



Lobley Link 2013



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Julia and I wish you all another very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

I'm now 6 months into retirement! I was correct when I guessed that I would have more time for hands-on research in Archives and libraries. Indeed, I have made more visits to the Essex Record Office and to the Society of Genealogists, but as any newly retired person will tell you – there is never enough time to do everything you want. How I ever found time to go to work I will never know!

This year we spent some happy time on the Isle of Wight and in Portugal and in the New Year we are off to Norway in the hopes of seeing the Aurora Borealis.

A Merry Christmas to everyone.

Phil and Julia

I didn't expect that!

After retirement I spent time at the Essex Record Office to continue the search for my elusive Essex ancestors in their parochial and non-parochial holdings. I also subscribed to their Essex Ancestors service to view the majority of Essex parish registers online:

<http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/EssexAncestors.aspx>

I decided to take the opportunity to revisit parish registers that I had searched over 30 years ago and found, to my horror, that I had made a serious error all those years ago. Of the 11 children of my great-great grandfather Jacob Lobley and his wife Ann, I had recorded seven of those children as having been baptised at Epping in Essex. I had never been able to find any further information on two of those children, Charles and William, baptised in 1869. I looked again at their baptisms, in the hope of picking up a clue I had missed. In fact, although I found their baptisms immediately after those of George Walter and Arthur Lobley [Lobby], Charles and William had no parents recorded and a marginal note stated that they were the offspring of a man named Bones and a married woman. Not Loblays at all. It pays to recheck your primary sources. I certainly will from now on!

An update on online trees

After my suggestion in the last Lobleylink, I had one response – from Steve Lobley. I have set up a trial online family tree on Ancestry, making it available only to him. However, the work is time-consuming process and cuts into the time I have to do my own research. I am willing to continue this research and undertake similar work, helping interested Lobley families to develop their family trees on Ancestry. However, the work would need to be collaborative and for that person to also be an Ancestry member. In that way, the research could be shared and double-checked for accuracy.

Let me know what you think over the Christmas period.

A Clandestine Marriage!

After many years with no progress in tracing my paternal line further back than the 1764 marriage of William Lobley and Hannah Sexton in West Hanningfield, Essex – this year I might just have made a small breakthrough. Ancestry have made available the records of 'Irregular' or 'Clandestine' Marriages and Baptisms in the Fleet Prison, King's Bench Prison, the Mint and the May Fair Chapel in London 1667-1754.

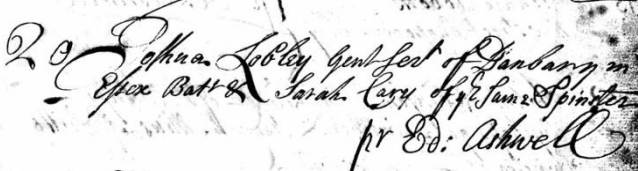
Couples underwent these 'marriages' for a variety of reasons: to overcome residency and age restrictions, as a matter of necessity or simply for convenience.

Many such marriages were performed by clerics who were imprisoned for debt, in need of easy money and who were prepared to flout regulations. Many lived outside the prison walls and conducted the ceremonies in pubs or shops. At its height, 6,000 marriages a year were taking place in the Fleet area, compared with 47,000 in England as a whole. One estimate suggests that

there were between 70 and 100 clergymen working in the Fleet area between 1700 and 1753. Hardwicke's Act of 1753 effectively shut down these marriage centres, requiring marriages to be performed in church (and increasing Stamp Tax revenues).



I found a number of Lobley references in these records. However the one that excited me was a marriage held on the 20th September 1734.



Joshua Lobley Gent[leman's] Serv[an]t of Danbury in Essex Bat[chelor] & Sarah Cary of the same, Spinster.

The ceremony was performed by Edward Ashwell "a most notorious rogue and imposter".

I followed this up with a search of the Danbury registers in the hope of discovering new information on Joshua and Sarah, hoping that they were the parents of my William (and his likely brother Joshua). Danbury is less than 10 miles from West Hanningfield.

I have so far discovered the pauper burials of both Joshua (1794) and Sarah (1784) in Danbury, but no trace of any children.

As usual, one find raises more questions than it answers. To what 'gentleman' was Joshua Lobley a servant? Did that gentleman own property in both Danbury and London? Did Joshua come from Essex or just move there with his master? If they are indeed the parents of William (and Joshua), where were the children of Joshua and Sarah baptised?

Ah well – more research needed!

James Lobley – another interesting painting

The BBC site I highlighted last year continues to make progress in making available the entire UK collection of oil paintings. Here is another from the collection. This one is held by Kirklees Museums and Galleries.



The Pedlar

Found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/>

The Pedlar's Act of 1871 defined a Pedlar as follows:

any hawker, pedlar, petty chapman, tinker, caster of metals, mender of chairs, or other person who, without any horse or other beast bearing or drawing burden, travels and trades on foot and goes from town to town or to other men's houses, carrying to sell or exposing for sale any goods, wares, or merchandise, or procuring orders for goods, wares, or merchandise immediately to be delivered, or selling or offering for sale his skill in handicraft;

Pedlars were then (and still are!) required to obtain a certificate to allow them to carry on their business. A pedlar is, by definition, a person who sells to a customer and moves on to the next sale. This differentiates the pedlar from the street trader. The Government is currently proposing changes to the 1871 (and later 1881) Acts. I was not aware that Pedlars are still in the news today.

I wonder whether James Lobley painted this study after hearing of the 1871 Act?

Until next Year...

Phil Lobley