

1. Henry of Great Dunmow

HENRY BEARD. Baptised before c.1795. Married MARY BIRD (c.1791 to at least 1841⁴) on 26 Feb 1811 in Great Dunmow⁵. Labourer. Buried before 1841.

Children of HENRY and MARY BEARD are⁶:

- i. BENJAMIN BEARD
Born in Barnston c.1815. Never married. Buried after 1881. Lived with parents until at least 1841⁷. Lived in Great Dunmow in 1881, inmate of the Union Workhouse and classed a pauper⁸
- ii. WILLIAM BEARD
Baptised in Great Dunmow on 7 Jul 1816. (*See 2a William of Great Waltham*)
- iii. JEMIMA BEARD
Baptised in Great Dunmow on 27 Sep 1818.
- iv. JOSEPH BEARD
Baptised in Great Dunmow on 11 Jun 1820. (*See 2b Joseph of Great Waltham*)
- v. SUSAN BEARD
Baptised in Great Dunmow on 22 Dec 1822. Married Edward Collins of Great Waltham in Great Waltham on 28 Oct 1843⁹.
- vi. MARY ANN BEARD
Baptised in Great Dunmow on 22 May 1825. Lived with parents until at least 1841.

The origin of Henry Beard is as yet undiscovered. We know that he lived in Great Dunmow from at least 1811 to 1825, where registers confirm that he had five children with wife Mary¹⁰, also of Great Dunmow. According to the 1881 census eldest son Benjamin was apparently born in Barnston¹¹, so that might be a good place to look for Henry's marriage or baptism. Henry had died by 1841, as the census finds Mary widowed in North End, Great Waltham with the remainder of her family, and aged around 50¹². Henry's burial is not recorded, but probably may be found in Great Dunmow or Great Waltham.

Benjamin's movements during his working life are currently unknown, but ultimately he is found unmarried and classed a pauper in the Dunmow Union Workhouse in 1881. His brothers William and Joseph are discussed below (*see 2a William of Great Waltham and 2b Joseph of Great Waltham*)

Sisters Jemima and Mary Ann are not mentioned again in records after their baptisms, but it is known that Susan Beard married one Edward Collins in Great Waltham in 1843, who was possibly the brother of the Susannah Collins who married Joseph Beard four years later¹³. Mary Ann possibly married Charles Hayden of Barnston in 1845 in Barnston¹⁴.

⁴ Great Waltham Census 1841

⁵ Great Dunmow marriages ERO D/P 11/1/6

⁶ Great Dunmow baptisms ERO D/P 11/1/7

⁷ Great Waltham Census 1841

⁸ Great Dunmow Census 1881

⁹ Great Waltham Marriages

¹⁰ Great Dunmow Baptisms ERO D/P 11/1/7

¹¹ Great Dunmow Census 1881

¹² Great Waltham Census 1841

¹³ Great Waltham Marriages ERO D/P 121/1/?

¹⁴ Barnston marriages

2a. William of Great Waltham

WILLIAM BEARD (son of HENRY and MARY BEARD. See 1. *Henry of Great Dunmow*). Baptised in Great Dunmow on 7 Jul 1816. Agricultural Labourer¹⁵. Married SARAH HORNSBY (of Pleshey and who was buried 7 Oct 1854 in Great Waltham¹⁶) in Great Waltham on 14 October 1843¹⁷. Lived in Great Waltham from 1847 to at least 1861¹⁸. Possibly remarried and living in Great Dunmow with family in 1881. Buried after 1861.

