

1. Edward of Tolleshunt Knights

EDWARD BEARD. Married Sarah Drane in Tolleshunt Knights on 30 Sep 1783² Both apparently deceased by 1841³.

Children of Edward and Sarah were:

- i. GEORGE BEARD (See 2. *George of Tolleshunt D'Arcy below*)
- ii. JUDE BEARD. Baptised 20 Apr 1794 in Tolleshunt Knights⁴

² Tolleshunt Knights Parish Registers

³ 1841 Census of West Mersea

⁴ Tolleshunt Knights Parish Registers

2. George of Tolleshunt D'Arcy

GEORGE BEARD. Son of Edward and Sarah Beard (See 1. *Edward of Tolleshunt Knights*). Baptised on 19 Jun 1791 in Tolleshunt Knights⁵. Later claims to have been born in Tolleshunt D'Arcy, which may indicate a period of residency in that parish. Married Hannah Saunders on 20 Oct 1815 in West Mersea⁶. Living in West Mersea by 1841⁷. Living as a Farm labourer in West Mersea with wife Hannah (born c.1794 in West Mersea) in 1851. George was buried on 21 May 1854⁸

West Mersea is described by Sabine Baring Gould (the vicar of East Mersea) as a place with incessant piping wind and a pervading stench when sprats were put on the fields as fertiliser, and an abundance of troublesome mosquitoes⁹. Population of West Mersea was probably no more than 1,500 at this time, the main trades being agriculture and oyster trade¹⁰

Children of George and Hannah were:

- i. GEORGE BEARD. Baptised 17 Feb 1817. Buried 15 Sep 1818¹¹
- ii. GEORGE BEARD. Baptised 2 May 1819 in West Mersea¹². Buried 14 Feb 1820¹³
- iii. WILLIAM BEARD. Baptised 20 Sep 1820¹⁴. Buried 19 Feb 1836¹⁵
- iv. MARY ANN BEARD. Baptised 27 May 1821 in West Mersea¹⁶ Working as a servant to Ann Mason at 30 Head Street in Colchester St Mary At Walls in 1851¹⁷ and found in Colchester St Botolph in 1861¹⁸. Married Elijah Edges¹⁹
- v. ELIJAH BEARD. Born 2 May 1823, and baptised 6 June 1823 in West Mersea²⁰ Elijah married Mary Ann (born 1830 in Norfolk), and the couple were living in Colchester St Botolph in 1861²¹ and on Chapel Street in Colchester St Giles in 1881²²

Children of Elijah and Mary Ann were:

- i. ELIJAH C BEARD. Born c. 1855²³
- ii. EDGAR BEARD. Born c. 1855 in Colchester. Living in Colchester in 1901 working as a "case maker packer"²⁴ Almost certainly married with one daughter and mother still alive in Colchester St Giles in 1891²⁵

NB Possible that the above named are the same person

- vi. ANN BEARD. Baptised 25 February 1827 in West Mersea²⁶
- vii. GEORGE BEARD. (See 2. George of West Mersea)
- viii. EDWARD BEARD. Baptised 20 January 1833 in West Mersea²⁷. Buried 1 Dec 1839²⁸

⁵ Tolleshunt Knights Parish Registers

⁶ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁷ 1841 Census of West Mersea

⁸ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² West Mersea Parish Registers ERO D/P 77/1/6

¹³ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ West Mersea Parish Registers ERO D/P 77/1/6

¹⁷ Census 1851

¹⁸ Census 1861

¹⁹ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

²⁰ West Mersea Parish Registers ERO D/P 77/1/6

²¹ Census 1861

²² Census 1881

²³ Census 1861

²⁴ Census of Colchester 1901

²⁵ Census of Colchester St Giles 1891

²⁶ West Mersea Parish Registers ERO D/P 77/1/6

3. George of West Mersea

GEORGE BEARD. Son of George and Hannah Beard (See 2. *George of Tolleshunt D'Arcy*). Baptised 3 February 1830 in West Mersea²⁹ Unmarried farm labourer living with parents in 1851³⁰. He went on to marry a Jane Jones (born Llangniew, Montgomery, Wales c1829³¹, the daughter of a miller) on 21 Feb 1853 in Aldersgate, and lived in Clerkenwell, London. He was initially a tailor³², but in 1853 became a Police Constable for the Metropolitan Police (MEPO Class 40, Warrant No 30923, PC No 231³³). He retired on 27 Aug 1877 with rheumatism and a pension of £52 pa³⁴. On 23 Sep 1881 he was appointed to the Midland Railway as a Railway Detective at St Pancras; he was recorded as being 5ft 7in and paid 27 shillings and 6pence per week³⁵. Jane died on 25 August 1884, at which point their address was 14 Churchill Road, Kentish Town³⁶. He died in Wood Green, London in 1913 or 1914³⁷ having lived his last few years with daughter Louise³⁸

Apparently a 'genetic problem' entered the family at this time, introduced by Jane Jones. Its exact nature is not known³⁹

Children of George and Jane were⁴⁰:

- i. GEORGE EDWARD BEARD. Baptised 10 June 1857⁴¹ in London. Living with parents and working as a messenger in 1871⁴² Buried on 30 May 1876 after he drowned during a boating incident on the Thames⁴³
- ii. JANE ANN BEARD. Baptised 31 Dec 1861⁴⁴. Buried 11 Jan 1862⁴⁵
- iii. WILLIAM RICHARD BEARD. Baptised 31 Dec 1861⁴⁶. Died 31 Dec 1861⁴⁷
- iv. FREDERICK BEARD. Baptised 24 Jan 1862⁴⁸
- v. EMILY BEARD. Born c.1863 in London⁴⁹. Described as an infants milliner⁵⁰. Still living with parents in 1881⁵¹. Married Edwin J Bark⁵². She died on 8 June 1907⁵³
- vi. ELIZABETH BEARD. Born c.1865 in London⁵⁴ Described as an infants milliner⁵⁵, and later as a dress milliner⁵⁶. Still living with parents in 1891⁵⁷. Married W Rowell. She died 8 Mar 1906⁵⁸
- vii. JANE BEARD. Born 1870 in London⁵⁹. Apparently also known as 'Jeannie'. Married W Blyta⁶⁰. She died 9 Jun 1915⁶¹

²⁷ West Mersea Parish Registers ERO D/P 77/1/6

²⁸ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

²⁹ West Mersea Parish Registers ERO D/P 77/1/6

³⁰ Census 1851

³¹ Census 1881

³² Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Sandra Golbourn 30 Dec 2004

³⁸ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Sandra Golbourn 30 Dec 2004

⁴¹ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁴² Census 1871

⁴³ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Census 1871

⁵⁰ Census 1881

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Census 1871

⁵⁵ Census 1881

⁵⁶ Census 1891

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁵⁹ Census 1871

⁶⁰ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁶¹ Ibid

- viii. LOUISA BEARD. Born 28 May 1874⁶² in London⁶³. Worked as a dressmaker⁶⁴
Married H Woollacott in May 1897⁶⁵. She died 14 August 1917⁶⁶

⁶² Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁶³ Census 1881

⁶⁴ Census 1891

⁶⁵ Letter from Anne Tinkler 19 Feb 2006

⁶⁶ *Ibid*