. By the time of the 1851 census William and Mary Ann had one son apparently born at Slapton, and two baptised at East Allington, as shown below. In 1861 John and James Henry were living with them, still at East Allington.



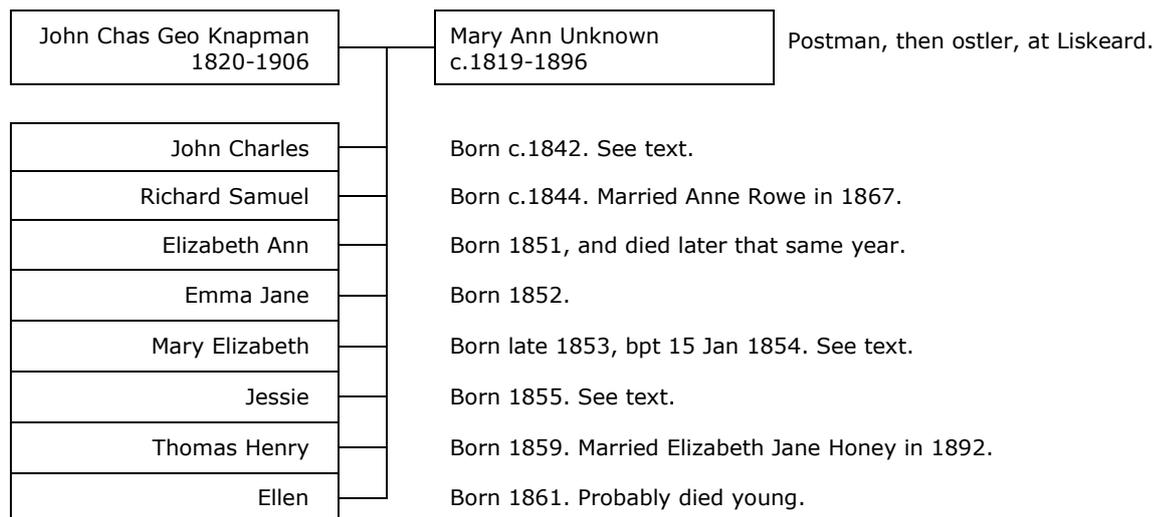
William was buried at East Allington aged 53 on 3 March 1867. The 1871 census shows Mary Ann as a widower, living with John, by then a shoe maker, and Elizabeth J. In 1881 James Henry was living with Mary Ann, described as an agricultural labourer.

I believe that after working as a servant in East Allington at the time of the 1861 census, William Robert died in Totnes district in 1870. James Henry was unmarried and lodging at East Allington at the time of the 1891 census, and I believe that he died in early 1901 in Plymouth district, before the census of that year.

John appears to have become a shoe maker in Brixham, and to have married a wife called Elizabeth in about 1872, though I have been unable to find the marriage, and I have been unable to find them on the 1881 census. However, in 1891 John and Elizabeth were living on St Peter's Hill, Brixham with Ellen (born c.1873) and George (c.1877). I have not found them on the 1901 census either, but in 1911 John was a widower, living with George (an agricultural labourer) on Burton Street, Brixham.

### c.1842, John & Mary Ann

John Charles George Knapman (who at least some of the time preferred the name Charles to John) appears to have married a wife called Mary Ann in about 1842, though I have been unable to find any record of their marriage. He was from Family '1819, John & Mary Ann' and she was from Stoke Damerel. By 1851 he was working as a postman in Liskeard, Cornwall, and he and Mary Ann had the first two of the sons shown below.



At the time of the 1871 census the family was still in Liskeard, and the only children living at home with their parents were John Charles (recorded as Charles, a labourer), Jessie and Thomas Henry. The same five family members were living together in Liskeard in 1881, together with a grandson called Frederick (born c.1876), at which time John Charles George was an ostler. Mary Ann died in 1896; he followed in 1906.

(John) Charles (the son) remained single, as did Jessie. Both of them lived with their father until at least 1901, as did other grandchildren whose origins I have been unable to establish (Alfred and William Knapman, born c.1892 and 1893 respectively, and Jessie Limber or Lumber, born c.1881).

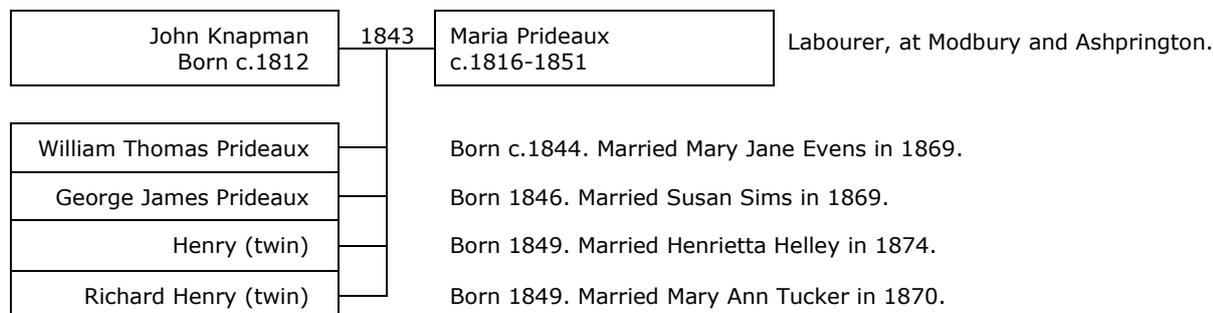
Richard Samuel worked as a groom and coachman. He married Anne Rowe from Menheniot, Cornwall in Totnes district in 3Q1867, but they had no children (this is confirmed by the 1911 census return). They lived and worked in London (Chelsea and Hanover Square) for many years.

Mary Elizabeth (who was baptised at Liskeard Wesleyan-Methodist chapel) probably died in infancy.

Thomas Henry married Elizabeth Jane Honey in Liskeard district in 4Q1892. He worked as an omnibus driver at St Austell, and they had just one child (Winnie, born c.1896). The 1911 census confirms that they did not have any other children.

### 1843, John & Maria

John Knapman married Maria Prideaux in Kingsbridge district on 11 January 1843. He was from Family '1812, John & Frances' (though I have not found him at the time of the 1841 census), and she had been born at Modbury. I understand from Vincent Duggleby, who has researched this family in some detail, that prior to their marriage John had been living at Aveton Gifford, and that Maria, who was herself illegitimate, had an illegitimate son (John) before she was married. That John was brought up by her brother (and next door neighbour in 1851) John Prideaux and his wife Charlotte (née Cross).



John and Maria's children were born at Modbury, though the family can be seen on the 1851 census living at Ashprington. After Maria died (on 5 December 1851), John was re-married in Totnes district in 2Q1852 to the older Sarah Neal (from Harberton), who brought up his and Maria's children. In 1861 they were living at Ashprington with William and Richard, while George James Prideaux and Henry were working elsewhere in the village as servants. Later John and Sarah moved to East Stonehouse, where John worked as a sawyer.

William Thomas Prideaux married Mary Jane Evens in Totnes district in 4Q1869. She was from Cornworthy, which is where they lived for a while before moving to Dittisham, then Blackawton, then Stoke Fleming. William worked as an agricultural labourer before (by 1911) becoming a farm bailiff. They had three children: William (born c.1873), Frederick James (c.1876) and Herbert (c.1882).

George James Prideaux married Susan Sims in Totnes district in 3Q1869, and he worked as a gardener, first at Kingsbridge and later at Berry Pomeroy. Their children included Fanny (born c.1874), Marie (c.1878), Susan Prideaux (c.1882). However, we know from the 1911 census that they had seven children in all, of whom four (probably the three named above, plus one other) were still alive in 1911.

Henry was working as a servant in Totnes in 1871. He then married Henrietta Helley of Cornworthy in Totnes district in 3Q1874, and they had two sons (John H, born c.1877; and William Gilbert, c.1880). In 1881 Henry was a coachman. Henrietta then died, and Henry was re-married to Amelia Jane Roberts in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1897. By 1911 Henry had been widowed for a second time, and he was staying with William Gilbert and his family.

Richard Henry became a blacksmith, and married Mary Ann Tucker of Cornworthy in Totnes district in 3Q1870. Their children were: Henry R (born 1871 at Cornworthy), Clara (c.1872 at Totnes), Annie Maria (c.1874 at Newton Abbot), William (c.1878, also at Newton Abbot), and Arthur G (c.1888). At the time of the 1881 census they were living at 1 Orchard Cottage, St Mary Church. In 1891 they were all living at 12 Springlake Terrace, Tormoham. By 1901 they were back in St Mary Church, and only Arthur G was living with them. In 1911 they were living on Shirburn Road, Torquay with Annie Maria and Arthur G, also a blacksmith by then.

### 1843, George & Charity

George Mortimer Knapman married the somewhat older Charity Veal in Okehampton district (probably at Drewsteigton) in 1Q1843. He was from Family '1821, John & Susanna', and she was from Germansweek. They do not appear to have had any children.

The 1851 census shows them, with George recorded as a master butcher from South Tawton, living in the St Andrew area of Plymouth. I believe that he was almost certainly the George Knapman, described as a butcher and eating-house keeper, who was identified<sup>168</sup> as having been bribed during the run-up to an 1853 election in Plymouth by John More, one of the candidates, "... by the promise of his influence to obtain him a situation in the Excise".

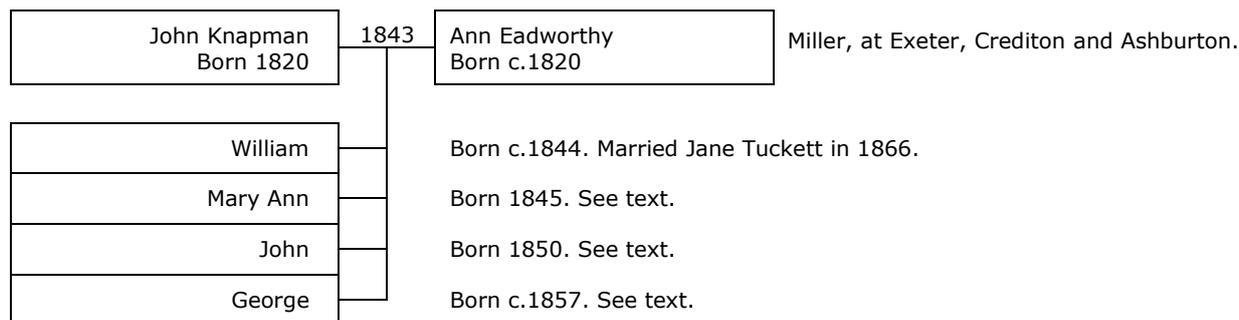
By 1857 George was a policeman in Plymouth<sup>169</sup>, and Charity was still a meat seller. When George's brother Robert Smith died in 1873, his will was proved by George, again described as a butcher, of North Road, Plymouth. George in turn died on 9 March 1878 leaving a will.

### 1843, John & Ann

John Knapman married Ann Eadworthy in Exeter district in 1Q1843. He was from Family '1816, Joseph & Susanna', and she was originally from Lapford. Their first two children were born in Exeter (though Mary Ann's birth was registered in Crediton district), with John born at Crediton and George (who I believe to have been their son) at Ashburton.

<sup>168</sup> There are many reports on the case accessible via the britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk website. See, for example, the Bury & Norwich Post and Suffolk Herald of 18 May 1853.

<sup>169</sup> There is a reference to PC Knapman of Plymouth / Devonport in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 10 January 1857, and his occupation is confirmed by the 1861 census.



By 1851 John (the father) was a journeyman miller and the family was living in Crediton; by 1857 Ann had died, and John was re-married to Elizabeth Easterbrook in Islington district in 2Q1857. Elizabeth was originally from Ashburton, and that is where she and John were living at the time of the 1861 census, with John and George.