Children of WILLIAM and SARAH BEARD are¹⁹:

- i. MARY BEARD
Housekeeper²⁰. Married John Ketley of Great Waltham in Great Waltham on 12 Nov 1869²¹
- ii. DANIEL BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 7 Nov 1847. Agricultural Labourer²². Witnessed sister Marys wedding in 1869. By 1881 found unmarried and lodging in Newhaven, Sussex²³. He does not appear in the 1901 census²⁴
- iii. JOHN WILLIAM BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 3 March 1850. Lived with parents before 1871. Agricultural Labourer²⁵. Married ELIZABTH PORTER of Ford End in Great Waltham on 21 Oct 1871²⁶
- iv. CHARLES BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 11 Mar 1854. Buried 25 Jul 1854²⁷.
- v. FANNY BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 7 May 1854. Buried 27 May 1854²⁸.

William Beard was the second born of Henry and Mary, and known to have married Sarah Hornsby in 1843²⁹. The coupled lived in Great Waltham, and are known to have had at least five children there³⁰. Disaster befell the family in 1854; complications followed the birth of twins, Charles and Fanny. Within four months both children were dead, and Sarah left William a widower later that year³¹. William and children Mary, Daniel and John were still living together in Great Waltham in 1861³², but eldest daughter Mary married John Ketley in 1869, and John appears to have lodged with the family of David Willis for some period before marrying Elizabeth Porter in 1871³³. William, Daniel and John vanish by 1881; in Daniels case it is to Newhaven in Sussex.

NB: William, son John and Johns wife Elizabeth may possibly be the same as are found in Great Dunmow in 1881³⁴, but it would mean that William had remarried and was actually born in Springfield. There is also some inconsistency in terms of age and dates of birth, so this link would need to be corroborated by another source..

¹⁵ Great Waltham census 1841 and 1861

¹⁶ Great Waltham burials

¹⁷ Great Waltham marriages ERO D/P 121/1/7

¹⁸ Great Waltham Census 1861

¹⁹ Great Waltham baptisms ERO D/P 121/1/7

²⁰ Great Waltham Census 1861

²¹ Great Waltham marriages

²² Great Waltham Census 1861

²³ Newhaven Census 1881

²⁴ Census 1901

²⁵ Great Waltham Census 1861 and 1871

²⁶ Great Waltham marriages

²⁷ Great Waltham Burials

²⁸ Great Waltham Burials

²⁹ Great Waltham Marriages ERO D/P 121/1/?

³⁰ Great Waltham Baptisms ERO D/P 121/1/7

³¹ Great Waltham Burials ERO D/P 121/1/?

³² Great Waltham Census 1861

³³ Great Waltham Marriages ERO D/P 121/1/?; Great Waltham Census 1871

³⁴ Great Dunmow Census 1881

2b. Joseph of Great Waltham

JOSEPH BEARD (son of HENRY and MARY BEARD. See 1. Henry of Great Dunmow). Baptised in Great Dunmow 11 Jun 1820. Agricultural Labourer, employed at Hill Farm in 1851³⁵. Married SUSANNAH COLLINS (buried in Ford End on 18 Sep 1911 aged 81) in Great Waltham on 6 Feb 1847³⁶. Lived in Great Waltham from 1841 to at least 1901³⁷. Buried in Ford End on 29 Mar 1906.

Children of JOSEPH and SUSANNAH BEARD are³⁸:

- i. THOMAS GEORGE BEARD
Possibly born in Little Dunmow³⁹. Baptised in Great Waltham 3 Feb 1850. Agricultural Labourer⁴⁰. Married widow HARRIET BRIGHT (born c.1850 in Little Dunmow⁴¹) of Great Waltham on 22 Oct 1870 in Great Waltham⁴². Living in North End by 1885. but back in Great Waltham by 1901⁴³

Children of THOMAS and HARRIET BEARD are:

