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18 September 2007

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

OBJECTIVES

- Extend the ancestries of Thomas Hall and Matilda Pridgeon.

RESULTS

- Discovered that Edward Forman was baptized 13 August 1693 at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, England, the son of Edward Foreman and Ursilla Jackson.
- Found the marriage of Thomas Pridgeon, Junior to Sarah Coates on 14 September 1790 at Boston, Lincolnshire. Sarah was Thomas' second wife; he first married Elizabeth Kitchen, by whom he had at least one child. She died in 1789.
- Learned that Sarah Coates was likely the daughter of William Coates and Elizabeth, christened 10 June 1765 at Friskney, Lincolnshire.
- Identified the probable baptism of Anne Dodd, christened Hannah Dodd, on 20 May 1798 in Friskney, the daughter of Thomas Dodd and Jane, who were probably the parents of 15 other children.

FUTURE RESEARCH

1. Search records in the Sutton St. James, Lincolnshire area for further information about Edward Forman, Senior, his first wife, and additional children.
2. Look for the marriage of Thomas Pridgeon, Senior and Mary Seymour (his wife's maiden name according to research conducted by Gustner-Wright Genealogy) in the Friskney area. The marriage was not found in Friskney records. If the marriage proves to be ancestral, determine if John, the son of Mary Seymour baptized in 1762, was the illegitimate son of Thomas Pridgeon or was from a previous marriage of a widowed Mary Seymour.
3. Verify whether the Sarah Coates baptized at Friskney was ancestral. Determine if her parents, William Coates and Elizabeth, were married 2 December 1755 at Toynton St. Peter (if so, Samuel and Elizabeth, also baptized at Friskney, are probably not her siblings). Verify that William Coates, proposed father of Sarah, was baptized at Friskney in 1723, the son of Samuel Coates.

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RESEARCH REPORT

The objective of this research session was to extend the ancestries of Thomas Hall and Matilda Pridgeon.

Loughton

Thomas Loughton was previously reported as being born about 1768. Married 26 June 1795 to Jochobed “Bridget” LeFever, he was last known to be “of Fleet” (Lincolnshire). Bridget was Thomas’ second wife, as he is listed as “widower” at the time of his marriage to Bridget. Refer to prior research reports for a history of his marriage to Bridget and their children. It was hoped that finding a death record for Thomas would reveal his age at death, which might help narrow the search for his birth. Thomas’ burial record was indeed located during the course of this project in Holbeach records. His name was spelled Thomas Louton [sic] and he was buried 9 December 1808; however his age at death was unfortunately not recorded (document #1).

If Thomas was indeed born about 1767, then the closest match for him in the *International Genealogical Index* is a Thomas Laughton christened 19 October 1767 in Althorpe, Lincolnshire, England. Althorpe is technically now in North Lincolnshire, about 84 miles north of Fleet. This is a possibility which might be examined in future research. Thomas Loughton’s history might be considered as a primary area of focus in future research, since it appears to be a rather complicated puzzle which could require an extensive search through a wide range of records and locations.

LeFever

As discussed above, Thomas Loughton married Jochobed “Bridget” LeFever on 26 June 1795. Bridget’s father, John LeFever, died just a few years later on 1 April 1779 in Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire. Prior research showed that John was likely born before 1730, possibly in Whaplode Drove. Note that there was a John LeFever christened 31 May 1730 in Crowland who was eliminated in prior research. However, searching Whaplode Drove indexes revealed that no John LeFever (or other such spelling variation including simply “Fever”) was christened in Whaplode Drove prior to 1730. Holbeach and Gedney Hill, in the Sutton St. Edmond area, are the closest parishes to Whaplode Drove, therefore their indexes were searched next; however there was no record of John’s birth in either parish. The highest concentration of LeFever family members was actually in the Crowland and Whaplode Drove areas.