John and Elizabeth then had at least six children of their own (Elizabeth Jane, born c.1858; Fanny c.1860; William E c.1862; Catherine c.1863; Joseph E c.1865; and Susan Jessie c.1870). At the time of the 1881 census, by which time John had died, Annie Mabel, born c.1878, was recorded as Elizabeth J's daughter, though later censuses confirm that she was actually her granddaughter, and presumably the illegitimate child of one of the daughters. By 1881 Elizabeth J was running the bakery with the help of her sister Jane Easterbrook; and Elizabeth Jane, Fanny, Joseph E, Susan Jessie and Annie Mabel were living with her. William E was by then working for a baker in Thorverton, and Catherine was a draper's assistant in Wolborough (Newton Abbot). In 1891 only Elizabeth J, Fanny and Annie were living with their mother (and Jane Easterbrook). Jessie was working as a confectioner's assistant in Torquay, and lodging with a member of the Easterbrook family. William E married and moved to Essex where he was a baker (and by 1901 a wine, spirit and beer retailer), but so far as I know he did not have any children.

I believe (though there is a strong element of uncertainty about it) that it may well have been this William who married Jane Tuckett in Newton Abbot district in 4Q1866. She was the daughter of Elias Tuckett, an agricultural labourer, and his wife Mary, and she (Jane) had been baptised at North Bovey on 17 October 1847. At the time of the 1871 census Jane, shown as married (rather than widowed) was living at Torbryan with her parents, and her three young children: Anna Laura (born 1867 at Torquay), William Elias (1869 at Torbryan) and Nicholas John (1871 at Torbryan). William was not present, and I have not found him elsewhere, or found any members of this family on any subsequent census returns. However Nicholas John got married in Prescott district (near Liverpool) in 1Q1890, so we know that he survived. My suspicion is that William was overseas at the time of the 1871 census, and the whole family was away thereafter<sup>170</sup>. Nicholas John does not show up on the 1891 census.

At the time of the 1861 census Mary Ann was lodging with the family of a teacher at Wolborough (Newton Abbot), and by 1871 she was working in Taunton as a draper's assistant. I have not traced her further.

John was working as a miller in Tormoham (Torquay) at the time of the 1871 census, staying with his cousin William (from Family '1844, Joseph & Jane') and his wife. I have not found him in 1881, but in 1891 he was staying at West Derby near Liverpool with his uncle William (his father's brother). At the time of the 1901 census he was a boarder in Deptford, described on the census return as a 'government miller'. I have seen no evidence to suggest that he married or had a family.

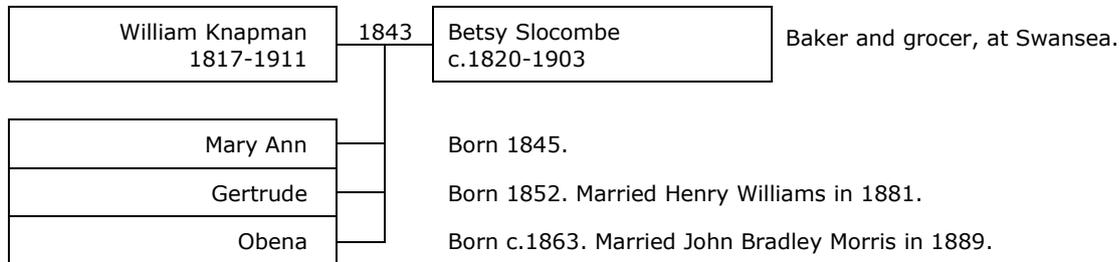
George was working as a millwright in Ashburton at the time of the 1871 census, staying with his uncle Joseph (see Family '1844, Joseph & Jane' below). I have seen no convincing sighting of him thereafter, and wonder if he emigrated.

<sup>170</sup> There was, however, a further marriage in Prescott district in 4Q1876 involving a William Knapman. I have been unable to work out who his bride was: probably Frances Biles or Ellin Haines. This could conceivably have involved this William. Although I have been unable to identify any other credible 'candidate' bridegroom, I may simply be a clutching at straws based on a trivial coincidence in suggesting this William.

### 1843, William & Betsy

William Knapman married Betsy Slocombe in Barnstaple district in 1Q1843. He was from Family '1811, William & Elizabeth' and she was from Kentisbury, near Barnstaple (though the family clearly had links to Wales which were at least as strong as those to Kentisbury).

In 1841 (2 years prior to his marriage) he was living in Swansea with a baker called John Aggett, who may well have been a relative of his mother.

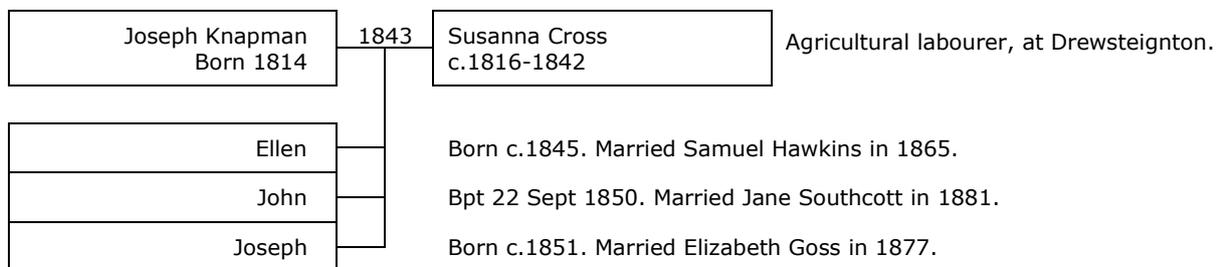


At the time of the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses they were living at 81 High Street, Swansea. By 1881 they were living in a hamlet called Mount Pleasant near Llanfabon and the village of Nelson, somewhat over half way from Cardiff to Merthyr Tydfil. Betsy died in 1903, aged 83, and William died 8 years later, aged 94. Although this family has 21<sup>st</sup> century descendants, the Knapman surname died out in this branch with William.

Gertrude and Obena both married in Pontypridd district, in 4Q1881 and 3Q1889 respectively. I believe that Gertrude died relatively soon after her marriage.

### 1843, Joseph & Susanna

Joseph Knapman married Susanna Cross in Okehampton district in 2Q1843 (probably at South Tawton). He was originally from Family '1804, John & Frances', and this was his second marriage (his first being '1834, Joseph & Mary Ann').



At the time of the 1851 census Joseph was living at Flood, Drewsteignton, with both Susannas (his daughter by his first marriage, and his second wife), and his and Susanna's first two children shown above. Joseph's younger brother William, also an agricultural labourer, was also living with them. They were still at Flood in 1861.

I understand from her descendant Michael Jones, that Ellen married an agricultural labourer called Samuel Hawkins (in Okehampton district in 1Q1865), and that their son (also Samuel, born in 1866) moved to South Wales, where he established a family, and that Ellen has 21<sup>st</sup> century descendants in Wales, England, Spain and Australia.

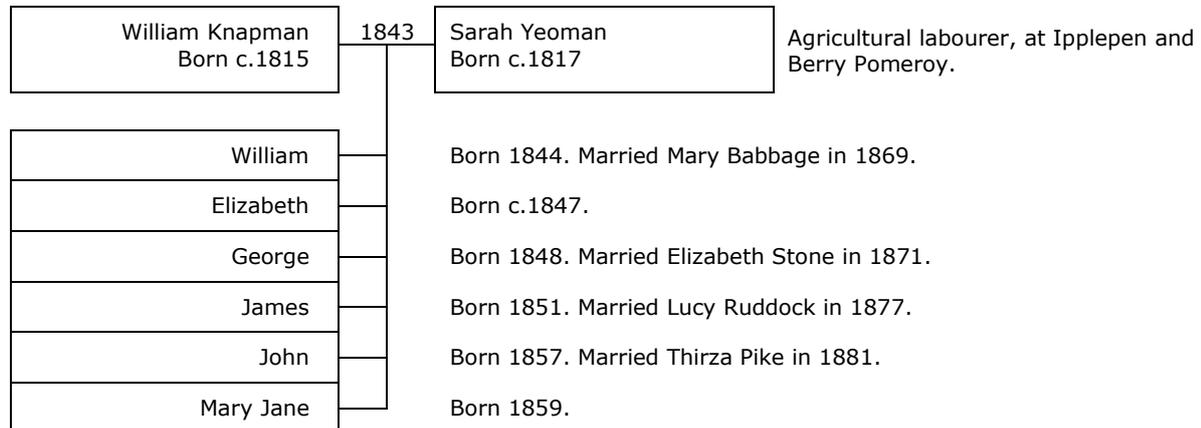
John worked as an agricultural labourer, and married Jane Southcott of Spreyton in Okehampton district in 1Q1881. I am not aware that they had any children, and Jane had died prior to the 1901 census, at which time John was working in Drewsteignton.

Joseph (the son) moved to Stoke Damerel, where he married Elizabeth Goss of Cheriton Bishop in 4Q1877. He worked in an iron works, and by 1901 was described as an assistant boiler maker. Their children included Bessie A (born c.1879), Ethel F M (1881), Archibald J (c.1884), William G

(c.1886), Lily B (c.1889), Mabel (c.1892), Reginald (c.1894) and Alonzo (c.1898). The 1911 census shows that they had a ninth child, and one of those nine (probably but not necessarily the one not named above) had died by then.

### 1843, William & Sarah

William Knapman married Sarah Yeoman in Totnes district in 2Q1843 (probably at Berry Pomeroy). He was from Family '1796, Edward & Elizabeth', and she was originally from Ipplepen, which is where their first four children were born. The last two were born at Berry Pomeroy.



William and Sarah were at Berry Pomeroy in 1871 (with the three youngest children) and again in 1881 (with John). By 1891 William (the father) had died, and Sarah had one of her grandsons (Ernest, John's son) staying with her.

William (the son) became a coachman at Berry Pomeroy, and married Mary Babbage in Totnes district in 4Q1869. They had four children: Lucy (born 1870), Gertrude (c.1874), Arthur (c.1877) and Harold (c.1880). In 1911 they were living at East Dawlish, with Lucy.

George was variously a gardener and grocer's porter in Torquay. He married Elizabeth Stone in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1871, and they had at least six children: Elizabeth (born c.1873), William George (c.1876), Frederick (c.1878), Jessie (c.1880), Florence (c.1882) and Ernest (c.1886).

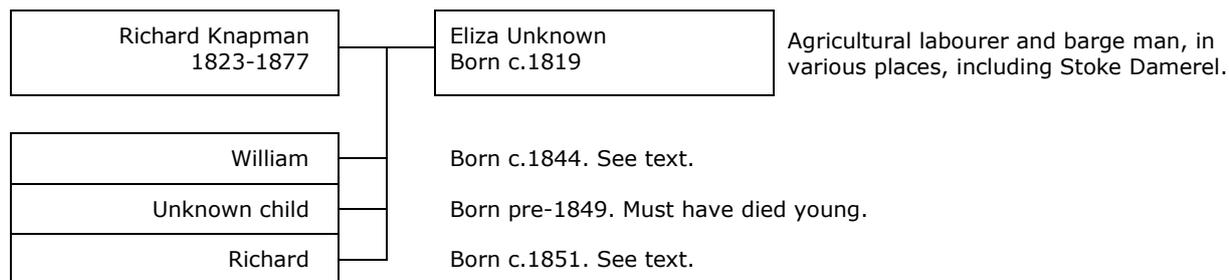
James worked as a railway porter, and married Lucy Ruddock in Shepton Mallet district in 4Q1877 while he was based at Templecombe station. They had two daughters: Edith (born c.1880) and Lucy Annie (c.1885). By 1901 they had moved to Plymouth, and Lucy died over the following decade.

John became a cellarman in Totnes, and married Thirza Pike in Newton Abbot district in 4Q1881. Their children were Ernest (born c.1883), Ethel (c.1884) and Lorna (c.1886).

### c.1843, Richard & Eliza

Richard Knapman, from Family '1804, John & Frances' was apparently married to a wife called Eliza (born c.1819 at North Bovey), though they may not have been formally married: certainly I can find no record. Eliza may well also be the person who was removed from Kingsteignton to Crediton with her two children in 1849<sup>171</sup> with no sign of Richard. Their sons William and Richard were born at North Bovey and Devonport respectively.

<sup>171</sup> Source: The Western Times of 3 February 1849.