- i. WILLIAM BEARD
Born in Barnston c.1869. Dead by 1881
 - ii. CHARLES BEARD
Born in Great Waltham 1871. Baptised in Ford End on 28 May 1871. Buried in Ford End on 1 Sep 1872.
 - iii. JOSEPH HENRY BEARD
Born in Great Waltham 1874. Baptised in Ford End on 27 Sep 1874. (See 3a Frederick and Joseph of Barnston)
 - iv. FREDERICK ERNEST BEARD
Born in Great Waltham 1877. Baptised in Ford End on 29 Apr 1877. (See 3a Frederick and Joseph of Barnston)
 - v. ARTHUR BEARD
Born in Great Waltham on 16 Mar 1879. Baptised in Ford End on 17 July 1879. Still living in Great Waltham in 1901⁴⁴
 - vi. ABRAHAM JOHN BEARD
Born in Wanstead in 1885. Baptised in Ford End on 13 Sep 1885. (See 3b Abraham of Barnston)
- ii. MARY ANN BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 1 Aug 1852. Schooled until at least the age of 8⁴⁵.
 - iii. SARAH BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 5 Oct 1856. Started school by age of 4⁴⁶.
 - iv. JOHN BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 6 Nov 1859. Agricultural Labourer, living with parents until at least 1871⁴⁷
 - v. WALTER BEARD
Baptised in Great Waltham on 3 Jul 1864. Lived with parents until at least 1881⁴⁸. Married ANN TYLER (born Runwell c.1863) at Battlesbridge Congregational Chapel on 16 October 1888⁴⁹. Moved to Rawreth⁵⁰, where in 1901 he is described as a horseman on a farm⁵¹

³⁵ Great Waltham Census 1841, 1851, and 1871

³⁶ Great Waltham marriages

³⁷ Great Waltham Census 1841, Great Waltham Census 1901

³⁸ Great Waltham baptisms ERO D/P 121/1/7

³⁹ Little Dunmow Census 1881

⁴⁰ Great Waltham Census 1861 and 1871

⁴¹ Great Waltham Census 1901

⁴² Great Waltham marriages

⁴³ Great Waltham Census 1901

⁴⁴ Great Waltham Census 1901

⁴⁵ Great Waltham Census 1861

⁴⁶ Great Waltham Census 1861

⁴⁷ Great Waltham census 1871

⁴⁸ Great Waltham census 1881

⁴⁹ Email from Sally Gowlett, 23 July 2002 – 25 Crown Hill, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7HA, sally_gowlett@hotmail.com

⁵⁰ Email from Sally Gowlett, 23 July 2002

⁵¹ Rawreth Census 1901

Children of Walter and Ann Beard are⁵²

- i. MAUD ANN BEARD
Born in Rawreth 1890. Domestic servant. Married Percy Cheshire in Rawreth in 1928⁵³. Died in Highgate, London on 4 September 1930 of acute haemorrhagic pancreatitis⁵⁴.
- ii. EDITH MARY BEARD
Born in Rawreth on 9 December 1891. A domestic servant. Married Walter Mann in Rawreth in 1923⁵⁵.
- iii. NOBLE BEARD
Born a cripple in Rawreth in 1892. Died 31 March 1958⁵⁶
- iv. JOHN BEARD
Born in North Benfleet in September 1893. Married RUBY BARBER in Rawreth in 1923⁵⁷. Died in the 1970's⁵⁸.

Children of John and Ruby Beard are:

- i. ROY BEARD
Died without issue 2001⁵⁹.
- v. ABE THOMAS BEARD
Born 1894. Died of hydrocephalus on 5 May 1895 in Wickford⁶⁰
- vi. DAVID JOSEPH BEARD
Born in Downham in 1896. Died without issue on 15 September 1916 in action during World War⁶¹.

Joseph Beard married Susannah Collins in 1847, and the two are found living at Hill Farm shortly after in 1851 with first child Thomas George. He and Susan had four more children that are known, all in Great Waltham though none of them appear to have been baptised there⁶², and by 1871 they had relocated to North End in the same parish⁶³, where Josephs mother and father had lived thirty years previously.

