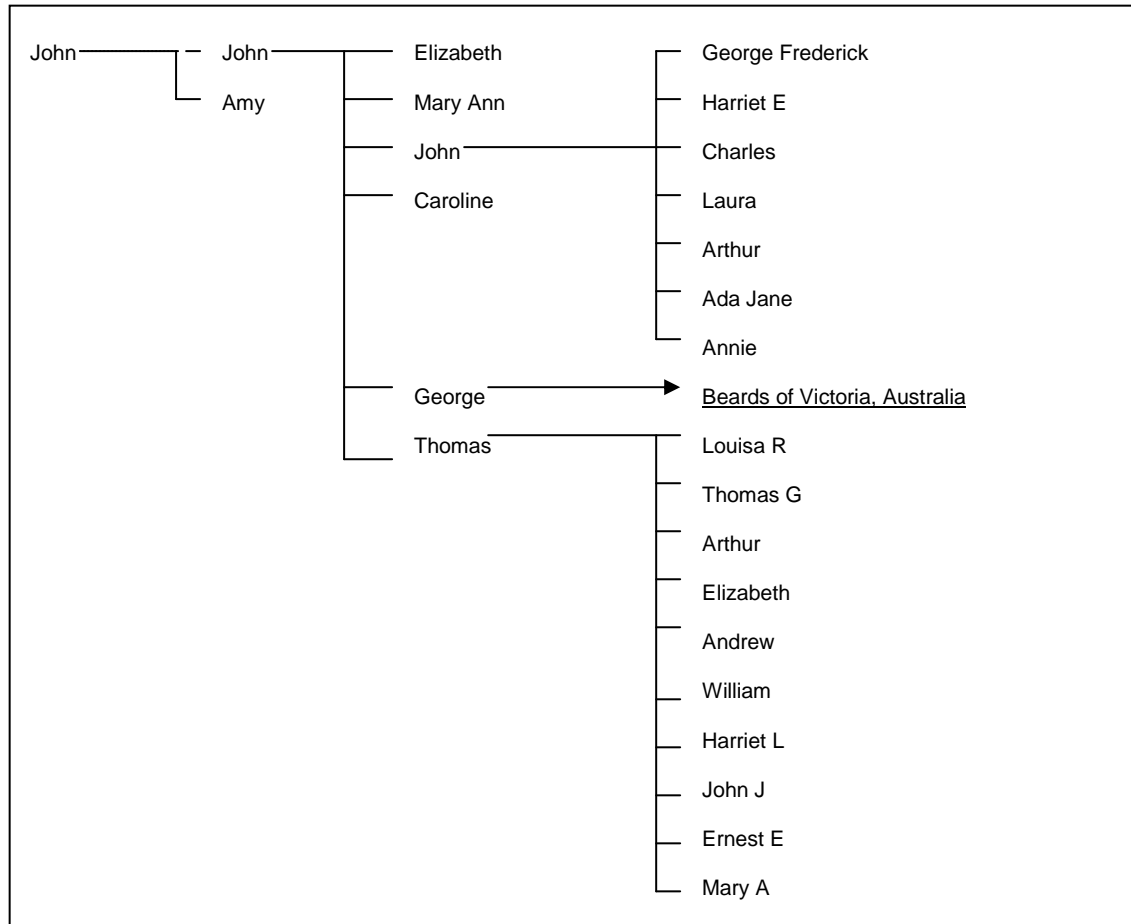


Descendants of John of Great Braxted, 1766 to 1901



This family tree was compiled primarily on the basis of work conducted by Lilius Goddard, Elaine Kranjc and Nathan Watkins; Nathan has published a considerable amount of information about the family on the web¹. The family issues from Great Braxted, moves to Great Totham and then splinters into three fragments; one group who remain in Great Totham but seem on the whole to gravitate towards London; a second group who move to Kent; and a third group who emigrate to Australia.

Family lore has it that “*the name Beard had its origins in France, being derived from ‘Bayard’... Olive Warren (from the Jarvis family, she lived to be over 100) remembered that Mary Ann [Beard] had recounted to her how the Bayards escaped from France during the French Revolution. Once in England the anglicised their name for anonymity and lived in the lodge of a friend who had an estate in England - a Mr Du Cane...the property was called “Greenleaves” and was at Wickham Bishops in Essex. After the Revolution, the family was too late in returning to France to claim their property, which had been acquired by the Revolutionary Government*”.²

¹ http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.html by Nathan Watkins

² Correspondence between Elaine Kranjc and Joyce Smith, 29 October 2001

Certainly Great Braxted was the seat of the Du Cane family who held the local manor. The Du Canes – or the “Du Quesne” family as they were originally called - emigrated from the Low Countries in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to avoid the persecution of the Duke of Alva, governor of the Netherlands, c.1570³. This was some 200 years ahead of the putative arrival of the Bayards in England but possibly as fellow nonconformists the Bayards gravitated towards the already established community in their new home and made connections that way. The "Article of Agreement for the Commutation of Tithes of the Parish of Great Braxted Confirmed by the Tithe Commissioners" shows Beards Farm, rent £43 0s 8p, occupier John Beard, 133 acres, landowner Peter Du Cane⁴, so that part of the story at least is substantiated.