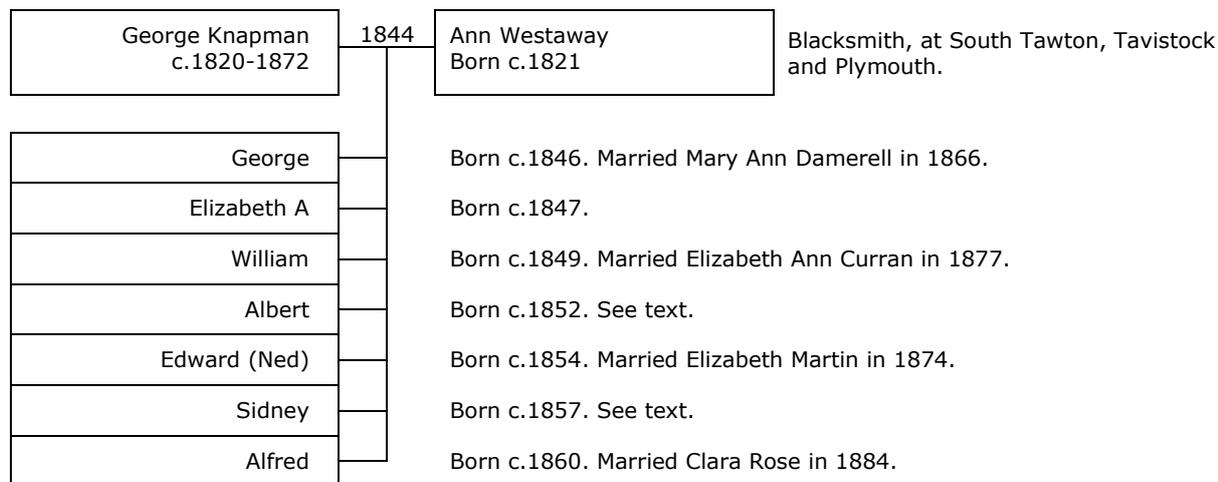
At the time of the 1861 census Richard (the father) was a prisoner in Devonport Prison (shown as a 39-year-old agricultural labourer born in South Tawton), having been convicted at a trial on 5 April 1861. Eliza and their son Richard were both staying with Richard's older brother, Edward. William had by then joined the Navy, and was in Cornwall.

At the time of the 1871 census Richard (the father) was a 'barge man', and he, Eliza and their son William (by then a general seaman) were living together in Stoke Damerel. Richard (the father) died in 1877, and in 1881 Eliza was a charwoman in Stoke Damerel.

I have been unable to trace William after 1849, or Richard after the 1861 census. I do not believe that either married and had a family, certainly in England.

### 1844, George & Ann

George Knapman married Ann Westaway in Okehampton district in 1Q1844 (probably at South Tawton). He was from Family '1814, William & Mary'. George was a blacksmith who moved about quite a bit. Their first child was born at South Tawton, after which they spent time at Tavistock (on Ford Street at the time of the 1851 census) and Plymouth (in the St Andrew's area) by 1861.



By the time of the 1871 census George and Ann were living at 8 Sutton Road in the Charles district of Plymouth, with their five youngest sons. By 1881 George had died (in 1872 I believe), and Ann was living in Devonport with Alfred, by then a soldier in the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars.

George (the eldest son) was also a blacksmith, on Commercial Street in the Charles district of Plymouth. I am almost sure that he married Mary Ann Damerell in the Plympton St Mary district in 3Q1866. She appears to have been the eldest daughter of William Damerell, a Plympton tailor, and his wife Elizabeth. At the time of the 1871 census George, Mary Ann and their family were living next door to his parents. Their children included: Maud Mary (born 1870), Arthur George (1872), Albert James (1875), Frederick William (1877), Lilian (1879) and Rose (1882). Mary Ann died while the youngest children were still young, and George was re-married in Plymouth district in 3Q1897 to Elizabeth Jane Moses.

William was a stoker on HMS Indus in 1871, and on 27 June 1877 at St Thomas', Stepney he married Elizabeth Ann Curran, originally from Portsmouth. By 1881 he was working in a gasworks in East London. I am not aware that he had a family.

Albert appears to have died at Tynemouth in 1875, probably as a sailor.

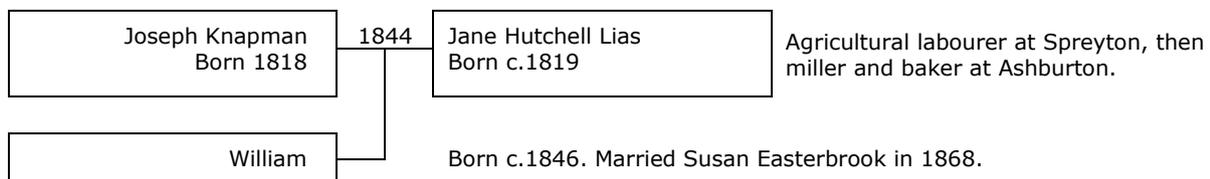
Edward was a ship's blacksmith. He married Mary Martin in Mile End Old Road district in 4Q1874, and worked in the Canning Town area. The 1911 census shows that they had six children in all, of whom all except one were still living at that time.

Sidney was also a ship's blacksmith. He appears to have died in East Stonehouse district in 1893, probably unmarried.

Alfred evidently left the army, and in 4Q1884 in the Canterbury district he married Clara Rose, who was herself from Canterbury. By 1891 they were living in the Horseleydown area of East London and Alfred was working as a wharf labourer. I am not aware that they had a family.

### 1844, Joseph & Jane

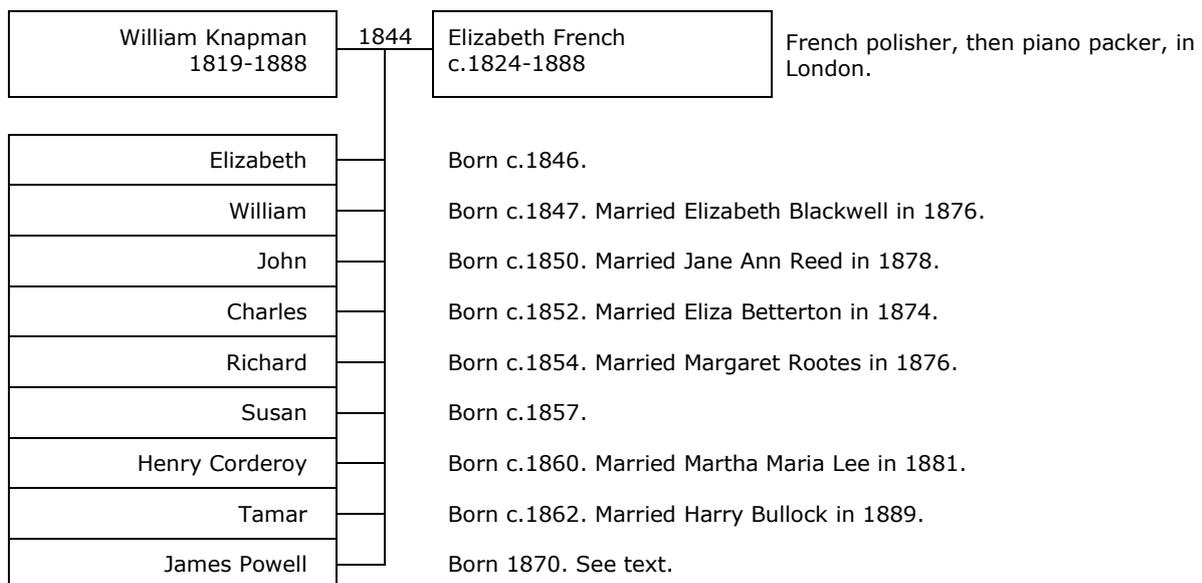
Joseph Knapman married Jane Hutchell Lias in Okehampton district in 1Q1844 (probably at Spreyton). He was from Family '1816, Joseph & Susanna', and she was originally from Coleford. They had just one child, as follows.



William married Susan A Easterbrook in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1868. At the time of the 1871 census he was recorded as a baker and confectioner in Tormohan (Torquay), but by 1881 he was an agricultural labourer at Bow. Their children included William (born c.1871), Samuel (c.1872), Richard (c.1873), James (c.1875), Thirza (c.1876), Susan J (c.1879) and George (c.1880).

### 1844, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman married Elizabeth French at St Marylebone on 25 September 1844. He was from Family '1814, William & Susanna', and by the time of the 1851 census he was a French polisher in the St Pancras area (he was later a piano packer).



The family was in Kentish Town in 1861 and 1871 (by which time only Elizabeth and Susan had left home). In 1881 only the three youngest children were living at home with William and Elizabeth. I believe that John had probably died in 1879. I have been unable to find James Powell (or possibly Fowell) after the 1881 census. Both William and Elizabeth died in 1888.

John married Jane Ann Reed in Pancras district in 4Q1878, and they had a son, Arthur J (born c.1880, probably after his own father had died, in 1879). Jane Ann was re-married in 1880 to James Frazier, a tobacconist who had been born in Cornwall, and they can be seen on the 1881 census with Arthur J.

I believe that William married Elizabeth Blackwell at St John the Baptist, Kentish Town on 10 June 1876. He was described on the register as a clerk, and the son of a carpenter, nevertheless I believe that marriage very probably belongs to this William. By 1881 William was described as a mason, and he and Elizabeth were living on Leighton Road, Kentish Town with William Victor (born c.1877) and George (c.1879). There may have been other children before Gertrude (c.1890), but none that were living with Elizabeth, by then widowed and supporting herself as a charwoman, at Great Titchfield Street, St Marylebone.

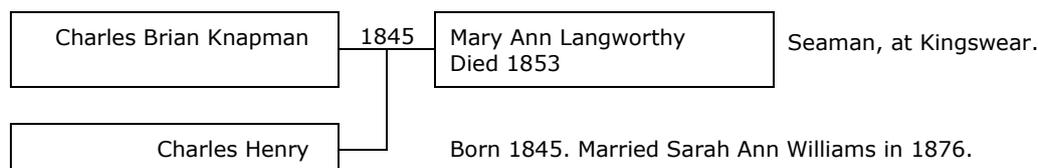
Charles married Eliza Betterton at Old St Pancras church on 4 January 1874. Like his father he worked in the piano industry, which was booming in that particular area of London in the final quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Eliza was originally from Highworth, Wiltshire. They were living at 1 Holden Street, Battersea at the time of the 1881 census, and at 10 Fentiman Road, Lambeth in 1891. Their children included Emily (born c.1874), William C (c.1875), Ada E (c.1877), Francis H (c.1879), George (c.1880), Eva M (c.1882), Lillian (c.1885), Sydney Lewis (c.1887) and Frank (c.1890). The 1911 census shows that they had nine children in all (as shown above), of whom two (Francis H and George) had died by then.

Richard married Margaret Rootes, a farmer's daughter, at Old St Pancras church on 22 October 1876. He was described on the register as a clerk, and Margaret was a minor. By 1891 he was working as a dock foreman at Camberwell, with Ellen (born c.1878), Ethel (c.1881) and Charles (c.1883).

Henry Corderoy married Martha Maria Lee in Pancras district in 3Q1881. He was a carpenter, and their children included Maud (born c.1883), Florence (c.1884), Elizabeth (c.1887) and Elsie (c.1889). In 1891 they were living at 27 Georgiana Street, Camden Town, and in 1901 at 152 Camden Street.

### 1845, Charles & Mary Ann

An on-line Steel family tree shows that Charles Brian Knapman married Mary Ann Langworthy at Kingswear on 14 January 1845. He was from Family '1820, John & Peggy'. Their only son was baptised at Kingswear later than year.



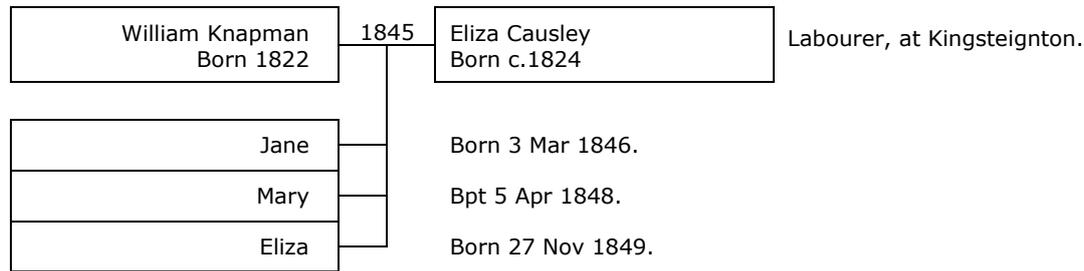
Charles Brian appears to have drowned, because although there is no record of his burial, Mary Ann was re-married to a blacksmith called William Gillard in 1849. She too died young, in January 1853 after having another son (William Henry Langworthy Gillard).