The *International Genealogical Index* shows that the John LeFever born 31 May 1730 in Crowland who was eliminated as being the correct individual is the only John LeFever to be christened in Lincolnshire for a period of twenty years. (Note that this includes searching simply “Fever” spelling variations rather than just “LeFever”.) There were men by the name of John Le Fever (Fevor, Fevour, etc.) who were christened in Kent, Devon, Northampton, and London in the correct timeframe. Future research might be conducted first to determine the history of the LeFever family in the area and second, to eliminate the other possible John LeFever possibilities. It is possible that Bridget’s father was born outside the area but for one reason or another, migrated to the Whaplode Drove area to join family.

Stoaton

In the course of researching the LeFever family of Whaplode Drove, records for John LeFever’s wife’s family, the Stoatons, were also searched. Prior research discovered that John LeFever married Mary Stoaton 21 October 1751. It was hoped that records for Mary’s family might be found in Holbeach or Waplode Drove. Unfortunately they were not found in the course of researching this project. There are no mentions of the Stoaton (or associated spelling variations) family in Lincolnshire prior to the birth of William and Susannah’s known children.

It is possible that William migrated to the area about 1727 from outside Lincolnshire. Searching the *International Genealogical Index* for William's possible birth shows that a William Stoton [sic] was christened 13 January 1711 in Essendon, Hertford. If this were the correct William, it would make him about 16 at the time of his first child's birth. This is a little young to start a family, but not impossible. The *International Genealogical Index* lists many other possible locations for Stoaton families and their associated spelling variations.

Forman

Quite a bit of information was found previously regarding the Forman family. The last known ancestor of the Forman family was Ann Forman's grandfather, Edward Forman, who married a woman named Mary, possibly Mary Turner, about 1720 in Sutton St. James, Lincolnshire, England. This prior information provided a very good lead for current research. It was not previously known whether Edward and Mary Forman had other children besides William. Searching Sutton St. James records revealed that Edward Forman [sic] and his wife Mary had three children baptized in that parish:

Ozla Forman christened 7 March 1724 (document #2)

Andrew Forman christened 2 February 1728 (document #3)

William Forman christened 13 Aug 1739 (document #4)

Since Ozla Forman appears to be the first child, and she was baptized in 1724, it was hoped that a marriage record for Edward and Mary would be found between about 1720 and 1723; however Sutton St. James records did not reflect any such marriage. Nevertheless, in an exciting discovery, Edward Foreman's own baptismal record was located dated 13 August 1693 in Long Sutton records (document #5). Edward Foreman [sic] was the son of another Edward Foreman and wife Ursilla. Edward Foreman, Senior had married Ursilla Jackson just two years previously, in 1691 (document #6). Their record reveals that they were both widow and widower.

It appears that the Foreman name has been spelled alternately both with and without an “e” as either Foreman or Forman. The family resided in the Sutton St. James area for at least three generations. Further research into these and other local parish records may reveal more information about Edward Foreman, Senior including additional children, the name of his first wife, and perhaps even his birth information, since records for the area are available through the early 17th century.

Witno

Hannah Witno was the wife of William Forman, whose parents Edward Forman and Mary Turner were discussed above. Hannah was born about 1739, possibly in Sutton St. Edmonds or Sutton St. James, Lincolnshire. Searching Sutton St. Edmonds and St. James records, however, revealed no information about the Witno family. Many spelling variations were searched, including Witno/Whitno/ Wytno/ Witnow however nothing was found.

Searching the *International Genealogical Index* also revealed few leads for this unusual surname. A Robert Whitnoe was married to Jane Nightingale 11 July 1734 in Saint Michael, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Since Hannah’s birth is estimated about five years later, this is the closest Lincolnshire match which might be researched in the future. A Hannah Whitnow was christened 18 May 1739 in Warrington, Lancashire. This is quite a distance from Lincolnshire, but it would not be unheard of for her family to have moved such a distance. Future research might be conducted in the area to determine whether there were any other possible matches for the Whitno family including its possible spelling variations of Whitnow, etc.