Thomas George married Harriet Bright (who was apparently already a widow at the tender age of 21) in 1870, and they had six sons. The first two, William (who was born in Barnston) and Charles, appear to have died in their infancy⁶⁴. Sons Frederick, Joseph Henry and Arthur were all born in Great Waltham⁶⁵, but the family appears to have relocated to Little Dunmow at some point in the 1870s, and in 1881 moved to Wanstead, where the youngest of their children, Abraham John, was born⁶⁶. The move to Wanstead may be dated with some accuracy, since Thomas Georges family manage to appear in both locations on the 1881 census⁶⁷.

⁵² Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁵³ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁵⁴ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁵⁵ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁵⁶ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁵⁷ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁵⁸ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁵⁹ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁶⁰ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁶¹ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁶² Little Dunmow Census 1881; Great Waltham Baptisms ERO D/P 121/1/?

⁶³ Great Waltham Census 1871

⁶⁴ Great Waltham Census 1871

⁶⁵ Great Waltham Baptisms ERO D/P 121/1/?

⁶⁶ Correspondence with Janet Foley January 2002

⁶⁷ Wanstead and Little Dunmow Census 1881

Walter Beard married Ann Tyler at Battlesbridge in 1888, and moved thereafter to Rawreth. His daughter Edith has no recollection of Walter communicating with other Beards⁶⁸, and so one must wonder if there was a rift in the family.

Walter and Anns eldest daughter caused family scandal by becoming pregnant in the 1920's, and though she went on to marry Percy Cheshire, she was not the father of the child, Betty⁶⁹.

David Joseph Beard, or Rifleman R/22029 served with the 7th Bn, Kings Royal Rifle Corps, and died on Friday 16 September 1916 aged only 20 during the Allied attempt to capture Theipval in the Somme⁷⁰.

⁶⁸ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁶⁹ Email from Sally Gowlett, 12 August 2002

⁷⁰ www.cwgc.org.uk

3a Frederick and Joseph of Barnston

JOSEPH HENRY BEARD (son of THOMAS and HARRIET BEARD. See 2b Joseph of Great Waltham). Born in Great Waltham c.1875. Married Susannah Johnson (born c.1870 in Ford End) on 14 Apr 1900. Lived in Hertford End 1900-01, working as a brewers labourer⁷¹. Lived in Ford End in 1903, working as a stockman. Lived at Pyes Farm in Barnston by 1911

Children of JOSEPH and SUSANAH BEARD are⁷²:

- i. RUBY MAY BEARD
Baptised in Ford End on 28 Apr 1901. Married Frederick Herbert Smith in Ford End on 17 Jan 1925.
- ii. DORA EDITH BEARD
Baptised in Ford End on 26 Jan 1903.
- iii. AMOS JOHN BEARD
Born in Barnston on 11 Mar 1905. Present at his eldest sisters wedding in 1925.
- iv. ROWLAND HENRY BEARD
Born in Barnston on 11 Mar 1905. Beet factory worker. Married BEATRICE MAUD⁷³

Child of ROWLAND and BEATRICE BEARD is⁷⁴:

- i. ROBIN HENRY ROWLAND BEARD
Baptised in Barnston in 1936
- v. EVA FLORENCE BEARD
Baptised in Barnston on 28 May 1911. Married William Arthur Smith of Ford End in Barnston on 22 Mar 1931⁷⁵

FREDERICK ERNEST BEARD (son of THOMAS and HARRIET BEARD. See 2b Joseph of Great Waltham). Born in Great Waltham 1877. Married WINIFRED NELLIE MEAD of Barnston in Barnston on 16 Sep 1917⁷⁶. Agricultural Labourer in 1901⁷⁷, but later an engine driver.

Children of FREDERICK and WINIFRED BEARD are⁷⁸:

- i. WINIFRED BEARD
Baptised in Barnston on 29 Apr 1918
- ii. RUPERT ARTHUR BEARD
Baptised in Barnston on 3 Nov 1927

Frederick, Joseph and Abraham (See 3b Abraham of Barnston) all moved on from Great Waltham to Barnston by the turn of the century, and there another two generations of children were baptised⁷⁹.