Charles Henry was certificated as a ship's master in 1869, continuing the family's maritime tradition. I believe he is by some way the strongest candidate to be the person of that name who married Sarah Ann Williams in Anglesey district in 3Q1876. I have been unable to find them on subsequent census returns, and I think it is likely that Charles Henry died in Liverpool district in 1877, and that Sarah Ann was re-married in St Asaph district in 1879.

### 1845, William & Eliza

William Knapman married Eliza Causley in Newton Abbot district in 1Q1845. The baptismal record for their eldest daughter states that they were married at the Newton Abbot Union workhouse. He

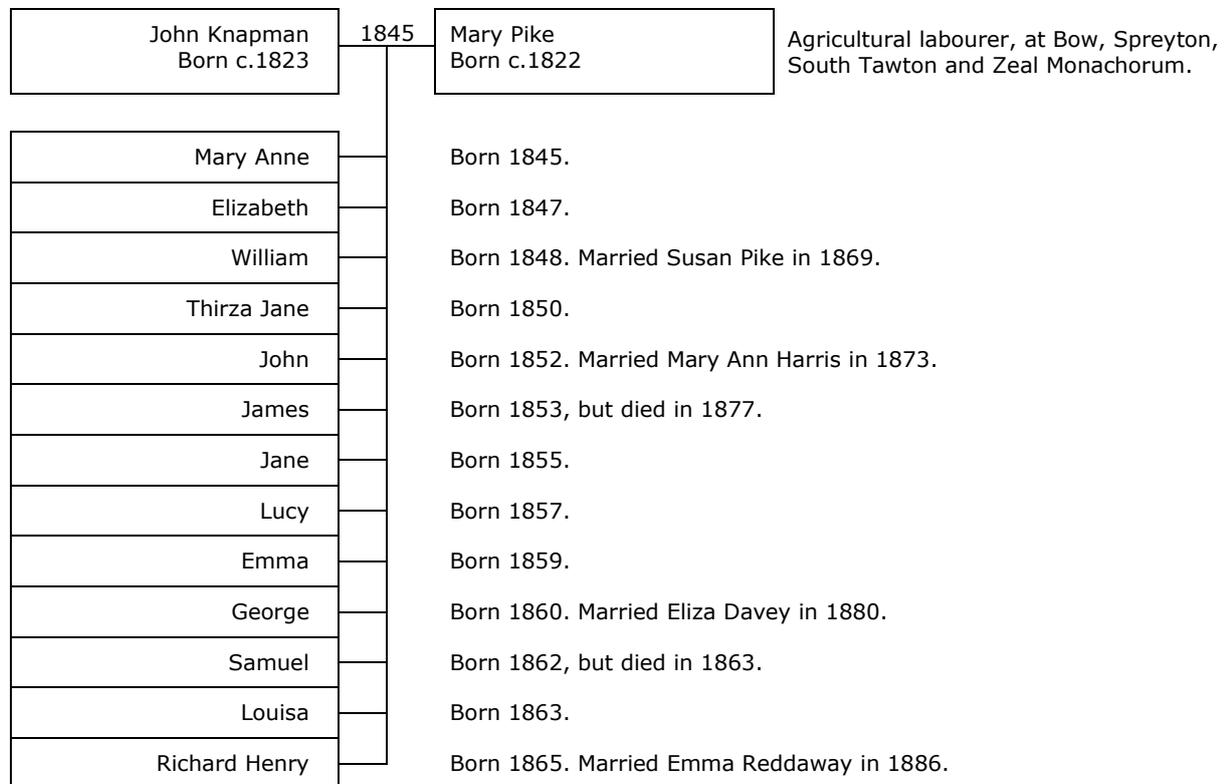
was from Family '1822, John & Elizabeth' and she was from Kingsteignton. They evidently settled at Kingsteignton, where the following children were baptised (the register also gives the date of birth for two of them).



The evidence suggests that William died in or a bit before 1851. At the time of the 1851 census Eliza, together with her three daughters, was in the Okehampton workhouse, but she was still recorded as married rather than widowed (though I suspect that William may well have died by then, and certainly I have not been able to find him on the 1851 census). In 1861 Eliza, by now described as a widow, was living with her mother (Mary Causley), and Mary, her daughter. Jane was a servant at Highweek, and Eliza (the daughter) was staying with her Knapman grandparents at Moretonhampstead. In 1871 the two Elizas (mother and daughter) were living together at Kingsteignton.

### 1845, John & Mary

John Knapman (by then of Colebrook) married Mary Pike at Bow on 30 March 1845 in front of a witness called Ann Northam (quite likely a cousin of John's). He was from Family '1822, William & Ann'. All participants marked (as opposed to signed) the register. John and Mary went on to have a family in four local parishes.



By the 1860s they were living in the hamlet of Burston, in the parish of Zeal Monachorum. I owe this information above to Betty Galloway, who has traced this family to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

William married Susan Pike (who may have been his cousin) in Crediton district on 30 January 1869, and they had at least six children prior to the 1881 census, at which time he was working as an agricultural labourer at 40 Main Street, Bow: William (born c.1871), Samuel (c.1873), Richard (c.1875), James (c.1876), Thirza M (c.1879) and George (1880). I have been unable to find them on the 1891 census.

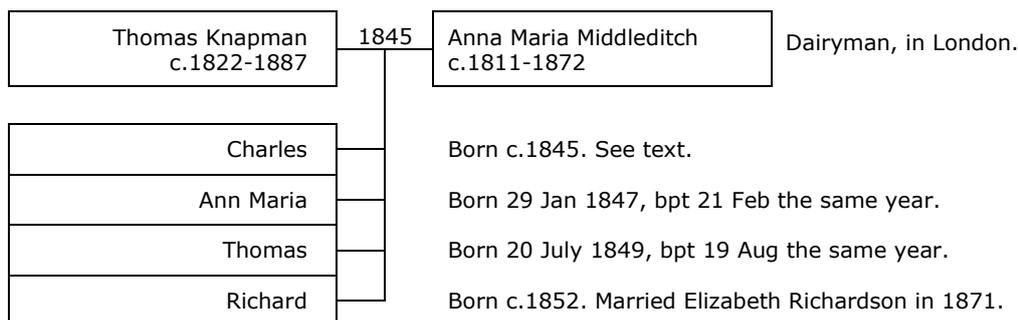
I believe that it was probably the John from this family who became a shoe maker, moved to Wales, and married Mary Ann Harris in Cardiff district in 4Q1873. They had at least four children: Lily (born 1874), Florence (1878, died 1900), Rose (or Rosa) (1882) and William Henry (1888, died 1893). There may well have been other children who died in infancy. In 1881 they were living at 47 Sophia Street, Cardiff.

George was a cowman, and he married Eliza Davey, a widow with children of her own, in Okehampton district in 4Q1880. George and Eliza did not have further children (this being confirmed by the 1911 census return, at which time they were living at Thorverton).

Richard Henry married Emma Reddaway from North Tawton in Okehampton district in 2Q1886. They lived at Zeal Monachorum and then Thorverton where Richard Henry worked as a carter. They had 11 children in all: Elizabeth (born c.1887), Louisa (c.1888), Richard (c.1889), William (c.1891), James Robert (c.1893), Herbert (c.1896), Cecil (c.1898), Percy (c.1900), Emma (c.1902), Ernest (c.1904) and Reginald (c.1906).

### 1845, Thomas & Anna Maria

Thomas Knapman married the somewhat older Anna Maria Middleditch at St Marylebone on 1 June 1845. He was from Family '1814, William & Susanna' and she was from Essex. Both of their children for whom baptismal dates are given below were baptised at Holy Trinity, St Marylebone.



Thomas was a dairyman in the St Marylebone area of London in 1851, and for at least 20 years after that. As late as 1871 all three sons were living at home, with Charles shown as a clerk, and Thomas a jeweller. I believe that Anna Maria died in 1872, followed by her eldest son Charles in 1875.

By 1881 only the two Thomases (father and son) were living together, with Thomas (the son) still described as a jeweller. I have not either of them on later censuses, and believe that Thomas (the son) probably died in 1882, 5 years before his father.

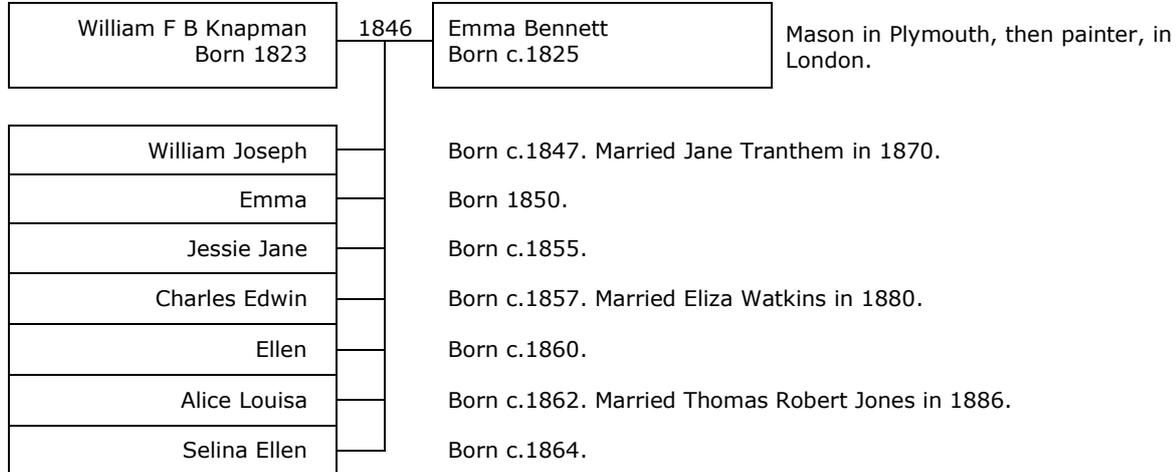
Richard married the slightly older Elizabeth Richardson in Pancras district in 2Q1871. He followed his father into the dairy business. Their children included Richard (born c.1872), Amy (c.1876), Eleanor (c.1887), Alfred (c.1878), Minnie (c.1880) and Maria (c.1882). The 1911 census return shows Richard and Elizabeth living at 102 College Place Camden Town with Amy and Minnie. It shows that they had had eight children in all, of whom six were still alive at that time.

### 1845, Joseph & Anne

Joseph Knapman married a wife who I have not definitively identified, but who may well have been Anne Porter, in Bristol district in 1Q1845. I thought for some time that this was a later marriage of Joseph from Family 'c.1841, Joseph & Ann', but based on the evidence that I have seen, I have changed my mind. Unfortunately I have no idea where Joseph came from, but so far as I know he had no children via whom the Knapman surname was carried forward.

## 1846, William & Emma

William Francis Beving Knapman married Emma Bennett in Plymouth district in 2Q1846. He was from Family '1819, John & Mary Ann', and after working for a while as a mason, he moved to London and became a painter. Their first three children were born in Stoke Damerel, and the two youngest in London.



At the time of the 1861 census the family was in the area of East London known as St George in the East, and remained there until at least 1881 (when they were living at 19 Upper Fenton Street).