Pridgeon – Thomas Pridgeon, Junior

Two members of the Pridgeon family were researched as part of this project: Thomas Pridgeon, Senior and Thomas Pridgeon, Junior. Thomas Pridgeon, Junior was last reported as marrying a woman named Sarah about 1793 in Friskney. Sarah’s surname was not known at the time, but additional research has shown that her full name was Sarah Coates. This is consistent with prior research showing son Samuel Coates Pridgeon born to Thomas and Sarah in 1796.

Their marriage was previously estimated as being about 1793. It turns out that Thomas and Sarah were actually married 14 September 1790 in St. Botolph's Church in Boston, Lincolnshire (document #7). Sarah's family will be discussed below, following the Pridgeon family.

It must also be noted that during the course of research it was discovered that a Thomas Pridgeon was married to a Lucy Patman on 8 February 1792 in nearby Holbeach (document #8a and 8b). Since records show that Thomas Pridgeon and wife Sarah were married in 1790 and were the parents of seven children born between 1794 and 1809 in Friskney, the Thomas Pridgeon of Holbeach is not a direct line ancestor. However his presence should be noted in order to prevent future confusion.

Research also revealed that Sarah Coates was Thomas Pridgeon, Junior's second wife. According to the *International Genealogical Index*, Thomas was first married to Elizabeth Kitchen on 27 November 1787 in Friskney (document #9). The record has been indexed as a marriage of Elizabeth Kitchen and Thomas Bridgeon [sic] (document #10). Entries for "Bridgeon" in Friskney indexes were therefore researched to discover whether the misspelling had been repeated elsewhere, however this appears to be the only time the error occurred. Studying the record closely shows that what was indexed as "Bridgeon" was probably actually correctly written Pridgeon originally, however time has deteriorated the quality of the record to the point where it does look quite a bit like "Bridgeon."

The Kitchen surname is not found elsewhere in Friskney indexes; Elizabeth is the only mention under any close spelling variation, which would suggest that Elizabeth was not from Friskney (document #11). The *International Genealogical Index* indicates that the best match for Elizabeth's birth might be in Kirtin in Holland, Broughton by Brigg, or West Ashby with a possible alternate spelling of Kitching. If further information about Elizabeth's life is desired, these areas might be searched in the future for more information about her and/or the Kitchen/Kitching family.

Thomas had at least one son with his first wife Elizabeth, William Pridgeon, who was christened 12 October 1788 (document #12). Although the deterioration of the original books

has made the child's name barely discernable when copied, the microfilm record shows "W^m Son of Tho^s & Eliz Pridgeon Octob^{er} 12 [1788]." Another child is recorded just a few months later as Thomas, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Pridgeon, who died as a baby and was buried 30 December 1788 (document #13). If Thomas and Elizabeth were married in November 1787, William was probably the first legitimate child born to the couple. Elizabeth would not have had time to carry second child to term before the burial entry for "Thomas" in December 1788. Since the burial date is after the birth date, it's possible that there was a mistake, and "Thomas" should have been written as "William." Time did not permit an extensive search of Lincolnshire records to confirm whether there was another burial entry for William elsewhere. However, Thomas Pridgeon, Junior had a son ten years later with his second wife, Sarah Coates, who was also named William. Therefore it is very likely that even if little William and Thomas Pridgeon were two different boys, neither of them survived to adulthood. The most likely scenario is that there was simply an error made in the burial records and that Elizabeth Kitchen bore only one little boy, William, before her untimely death at age 28.

Often with parish records there is an opportunity to double-check records. Parish records were entered first into the Parish Record Book, which was kept in the local church. Then annually, a summary of all baptisms, marriages, and burials was created using the information in the parish record books so that it could be forwarded to the area Bishop. These second transcriptions are called the Bishop's Transcripts, and often both sets of records have been filmed. Both the Parish Record Books and the Bishop's Transcripts were indeed filmed for Friskney and were checked to see whether perhaps the name "Thomas" in the 1788 burial entry was a mistake. However Fiskney's original Parish Books have been so badly stained and damaged over time that it was impossible to determine whether there was a mistake.