Frederick, who worked as an engine driver, married Winifred Nellie Mead in 1917, and had a daughter and son, Winifred and Rupert Arthur. Joseph Henry, a labourer, married Susannah and had by her Amos John and Rowland Henry (who are possibly twins), and Eva Florence. Rowland was a beet factory worker and had a son name Robin Henry Rowland, who may well still live today.

⁷¹ Great Waltham Census 1901

⁷² Barnston baptisms

⁷³ Great Waltham Baptisms ERO D/P 121/1/13

⁷⁴ Barnston baptisms

⁷⁵ Barnston marriages

⁷⁶ Barnston marriages

⁷⁷ Great Waltham Census 1901

⁷⁸ Barnston baptisms

⁷⁹ Barnston Baptisms ERO D/P 153/1/6

3b Abraham of Barnston

ABRAHAM JOHN BEARD (son of THOMAS and HARRIET BEARD. See 2b Joseph of Great Waltham). Born in Wanstead c.1885⁸⁰. Married NELLIE MAY SWALLOW in Ford End in 1908⁸¹. Labourer from 1901⁸² until at least 1912. Soldier between 1914 and 1917.

Children of ABRAHAM and NELLIE BEARD are:

- i. CHARLES MAXWELL BEARD
Baptised in Barnston on 31 Mar 1912. Married Emily Olive. Labourer

Child of CHARLES and EMILY BEARD is⁸³
 - i. RITA KATE BEARD
Baptised in Barnston on 6 Jun 1937
- ii. NELLIE MAY BEARD
Baptised in Barnston on 15 Nov 1914. Married ? Wilkes. Lived around Dunmow area until passed away by 2002
- iii. ERNEST GEORGE BEARD
Baptised in Barnston 2 May 1917. Married Marjorie Gladys Harvey (1918-1950).

Children of ERNEST and MARJORIE are⁸⁴:

- i. JANET BEARD. Married to become a Foley
 - ii. MARGARET GLADYS BEARD
 - iii. DOREEN MARY BEARD
- iv. WILLIAM BEARD
Five female daughters inc Sylvie?
- v. SIDNEY BEARD
Passed away by 2002. Married MARJORIE. Lived at 33 Milton Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4LA.

Child of SIDNEY and MARJORIE BEARD is

- i. CLIVE BEARD
Still alive 2002

Children of CLIVE BEARD are
 - i. CHRISTOPHER BEARD
Still alive 2002
 - ii. JENNIFER BEARD
Still alive 2002

Abraham John was a labourer, born in Wanstead in 1885. He apparently married Nellie May Swallow in Ford End in 1908 (although no entry in the Ford End parish registers has yet been found), and with her had at least five children; Charles Maxwell, also a labourer who married Emily Olive and had a daughter Rita Kate, who may also be alive today and who may have emigrated to America⁸⁵; Nellie May; Ernest George; William; and Sidney⁸⁶

⁸⁰ Janet Foley January 2002
⁸¹ Janet Foley, January 2002
⁸² Great Waltham census 1901
⁸³ Barnston bpatisms
⁸⁴ Janet Foley 13 June 2007
⁸⁵ Janet Foley, January 2002
⁸⁶ Janet Foley January 2002

There appears to have been some kind of family rift, as Abraham and Nellie split, Nellie taking Ernest, Nellie and Sidney with her to Chelmsford, and what became of Abraham and the other two boys is unknown⁸⁷ When son Ernest married he stated that Abraham was deceased, but given the apparent situation this may not have been true.

William or Bill Beard "used to have or drive a farm lorry with the name Beard printed on it"⁸⁸, so perhaps he was in business in some fashion.

⁸⁷ Janet Foley, January 2002

⁸⁸ Janet Foley, January 2002