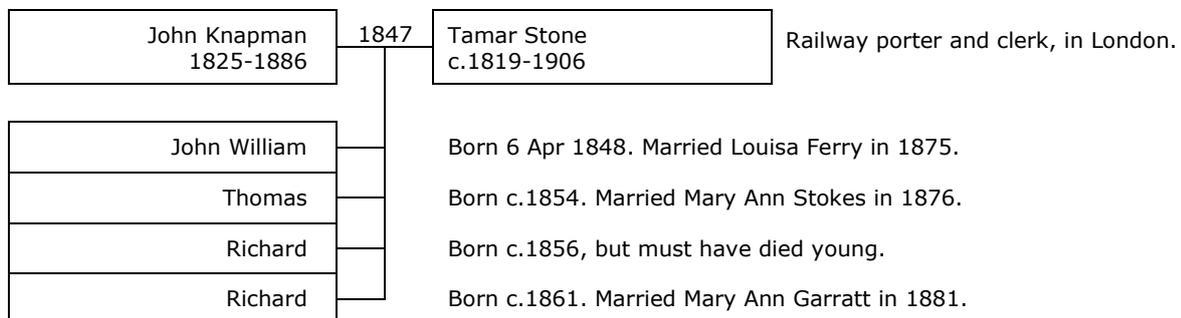
William Joseph, by then a painter, married Jane Tranthem at St James the Great, Bethnal Green on 24 October 1870. I am not aware that they had any children.

Charles Edwin married Eliza Watkins at St Thomas', Stepney on 25 December 1880. I am not aware that they had any children.

Alice Louisa was married in St George in the East district. I believe Jessie Jane and Selina Ellen were also married, but I have been unable to pin down the details.

## 1847, John & Tamar

John Knapman married Tamar Stone at St Marylebone on 14 February 1847. He was from Family '1814, William & Susanna' and she was from Blackmore in Essex. Their eldest son was baptised at Old Church, St Pancras.



John died in 1886, and for the next 20 years Tamar lived with her son Richard and his family (see below).

John William was the long-standing librarian of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, one of the Knapmans found most frequently by internet searches. He married Louisa Ferry (or Terry) in

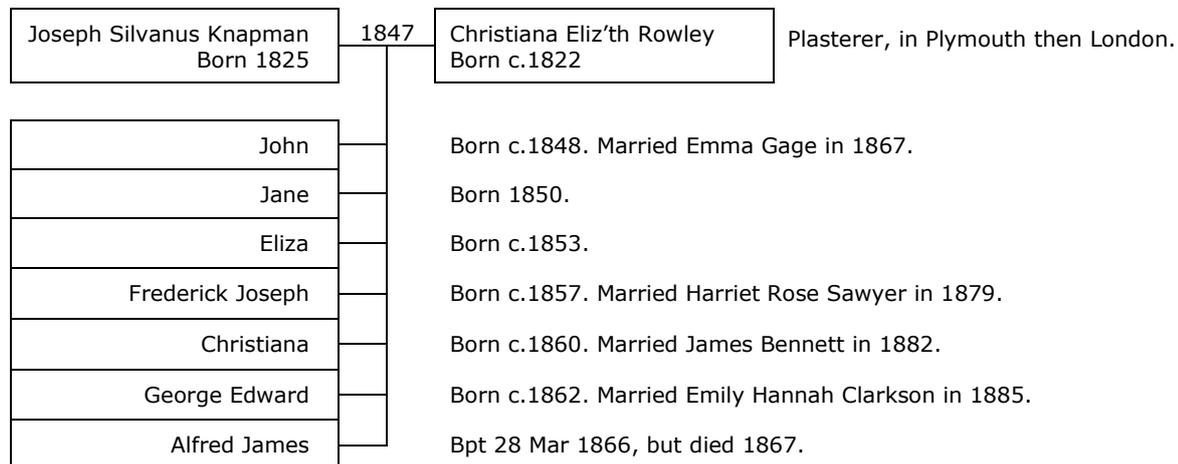
Bethnal Green district in 3Q1875 and they had a family in Hackney which included Herbert (born c.1880), Edith (c.1882), Arthur (c.1886) and Alice (c.1889).

Thomas married Mary Ann Stokes at All Saints, Haggerston on 30 April 1876. He became a teacher, first in Winchester and then in Walton-on-Thames, where he was a headmaster. He and Mary Ann had eight children in all, including Daisy (born c.1882), Violet (c.1884), Olive Augusta (c.1887), Mary Alice (c.1890), Edith Constance (c.1893) and Minnie Hilda (c.1897).

Richard married Mary Ann Garratt at All Saints, Haggerston on 25 July 1881, and he worked as a commercial clerk. In 1891 they were living at 26 St Philip Road, Hackney. They had five children in all, of whom four survived at least until 1911: Richard (born c.1883), Lilian M (c.1886), John (c.1889) and Percy G (1890). At the time of the 1901 census they were living at 29 Mayola Road, Hackney, and Richard (the father) was working for a wholesale drapery business.

### 1847, Joseph & Christiana

Joseph Silvanus Knapman married Christiana Elizabeth Rowley at Stoke Damerel district in 1Q1847. He was from Family `1819, John & Mary Ann`, and she was also from Devonport. Their first two children were born in Stoke Damerel, and the others in London, where John worked as a plasterer. At the time of the 1861 census they were living at 4 William Street, Lambeth, and when their two sons (Alfred James and Frederick, who was almost certainly much older at the time) were baptised they were at Rothery Road, Walworth. They remained in South London until at least 1891.



John was a plasterer, like his father, by the time he married Emma Gage at Holy Trinity, Newington on 13 October 1867. They lived in Southwark (and in 1881 were at 9 Hayles Terrace). Their nine children included: Emma (born c.1869), Jane (c.1871), James Henry (c.1873), twins Eliza Eleanor and Emma Christiana (1874), Alice Ann (1876), Lilian (c.1878), Eliza Eleanor (1880) and a son whose name looks like Rafe (c.1882).

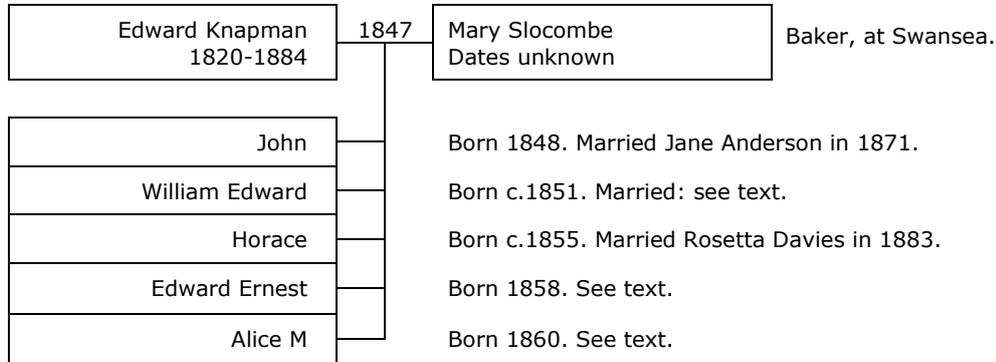
Frederick Joseph married Harriet Rose Sawyer at St Jude, Southwark on 1 June 1879. He too worked as a plasterer, and lived in Camberwell (on New Church Road in 1901) and Newington (on Amelia Street in 1911). The 1911 census shows that they had 10 children in all, of whom four had died by then. They included Joseph (born c.1870), William (c.1872), probable twins Joseph Frederick William and William George (both baptised 4 Jan 1882), George Thomas (c.1884), Emily Eliza (1886), Maud (c.1890), Lily (c.1893) and Arthur (c.1901).

The two other marriages shown above took place in the district of St Saviour, Southwark in 3Q1882 and 2Q1885 respectively.

George Edward was also a plasterer, but in his case he moved to Tottenham. The 1911 census (at which time they were living at 17 Welbourne Road) shows that he and Emily Hannah had had four children, of whom three were still living: Nellie S (born c.1887), George H (c.1892) and Alfred S (c.1900).

## 1847, Edward & Mary

Edward Knapman married Mary Slocombe in Plymouth district in 3Q1847. He was from Family '1811, William & Elizabeth', while she was from Kentisbury, near Barnstaple, and probably the sister of his brother William's wife (see '1843, William & Betsy'). Like his brother William, Edward was also a baker, and he too moved to Swansea. Their sons John and William were both born in Plymouth, with the others born in Swansea.



The family lived at various addresses on William Street, Swansea, and they were at No.40 when Edward (the father) died on 14 February 1884 leaving a will which was proved by his widow, Mary. This family certainly has 21<sup>st</sup> century descendants, some of whom carry the Knapman surname.

John married Jane Anderson in Swansea district in 1Q1871. They had three sons at the time of the 1881 census, at which time John was working as a postal sorting clerk: John (born c.1873), Samuel (c.1877) and Ernest (c.1880). I have not found them on later census returns, but after Jane's death in 1887 John was re-married to Elizabeth Pile, in 1888. I believe he probably died in 1901 in Cardiff.

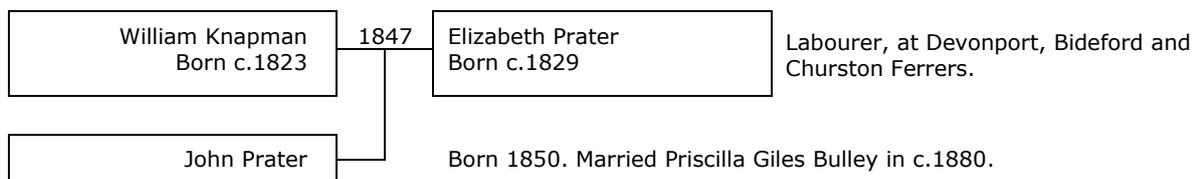
Prior to the 1881 census William Edward had married a wife called Elizabeth, who had been born at Laugharne (south west of Carmarthen) in about 1851. It is possible that she was Elizabeth Owen, but I have not been able to find the marriage record. In 1881 they were living at Roath, Cardiff and they had two children: Sydney (born c.1879) and William Edward (1880). Elizabeth died in 1873, and William Edward was re-married to Annie Ackland, a widow, in Swansea district in 1Q1888. At the time of the 1891 census William Edward (the father) was a licensed victualler at 54 Wood Street, Swansea, but William Edward (the son) had either died or left home by then. William Edward died in 1897.

Horace married Rosetta Davies in Swansea district in 2Q1883. In 1891 he was a grocer's assistant in Swansea, and in 1901 he was a warehouse worker, and Alice M (his sister) was staying with them. They had four children: Edward (born c.1884), Sophia (c.1887), William (c.1889) and David Edgar (c.1892). Horace died in 1907, and in 1911 Rosetta was living at 14 Edward Street, Swansea with Edward and David Edgar.

Edward Ernest died in 1880, apparently without marrying.

## 1847, William & Elizabeth

William Knapman married Elizabeth Prater in Plymouth district in 4Q1847. He was from Family '1822, William & Mary Ann' (the connection can be confirmed by the 1881 census, which gives his place of birth very precisely as Dacombe). Elizabeth was from Egg Buckland.



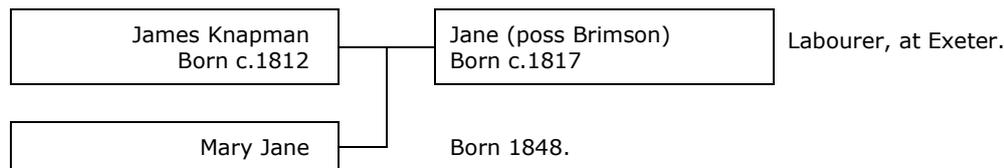
John Prater was born in Stoke Damerel district in 1850, but I have been unable to find William and Elizabeth on the 1851 or 1861 censuses, and it is quite possible that they had more children that I have not identified. In 1871 they were lodgers at Bideford, and in 1881 William was an agricultural labourer at Churston Ferrers. No children were with them on either occasion.

In 1891 Elizabeth (shown as married rather than widowed) was staying with her son John and his family (but not his wife: he had been widowed by then) at Rame in Cornwall, where John was a labourer.

John married a wife called Priscilla from Brixham, and I am confident that she had been born in 1852 with her registration name being Priscilla Giles Bulley. She was brought up in Brixham by her Bulley grandparents with her surname shown as Giles on the census returns, which suggests that she was illegitimate. I have been unable to find any record of John and Priscilla's marriage, but by the time of the 1881 census they were recorded as married, with John working as a labourer and the two of them plus their first child living in Tormoham (Torquay). Their children included Elizabeth Prater (born 1880 in Plymouth district), John (c.1883), Isabel Prater (1885 in Launceston district) and Priscilla (c.1888). Priscilla (the mother) died in 1890, by which time the family was living at Rame in Cornwall. As noted above, at the time of the 1891 census John's mother was staying there with him and the children. I have not found him or his family after 1891, though Isabel Prater died in 1895 in Newton Abbot district.