In either case, their mother did not survive much longer. Elizabeth Pridgeon's burial record is found on the facing page following the entry for little Thomas (document #14). The entry does not give a date for her death or burial and states only that she was 28 years old in 1789, which means she was born about 1761. As mentioned above, more information about her life and ancestors might be found with further research.

Pridgeon – Thomas Pridgeon, Senior

Thomas Pridgeon, Senior was last reported as being born in about 1721 or 1722 somewhere in Lincolnshire, England. A burial record for Thomas Pridgeon from 23 April 1798 in Friskney verifies this. Thomas Pridgeon, a laborer, was buried at age 76 (document #15). Friskney parish record indexes from 1562 to 1857 provide no leads as to his birth, which suggests that Thomas Pridgeon, Senior was not born in Friskney (document #16). Prior research indicated that Thomas Pridgeon, Senior was married to a woman named Mary, the mother of his seven children. Searching Friskney marriage indexes for Thomas and Mary's marriage provided no clues either (document #17). One important detail, however, was the discovery of one infant son, baby Thomas Pridgeon, son of Thomas and Mary Pridgeon, who was buried as an infant on 13 March 1763 in Friskney (document #18). Baby Thomas is not listed in the index of Friskney christenings. Further research into his birth location would help identify the origins of Thomas Pridgeon, Senior and hopefully provide more information about his wife Mary as well.

A report regarding Pridgeon family research conducted by Gustner-Wright Genealogy indicated that Thomas Pridgeon, Senior married Mary Seymour 10 June 1762 in Friskney (document #19, which is page 1 of "Descendants of Thomas Pridgeon"). The source for this information is cited as "Information provided by Richard Brothwell." Unfortunately this fact could not be verified with Friskney marriage records. On 9 April 1762, John, son of Mary Seymour was buried, according to Friskney parish records (document #20). The mention of Mary Seymour, the mother, in John's entry rather than his father would indicate either that the boy was illegitimate or that his father was no longer living. If the latter, Mary Seymour may have been a widow at the time and may have married Thomas Pridgeon, Senior just a few months later as suggested; however, the marriage probably took place outside of Friskney. The timing would be sufficient for them, if they were indeed married in June 1762, to have had baby Thomas who was buried 13 March 1763 in Friskney as mentioned above. Further research might be conducted in the future to determine the location of Thomas Pridgeon, Senior's marriage to Mary Seymour and the location of the christening of their baby Thomas before March 1763. Determining the location of these events may help identify the birth location and further information about the ancestry of Thomas Pridgeon Sr. and his wife Mary Seymour.

Coates

As indicated above, Thomas Pridgeon, Junior married Sarah Coates on 14 September 1790 in St. Botolph's Church in Boston. It may seem odd that they were married outside of Friskney, when all of their children were christened in Friskney; however, St. Botolph's church is a spectacular landmark in Lincolnshire which was old even in Thomas and Sarah's time. It is possible that Sarah wanted to be married in its stunning chapel. Thomas and Sarah's son William would marry his bride Anne Dodd in this same chapel thirty years later. Note that Thomas is indexed as Thomas Priger (document #21). Examining the record (see document #7 referenced above) shows that Thomas was actually recorded as Thomas Pridger, a slight misspelling.

