



# Lobley Link 2017



## Inside

- **David Lobley**
- **James Lobley**
- **What was he doing?**
- **You can't win them all!**

This has been a year of sadness. In February, Julia's father died and, after fighting back from a severe stroke in January, my dear mother Barbara died on 19th September, exactly one month after her 93rd birthday.



In spite of all of the above, Julia and I wish you all another very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Phil and Julia*

## David Lobley

As I reported last year, the new online index of births and deaths from the GRO, (with the maiden name of the mother now shown on the majority of births from 1837 to 1911) has helped to reveal new additions to many families.

I recently discovered that my 2nd great grand-uncle David Lobley had more children than I had first thought and I have fleshed out a little of his army career.

David was born in Pitsea, Essex in 1830 and baptised at the local parish church alongside his younger brother Abraham in 1832.

By 1851, he was lodging in an inn at Battle, in Sussex, shortly before enlisting with the Kings Own Royal Regiment. By 1855 he had already served in Malta, Turkey and in the Crimean War, and had been promoted to corporal. By 1857 he had travelled, via Mauritius, to the East Indies where he was stationed for nearly 9 years. He was promoted to sergeant in 1859 and in 1865 married Margaret Cotton in Poona, India. They had two children in India - William Thomas and David George. Briefly reduced to the rank of private for being drunk on duty, he soon regained his former rank of sergeant.

In 1868, he served in a brief campaign in Abyssinia, before returning to England on HMT Serapis with his family. The image below shows the Regiment being greeted by large crowds in Dover.



Sadly, his son David George died at Dover in 1868. However, three further children were born - Julia (of whom I know nothing apart from an 1871 Census entry), George (born in Aldershot, but died in 1874), and Ellen (born in Portsmouth in 1872). William Thomas, George and Ellen were all baptised or stated to be Catholic. As I know no Lobleys in my family who were Catholics, it is possible that Margaret Cotton was a Catholic and that her children were brought up in that faith.

David Lobley was transferred to the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia in October 1872, but in July 1873 he shot himself "whilst in a state of temporary insanity" and is buried in St Nicolas Parish Church, Guildford, Surrey.

His son William Thomas Lobley also joined the army as a boy musician in 1880. In his attestation papers is the remark that his next of kin, his mother Margaret, was in New York, USA. As yet, I have no further trace of her, Julia or Ellen.

The Museum of the Kings Own Royal Regiment have no further information on the family, but I shall attempt to establish whether an inquest was held on David Lobley and, if so, whether this reveals any more information.

## James Lobley - another painting

I always try to find another painting by one of the few Lobley artists. This one, by James Lobley, is rather like the young boy reading out a passage from a book, with a slate hanging from a hook on the teacher's desk and a map of Great Britain



hanging on the wall. As I mentioned in one of the early newsletters, James Lobley was born and baptised in Hull, East Yorkshire, in 1828. One of 6 children to a carrier father, he studied at Leeds, before being appointed to the School of Design at the Mechanics Institute in Bradford. He married a young widow, Helen Whiteley, nee Brierley in 1853 and had 7 children.

I know little of his parents, James and Elizabeth, only that James senior died in 1824 at Myton, near Hull. Where James senior came from is, as yet, not certain. Yet another job for me!

---

## What was he doing?

Earlier this year, I took out a short subscription to the SEAX subscription service from Essex Archives. This allows me to access images of Essex parish registers online.

Whilst trawling through the register (1693-1812) of West Hanningfield to re-check some Lobley entries, I came across a fascinating section at the back of the book, plus a mystery death – all unrelated to my Lobley research.

At the back of the book are a series of memoranda, dating from 1782, which detail building works undertaken in and around the rectory, quantities of lime purchased to enrich the soil in surrounding fields, the purchase of a new copper for the brewhouse, a new thatch on the barn and new surplices for the incumbent. A fascinating collection for local historians.

However, it was one burial entry that made me sit up and take notice:

James Cox, Widower aged 85 years - died from an accident which happened to him on the 13th day of September 1802 as he was attempting to get thro a small hole at the end of a Barn - was buried September 22nd 1802.

What was he doing, at his age! I

---

## You can't win them all !

The Danbury Landisdale Almshouse Charity papers held at the Essex Record Office were one of my best hopes in establishing a link between my earliest direct ancestor - William Lobley (born about 1744) and his parents. I believe them to be Joshua and Sarah Cary who were married in the Precincts of the Fleet Prison in Middlesex, and who are buried in pauper graves in Danbury. Having been unable to find any help in the parish records, I hoped to find references to them in the Landisdale Charity papers at the ERO. The charity was established in 1313 "for the relief of the poor and repair of the church" in Danbury and two adjoining parishes. I recently was able to examine the records - a large bound volume - at the Archives, but was disappointed to find that, despite extensive entries for each year from 1603 no references are made to individuals in receipt of charity, only to tradesmen undertaking work for it, and annual sums paid to the parish workhouse. You can't win them all!

---

## My ongoing projects

As I remarked last year, I am continuing my work to ensure that I have associated all the 8,000+ Loblays (and their families) in my database with the data and images available on the Ancestry website. I have completed the work on four of the smaller files and I am now starting on the main file. It is proving to be a slow, but rewarding process, but as I work through the data, I am correcting the odd mistake and I am bringing to light some additional information on individuals to help further reconstruct some families. I am hopeful that the full project, which will involve exporting the data to a new software package, will take less than the 10 years I originally estimated.

*Until next Year...*

*Phil Lobley*