### c.1847, James & Jane

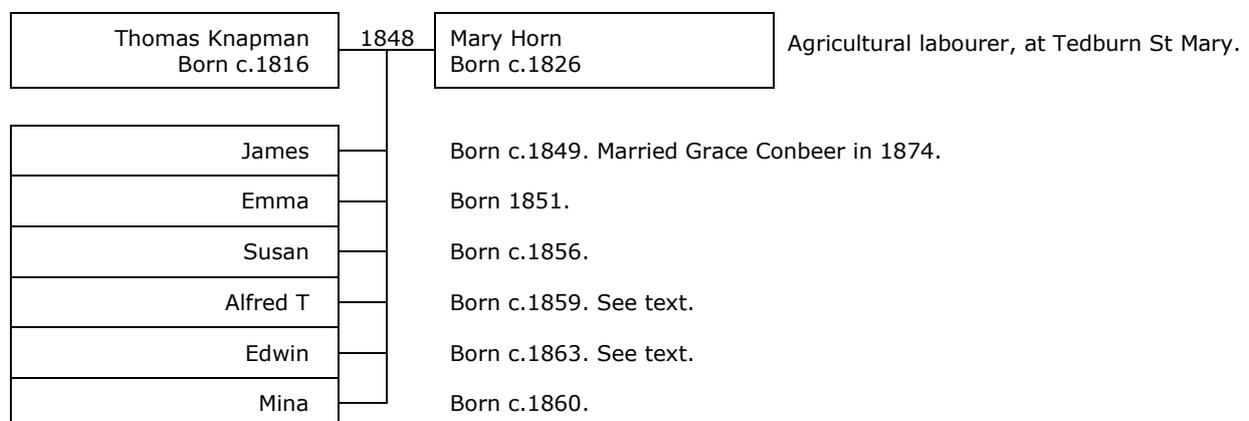
James Knapman married a wife called Jane in about 1847. He was from Family '1814, George & Agnes', and she had been born at Huxham in about 1817. I think she may have been Jane Brimson, but I have been unable to find any evidence for their marriage.



Although they were in Exeter in 1861, I have not found them on the 1871 census. By 1881 Jane was a widow, and in 1891 she was a pauper.

### 1848, Thomas & Mary

Thomas Knapman married the somewhat younger Mary Horn in Exeter district in 1Q1848. He was from Family '1810, Thomas & Mary' and, she was also from Tedburn. Like his father, in 1851 Thomas was working in Tedburn St Mary as a farm labourer, and by then he and Mary had started their family.



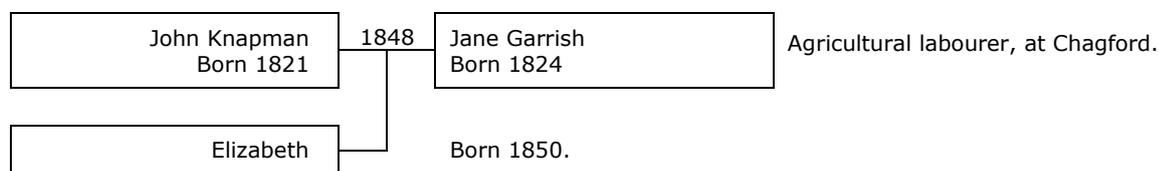
In 1861 James was living elsewhere, but by 1871 he was back with his parents at Little Uppacott, Tedburn with his three youngest siblings. In 1881 only Alfred T and Mina were living at home (at Causeway Cottage) with their parents.

James married Grace Conbeer in Exeter district in 3Q1874. He spent many years working as an agricultural labourer at Dunsford, and their children included: Emma (born c.1875), Samuel (c.1877), Alice (c.1879), Thomas (c.1882), Albert James (c.1884), Jane (c.1887), Alfred John (c.1890) and Harold (c.1893).

Alfred T was an unmarried agricultural labourer boarding at Tedburn St Mary in both 1891 and 1901, and I have no reason to believe that he married. I have not found any evidence of Edwin after 1871.

### 1848, John & Jane

John Knapman married Jane Garrish at Chagford on 24 April 1848. He was from Family '1807, John & Grace', and she was the daughter of John and Mary Garrish (baptised at Chagford on 26 September 1824).



At the time of the 1851 census the family was living on Lower Street, Chagford with Elizabeth's age given as 7 months. I have been unable to find any trace of them thereafter, and they may have emigrated.

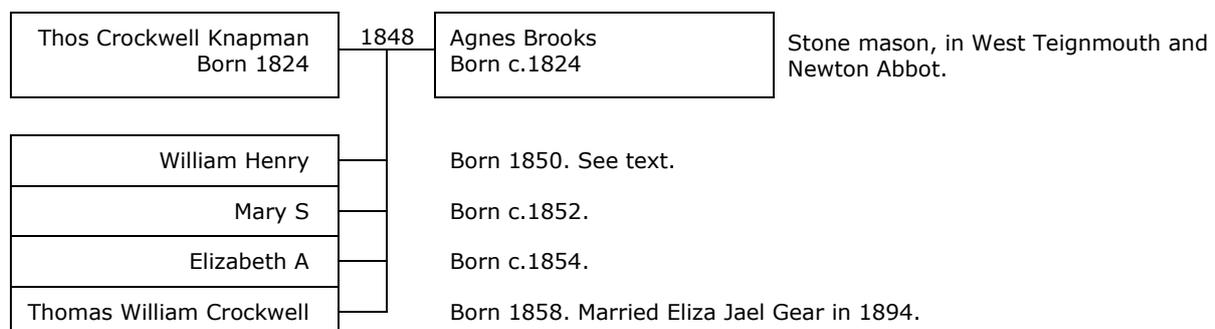
### 1848, Robert & Grace

Robert Knapman married Grace Sweet at Tormoham (Torquay) on 30 October 1848. This was his second marriage, his first being '1832, Robert & Jane', and Grace's first. Her age was given as 36 in the register: 24 years younger than him. Although Robert described himself as a 'gentleman', he could not sign his name (he made his mark), and he acknowledged that his father had been a labourer (as had Grace's). She was a dress maker.

At the time of the 1851 census they were living at 44 Church Street, Paignton, with Robert described as a 'house owner'. He apparently died on 21 February 1852, and is buried at St John the Baptist, Paignton with both of his wives.

### 1848, Thomas & Agnes

Thomas Crockwell Knapman married Agnes Brooks at Tormoham (Torquay) on Christmas Day, 25 December 1848. He gave his age (incorrectly) as 21, compared to Agnes' 25. He was from Family '1822, William & Mary Ann', and like his father he was a stone mason. She was the daughter of James Brooks.



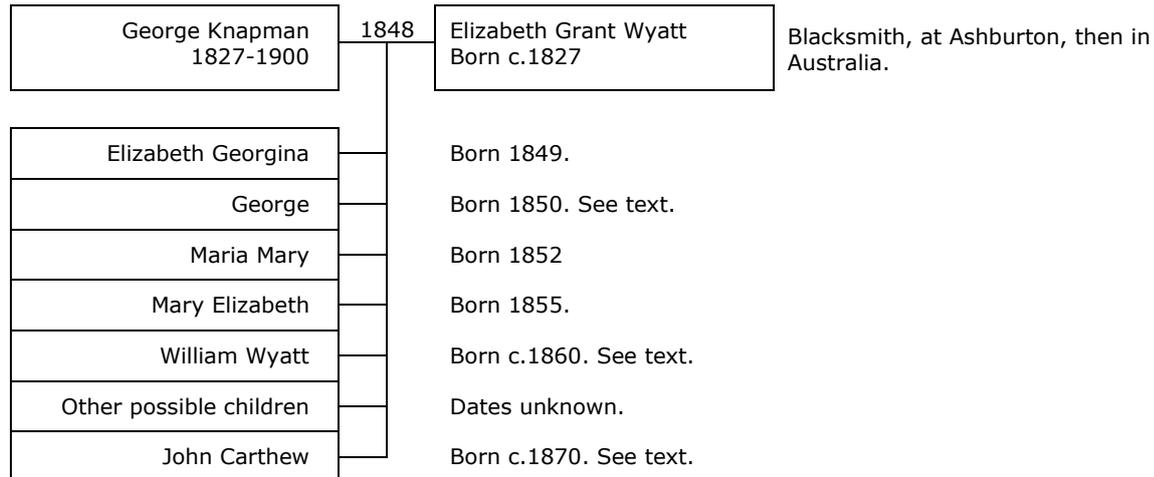
Thomas (the father) and Agnes were living on Chapel Street, West Teignmouth at the time of the 1871 census, and by 1881 had moved to Newton Abbot.

I have soon no evidence of William Henry after the 1851 census, and suspect that he died young.

Thomas William Crockwell was a sailor. He married Eliza Jael Gear in Bridport district (Dorset) in 4Q1894, and they had two sons born at Burton Bradstock: Thomas William C (born 1896) and Daniel James (1897). I believe they also had a daughter in 1903 who died in infancy.

### 1848, George & Elizabeth

George Knapman married the slightly older Elizabeth Grant Wyatt in Newton Abbot district in 4Q1848. He was from Family `1816, Joseph & Susanna`, and was a journeyman smith.



At the time of the 1851 census they were living at Ashburton with her parents (her father being a small farmer of 9 acres), and their first two children, both born at Ashburton.

The family emigrated to Australia in 1857. They settled first at Ivanhoe and then at Heidelberg, Melbourne, where George was the local blacksmith. Some of the evidence for this comes from various local directories between 1860 (the earliest postings) and 1870<sup>172</sup>, and the [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper) website, and further information has kindly been provided to me by one of George's descendant, George Penfold.

George (the father) died on 18 September 1900<sup>173</sup> aged 73, and is buried at the Heidelberg cemetery.

George (the son) was a blacksmith at Eltham, married Mary Jane Williams, and they had a family including one son (Alfred Edgar) via whom the Knapman surname survived for at least one further generation. William Wyatt and John Carthew took over their father's blacksmith business at Heidelberg. William Wyatt married Eliza Heward and the surname survived at least two more generations via his line.

### 1848, Robert & Ann

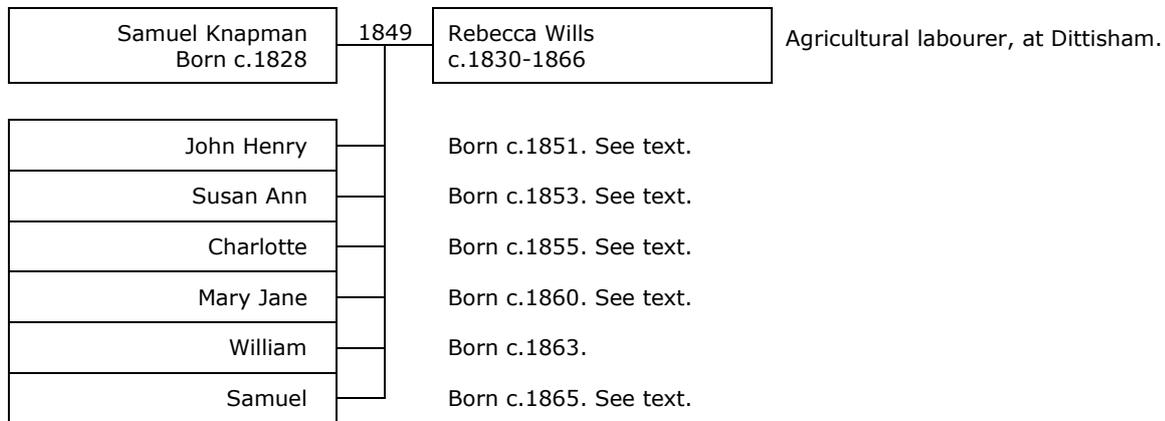
Robert Knapman married Ann Heath in Newton Abbot district in 4Q1848. He was from Family `1813, William & Ann`. By 1851 they were living at Bishopsteignton and Robert was an agricultural labourer. He was subsequently a shepherd, and they lived at St Mary's Church. They do not appear to have had any children.

<sup>172</sup> The Victoria Post Office directory for 1866/67, accessible via Google Books, confirms that George was a blacksmith.