Although Sarah's age is not given at the time of her marriage to Thomas, it can be estimated that she would probably not have been younger than about 16 years old at the time of her marriage, but not older than about 25, which means she was probably born between about 1765 and 1774. Searching the *International Genealogical Index* revealed that a Sarah Coats [sic] was christened in Friskney on 10 June 1765. Other possible matches include Spalding, Spilsby, Alford, and Stamford parishes. Given the geographic distances, Friskney is the best match for Thomas Pridgeon's wife. In the future we can verify this by making sure this Sarah did not die in childhood or marry someone else in the area. Sarah Coats or Coates of Friskney was the daughter of William Coats and his wife Elizabeth (document #22). An index of Friskney christenings reveals that William and Elizabeth probably had the following children (document #23):

Samuel Coats, christened 29 May 1749

Elizabeth Coats, christened 7 September 1753

Jane Coats, christened 18 January 1759

Sarah Coats, christened 10 June 1765 (referenced above)

A marriage record for William Coates and Elizabeth Billingham was found in nearby Toynton St. Peter parish records, where they were married 2 December 1755 (document #23).

Note that this is after the birth of Samuel Coats in 1749 and Elizabeth Coates in 1753. No other Coates marriages took place in Toynton St. Peter (document #24). Time did not permit an extensive investigation of Samuel, Elizabeth, and Jane's birth records nor any death records that may pertain to the Coates family. This may be a subject of future research to understand whether Samuel and Elizabeth were indeed siblings of Jane, and Sarah. Their father, William Coats, was probably christened 31 May 1723 in Friskney, the son of Samuel Cotes [sic]. William's mother's name is not listed in the index (document #25). This too may be a subject of future research to discover more information about William and Samuel Cotes and the women in their lives.

Dodd

The final family searched in this project was the Dodd family. As last reported, Anne Dodd married William Pridgeon on 7 November 1820 in Boston, Lincolnshire, England. Anne's birth date was estimated to be about 1800 and it was thought that she was born somewhere in Lincolnshire. Since she was married in Boston, it was hoped that her baptismal record might also be found in Boston; however, this was unfortunately not the case. Casting a wider net using the *International Genealogical Index*, a possible match for Anne was discovered with the birth of Hannah Dodds in Friskney. The Dodds family was very extensive in Friskney. It is very possible that William Pridgeon's wife came from the same small town as he did, and it is very understandable that Hannah could have been recorded as Anna. Hannah Dodds' christening, in fact, appears on the very same page as that of William Pridgeon (document #26). She was christened 20 May 1798, the daughter of Thomas and Jane Dodds. A review of Friskney christening indexes shows sixteen listings for children born to Thomas and Jane Dodds christened between 1786 and 1806 (document #27):

Jane Dodd [sic] christened 4 July 1799

Bridget christened 15 Oct 1786

John christened 9 Sep 1787

Prudence christened 28 Sep 1788

Robert Cobb christened 17 Nov 1789

____ [no name indexed] christened 31 Jan 1791
Abraham christened 6 May 1792
Lucy christened 25 Jan 1795
Henry christened 24 Apr 1796
Joseph christened 7 May 1797
Hannah christened 20 May 1798 (referenced above)
Benjamin christened 27 Aug 1800
George christened 4 Oct 1801
Henrietta christened 19 Dec 1802
Isaac christened 11 Jan 1804
Vicissimus christened 20 Mar 1806

Although shocking, the birth dates do fall in line in such a way that it is biologically possible that the same woman did have 16 children. Hannah is the best match that has been found so far for Anna, wife of William Pridgeon. The *International Genealogical Index* shows 17 other potential matches for Ann, Anna in Timberland, Billingbay, Allington, and Gosberton, but the most likely match is the one from Friskney. Further research might be conducted to eliminate the other possible matches and to investigate Thomas Dodds and his wife Jane in Friskney. If Thomas were twenty years old at the time of his first child's birth, he would have been born about 1779. Friskney christening indexes show Thomas may have been christened 15 May 1783, son of Thomas and Mary Dodds. That would make him 16 years old at the time of his first child's birth. While young, this would not be impossible. Further research might be conducted to determine whether this is indeed his christening record.

Research had to be halted at this point, but fortunately many of the records in this area are available for research for nearly two hundred years further back, so there is still much to do on these lines. We look forward to continuing research on these families in the future.

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