<sup>173</sup> Source: the [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper) website.

## 1849, Samuel & Rebecca

Samuel Knapman married Rebecca Wills at Dittisham on 14 October 1849. He was from Family '1801, William & Jane'.



At the time of the 1861 census the family was living at Dittisham, and John Henry was working elsewhere in the village as a servant. I have not found him thereafter.

Rebecca died in 1866, and Samuel was re-married to Elizabeth Jarvis in Totnes district in 1Q1867. They had a further son: George (born 26 May 1868), at which time Elizabeth's name was recorded as 'Elizabeth Knapman, late Jarvis, formerly Memory', suggesting that she was a widow when they were married.

In 1871 Susan Ann and Charlotte were both servants, and Mary Jane was living (or staying) with her late mother's sister Susan Bowey and her husband in London.

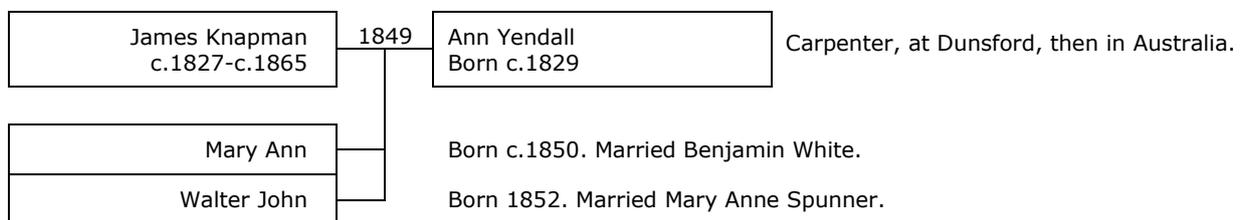
Samuel worked as a fisherman, and at the time of the 1881 census was living in Hull.

George (the son by Samuel's second marriage) lived in Dartmouth.

## 1849, James & Ann

James Knapman married Ann Yendall at Christow on 21 October 1849. He was from Family '1822, John & Mary Ann', and she was described as a minor in the marriage register (whereas her year of birth was given as c.1824 on later census returns).

He was a carpenter living at Beckham's Cottages at the time of his marriage, and at Playford Cottage, Dunsford at the time of the 1851 census, with Ann and their infant daughter (Mary Ann, also born at Christow). His brother John was also living with them, described as an agricultural labourer.

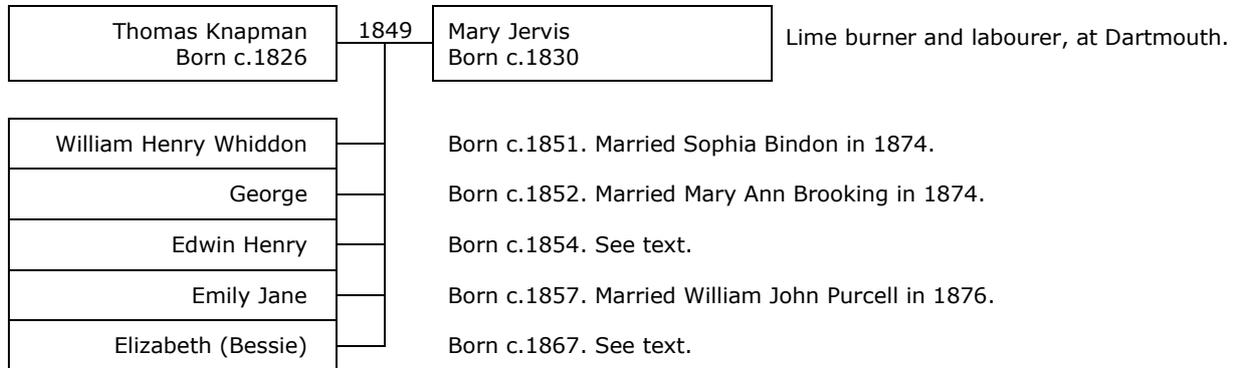


I understand from Bruce Knapman (a descendant of James' brother William: see Family '1822, John & Mary Ann') that all four members of the family sailed to Port Adelaide on the 'William Prowse' in 1854, though James seems to have returned to Devon, where he died in c.1865.

Mary Ann and Walter John stayed in Australia, where they married and had families, in the case of Walter John amounting to 13 children.

## 1849, Thomas & Mary

Thomas Knapman married Mary Jervis in Totnes district in 4Q1849. He was from Family '1801, William & Jane', and she was from Woodleigh. At the time of the 1851 census Thomas was working as a lime burner, and his widowed father was staying with him.



William and George both became masons (this is how they were described on the 1871 census return when all of the children shown above were living with Thomas and Mary at Crowther's Hill in the St Saviour's area of Dartmouth). By 1881 Thomas had died, and Mary was living with Emily Jane, her husband and their family, and supporting herself as a launderess. She was still there in 1891, and had been joined in the Purcell household by Elizabeth (Bessie) and her apparently illegitimate daughter Mary (born c.1890).

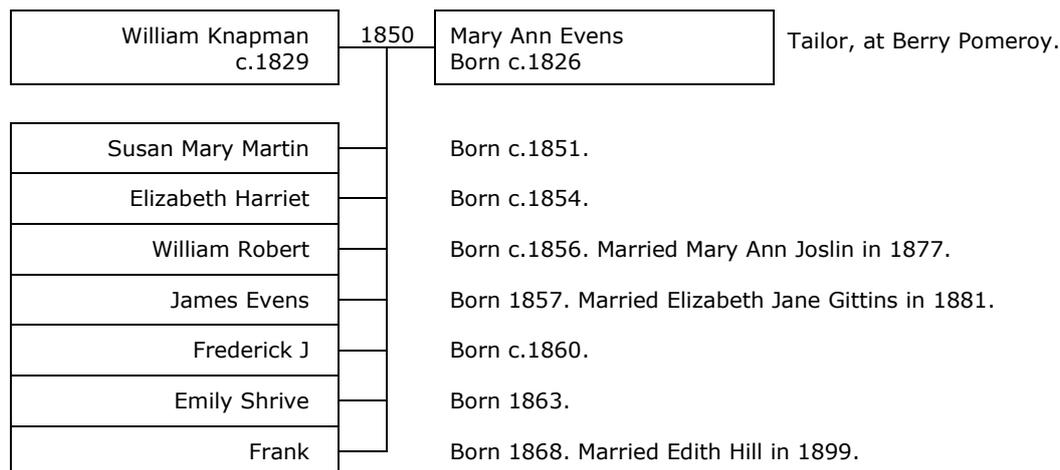
William Henry Whiddon became a plasterer and mason, and in Totnes district in 2Q1874 he married Sophia Binham. Unfortunately she died in 1877, and he was re-married to Susan Jane Pitcher at Yetminster (near Sherborne, in north Dorset) on 26 October 1878. The marriage register (accessible via [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk)) identifies his father as Thomas Knapman, lime burner, and confirms that he (William) had been widowed. Susan Jane was recorded as Susan on the census returns for 1881 and 1891, but as Jane in 1901 and 1911. The 1911 census also shows that William and she had had nine children in total, one of whom had died by 1911. Their children included Emma Matilda M (born 1879), Thomas Edwin (1881), William George (1885), Bessie Jane (1887), David Foot (1890), Frederick Walter (1891), Sophie Maidment (1894) and Frank (c.1896).

George married Mary Ann Brooking in Totnes district in 2Q1874, and was a general labourer in the Dartmouth area. She was the daughter of John Brooking, who worked as a road contractor at Slapton. They do not appear to have had any children, and by 1891 Mary Ann's widowed mother, Maria, was living with them at Townstal.

I believe that Edwin Henry died in 1876.

## 1850, William & Mary Ann

William Knapman married Mary Ann Evens in Totnes district on 19 February 1850. He was from Family '1825, Thomas & Mary', and she was from Cornworthy.



In 1861 the family was living at Bourton Cottage, Berry Pomeroy. I have been unable to find them in 1871 (so there may have been further children not recorded above). In 1881 they were living in Totnes.

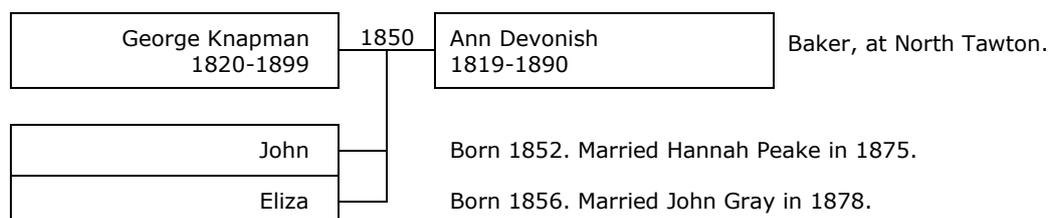
William Robert was a plumber in Withycombe Raleigh, Exmouth. He married Mary Ann Joslin in Exeter district in 4Q1877, and they did not have children.

James Evens tried his hand as a butler, and then moved up to Merseyside where he married Elizabeth Jane Gittins at West Derby on 7 May 1881. They then settled in Wandsworth, London where they had a son (Stanley Evens, born c.1884) while James Evens worked as a wool warehouseman.

Frank was a boarder in Exeter, working as a printer's compositor, at the time of the 1891 census. In 4Q1899 in Greenwich district he married Edith Hill, and at the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses they were living at Deptford where he worked as a compositor. They did not have any children by then (and Edith was about 37 in 1911).

### 1850, George & Ann

George Knapman (recorded by the BMD as Knapp) married Ann Devonish (recorded as Devenish) in Exeter district in 2Q1850. He was from Family '1817, John & Betsy', and she was the daughter of Thomas Devonish, a labourer from North Tawton, and his wife Jane. At the time of the 1851 census George was a baker, and they were living on Fore Street, North Tawton. They subsequently moved to Hatherleigh Street.



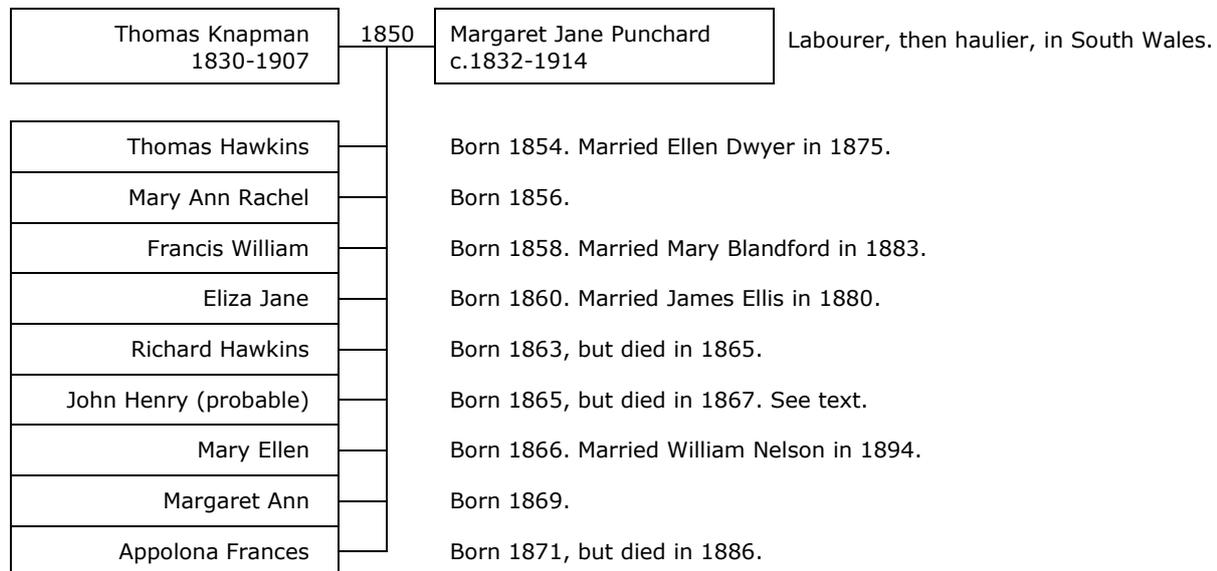
Ann was buried at St Peter's United Reford & Methodist Church on 7 August 1890, and George died on 27 December 1899 (he is also buried at St Peter's).

John was a baker, like his father, first in Chagford and then in North Tawton. He married Hannah Peake in Okehampton district in 1Q1875. Their children were Lucy Ann (born 1876), George William (1877) and Bertram (1882, but died in 1883). John died soon thereafter, and was buried at North Tawton on 8 August 1883, with his age given as 33. His widow Hannah moved to Ilfracombe with their two surviving children, where she supported herself as a lodginghouse keeper. George William started working as a railway clerk, but later joined the civil service, and worked in British East Africa, for the Colonial Office. He married and had a son, but that son was killed in World War II, and the Knapman surname was not carried forward via this family.

Eliza's husband John came from a long-established family of Moretonhampstead innkeepers, and they ran the 'White Horse' there for many years, and had a large family.

### 1850, Thomas & Margaret

Thomas Knapman married Margaret Jane Punchard in Totnes district in 2Q1850. He was from Family '1813, William & Ann', and she was originally from Dittisham. They moved to South Wales, and lived for a time on Church Street in Newport. Their children, all of whom (other than Mary and Margaret Ann) were registered with their surnames spelled Napman, were as follows.



Thomas Hawkins married Ellen Dwyer in Newport district in 2Q1875. By 1891 he was working as a dock labourer at Newport. After he had died, Ellen was living at 40 Hereford Street, Newport at the time of the 1911 census with their six youngest children. In all they had eight children: Margaret A (born c.1876), John William (c.1878), Eliza J (c.1883), Thomas (c.1885), Bartholomew (c.1888), John (c.1890), Francis (c.1893) and Maria (c.1896).

Francis William married Mary Blandford in Newport district in 2Q1883. The 1911 census (at which time they were living at 2 Almar Street, Newport with Francis William shown as a timber haulier) shows that they had no children.

John Henry was probably from this family. He died in 1867 in Devon, presumably visiting family.

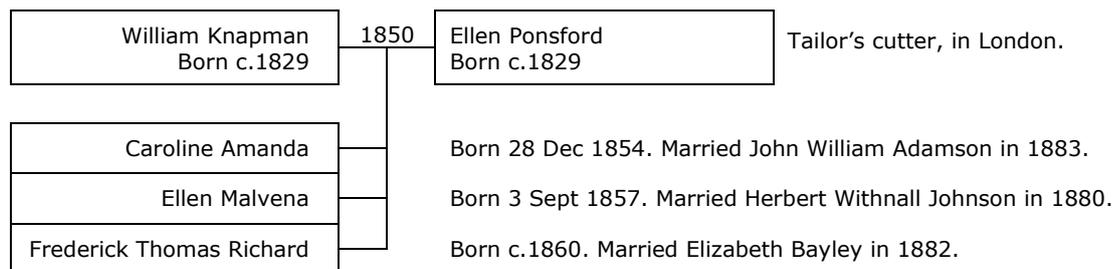
The other two marriages shown above both took place in Newport district, in 2Q1880 and 2Q1894 respectively. William Nelson was a sailor, and at the time of the 1901 census he was away at sea, and Margaret Ann was staying with Mary Ellen and her daughter Lillian.

### 1850, Thomas & Jane

Thomas Knapman married Jane Johnson in Helmsley district, North Yorkshire in 2Q1850. I have not found any further information about them.

### 1850, William & Ellen

William Knapman married Ellen Ponsford in Exeter district in 3Q1850. He was from Family '1814, William & Dinah' and she was from Exeter. They moved to London (Westminster) where William worked as a tailor's cutter, and they had two daughters and at least one son, as shown below.

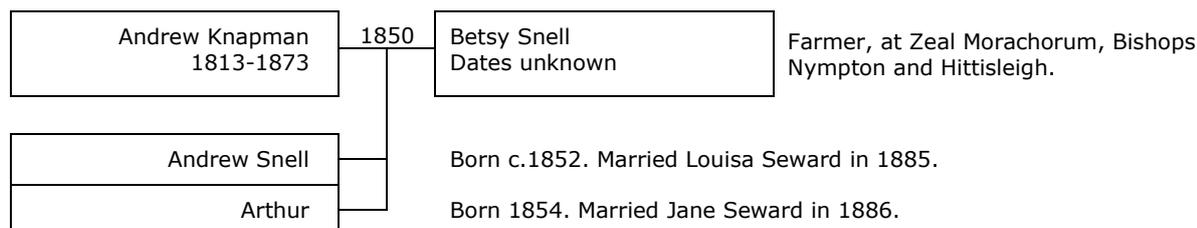


Both girls were baptised on 18 October 1855 at St James', Westminster. At the time of the 1861 census Caroline Amanda was staying with her grandmother Dinah / Diana in Exeter, proving the link between the two families. In 1871 William and Ellen were living at 34 Bolsover Street, Marylebone, and Ellen (the wife) died prior to the 1881 census.

Frederick Thomas Richard married Elizabeth Bayley, a 24-year-old widow at St Mark's, Regent's Park on 10 April 1882. He was described on the register as a chandler of 37 Park Street, and her maiden name was Mugridge. At the time of the 1891 census they were living in Plumstead and he was working as an assurance agent. Subsequently he worked in a general engineering works, at Plumstead. Although they had four children, only one (Edith, born c.1893) survived childhood.

### 1850, Andrew & Betsy

Andrew Knapman married Betsy Snell in Exeter district in 4Q1850. He was from Family '1809, Andrew & Mary'.



Andrew and Betsy farmed in the parishes of Zeal Monachorum and Bishops Nympton before moving to Hittisleigh Barton after their sons had been born. Andrew died on 3 January 1873 and his will was proved by his brother Arthur.

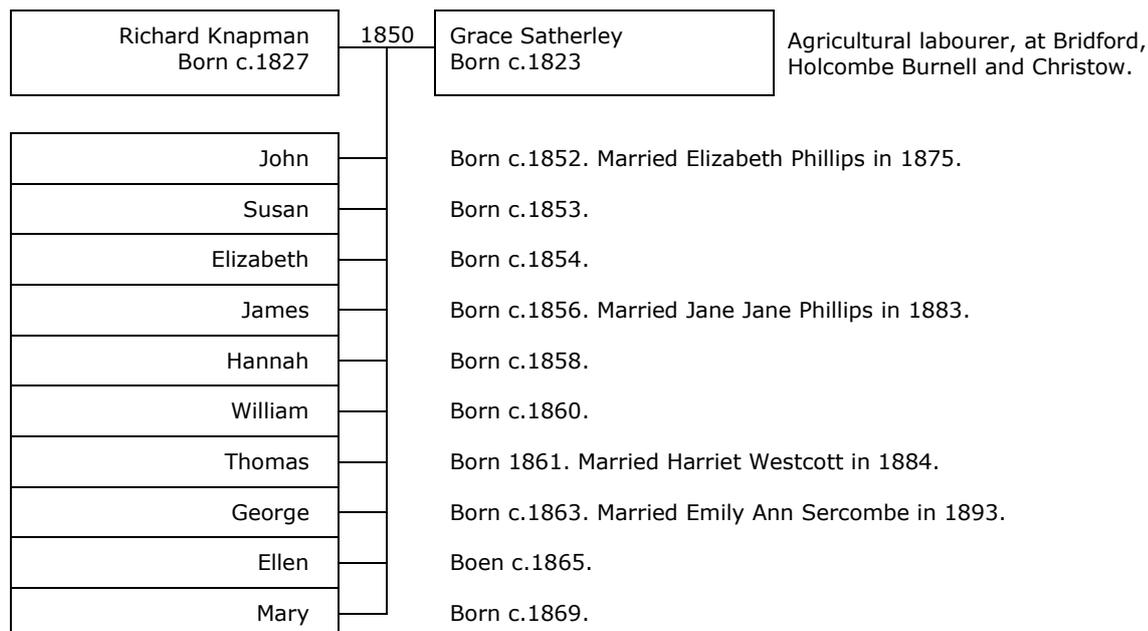
Andrew Snell married Louisa Seward in Crediton district in 4Q1885, and they had three children: Annie (born c.1888), Ellen (c.1891) and Andrew (c.1893). Andrew farmed at Hittisleigh.

Arthur married Jane Seward in St Thomas district in 1Q1886, and had four daughters: Ellen (born c.1887), Eveline Seward (c.1889), Winifred (c.1893) and Dorothy May (c.1898). At the time of the 1911 census, Arthur and Ellen were living at Loxbeare, while Jane and Winifred were at 1 Devon Terrace, Teignmouth, with Jane shows as head of household and farmer's wife.

I have seen no evidence to suggest that the Knapman surname survived beyond the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century via this branch of the family.

### 1850, Richard & Grace

Richard Knapman married Grace Satherley in the St Thomas district of Exeter in 4Q1850. He was from Family '1808, Richard & Grace', and Grace was from the neighbouring village of Ashton. Their first seven children were born at Bridford; the two youngest at Holcombe Burnell. By 1881 Richard and Grace were at Christow.



John married Elizabeth Phillips in the St Thomas district in 2Q1875. By the time of the 1891 census they were living at Exeter St Thomas, where John worked as a carter for a coal merchant. They had at least three children: Richard (born c.1876) William J (c.1881) and Reginald (c.1890). In 1901 they were living at 2 Cecil Road, St Thomas.

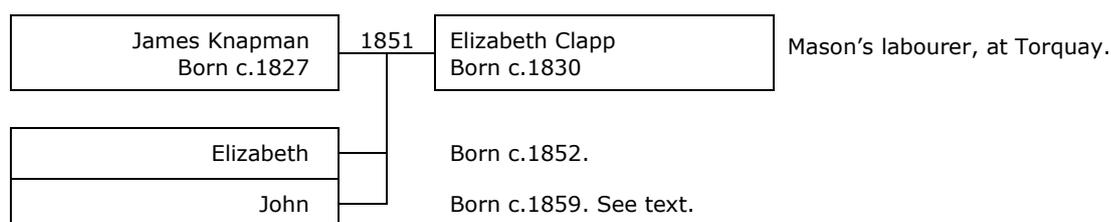
James married the somewhat older Jane Phillips from Dunsford (quite possibly already his sister-in-law) in St Thomas district in 3Q1883. At the time of the 1891 census he was working for the railway at East Dawlish. Their children included William (born c.1885), John James (c.1887), Eva B (c.1890) and Mabel (c.1892). In 1901 James was described as a 'club pay clerk'.

Thomas married Harriet Westcott in St Thomas district in 2Q1884. In 1891 they were living at Powderham, but by 1901 had moved to Exminster, where Thomas worked as an agricultural labourer. They had no children.

George was boarding in Bridford at the time of the 1891 census, then in 2Q1893 in St Thomas district he married Emily Ann Sercombe. By 1901 they had moved to Dunsford (Emily's home village) where George was an agricultural labourer. They had a total of five children: William G (born c.1895), Percival F (c.1897), Caroline E (c.1900), Ivy (c.1902) and Daisy (c.1905).

### 1851, James & Elizabeth

This final marriage falls outside the strict timeframe that I set myself, in 1Q1851 in Newton Abbot district. It involved James Knapman and Elizabeth Clapp. I include it here for two reasons: it occurred before the census of that year; and I have not managed to link the bridegroom to any of the foregoing families (so I am unable to provide information about it elsewhere). James had been working as an agricultural labourer in Stoke Fleming at the time of the 1841 census, and he may well have been either an orphan, or illegitimate, or both, because his place of birth as recorded on the 1851 census return (which looks like Pawley or Prawle, which I take to be East Prawle, near Kingsbridge) does not suggest his antecedents. Elizabeth was from Dodford.



At the time of the 1851 census James was working at Tormohan (Torquay) as a mason's labourer, but there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that he may have gone to sea thereafter, and drowned. In 1861 Elizabeth, described as a widow, was living with both of the children shown above, but in 1871 whereas Elizabeth (the daughter) was with her, in Torquay, John was in a home for Seamen's Orphans. I have not managed to trace him thereafter, and suspect that he either died young, went to sea or emigrated.

### **Other 1851 marriages**

The only other marriages involving Knapman bridegrooms to be registered in 1851 took place after the census of that year. They are reported above under Families '1816, Joseph & Susanna' and '1822, John & Mary Ann'.