Its not currently know whose Johns parents were, but there was a John Beards (born 1766) and daughter Amy Beards (b.1789) living in Great Braxted in 1841⁵ who I have tentatively inserted into the tree summary above. By 1841 the oldest proven family member (John of Braxted b.1796) had moved to Great Totham, but quite possibly these are his father and sister. Note the name “Beards” is used as opposed to “Beard” which may hint at a connection with the Beards of Stoke by Nayland.

³ *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, by Bernard Burke 1862

⁴ *Great Braxted 1086 - 1957* by W A Gimson (J.H.Clarke & Co Ltd, Chelmsford 1958)

⁵ Census of Great Braxted 1841

1. John of Great Braxted

John (aka George) Beard (b Great Braxted 1796) married Sarah (aka Jane) (b.Great Braxted 1796). Sarah was probably a Chaplin, Born 12th of July 1801⁶, died 7th of January 1844 in Great Totham⁷. They were married on 9th of November 1820⁸. Both were living in Great Totham between 1841 ("Flaggy Bottom")⁹ and 1851 ("Near The Pottery")¹⁰; John was described as a wheelwright¹¹. John died on 25th of June 1854 in Great Totham¹².

Children of John and Sarah were:

- i. Elizabeth Beard. Born in Great Totham c.1827¹³
- ii. Mary Ann Beard. Born in Great Totham c.1829¹⁴. Mary married husbandman John Jarvis (in Maldon; he was born in 1827 in Great Totham) and emigrated to Geelong, Victoria State, Australia with their two children on the "Hope" in 1852¹⁵. Died 1914)
- iii. John Beard. Born in Great Totham c.1832¹⁶. See 2a. John of Great Totham
- iv. Caroline Beard. Born in Great Totham c.1834¹⁷. Unmarried and still living with father in 1851¹⁸
- v. George Beard Born in Great Totham c.1837¹⁹. Unmarried and still living with father in 1851²⁰. George apparently put his age up to qualify for immigration and ran away from home²¹. Travelled to Australia on the "Constitution" which arrived in Manly, New South Wales on the 27th of May 1855. An outbreak of smallpox occurred onboard the ship, 14 died and the ship was quarantined. On arrival in Australia Georges religion was recorded as 'Independent'²³. After arriving in Manly, "George left for the goldfields of New Zealand. He found enough gold to later have made into a brooch for his wife. It is believed that he was nearly swept away by a flash flood while sleeping in what had been a dry river bed. He left New Zealand on the "Versailles" in 1862 to come to Port Philip, and then stayed with his sister Mary in Geelong. In 1873 he married Ann Collyer at Colac. They moved to Dooboobetic. Later they moved to land at Mount Hoogley near Dunolly in Victoria. In later years George was a Baker at Vermont on the outskirts of Melbourne. George & Ann were buried in the Box-Hill Cemetery"²⁴
- vi. Thomas Beard. Born in Great Totham c.1841²⁵. See 2b Thomas of Plumstead

⁶ http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm by Nathan Watkins

⁷ http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm by Nathan Watkins

⁸ http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm by Nathan Watkins

⁹ 1841 Census of Great Totham

¹⁰ 1851 Census of Great Totham

¹¹ 1851 Census of Great Totham

¹² http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm by Nathan Watkins

¹³ 1841 Census of Great Totham

¹⁴ 1841 Census of Great Totham

¹⁵ Ian Berwick

¹⁶ 1841 Census of Great Totham

¹⁷ 1841 Census of Great Totham

¹⁸ 1851 Census of Great Totham

¹⁹ 1841 Census of Great Totham

²⁰ 1851 Census of Great Totham

²¹ Post by Nathan Watkins on Rootsweb 24 October 2005 nathanwatkins173@hotmail.com

²² http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm by Nathan Watkins

²³ Post by Nathan Watkins on Rootsweb 24 October 2005 nathanwatkins173@hotmail.com

²⁴ http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm by Nathan Watkins

²⁵ 1841 Census of Great Totham

2a. John of Great Totham

Born in Great Totham c.1832²⁶. An unmarried agricultural labour still living with his father in 1851²⁷. John Beard married Caroline (born in 1834 –in Rivenhall? ²⁸) and was living in Great Totham in 1861²⁹ and 1871³⁰

Children of John and Sarah were:

- i. George Frederick Beard. Born 1857³¹ in Heybridge³²
- ii. Harriet E Beard. Born 1859³³ in "South Wakendon"³⁴
- iii. Charles Beard. Born 1862³⁵
- iv. Laura Beard. Born 1864³⁶
- v. Arthur Beard. Born 1868³⁷. Living in Battersea in 1901, a 'wine and spirit charman'³⁸
- vi. Ada Jane Beard. Born in Great Totham in 1870³⁹ Working as a corset maker in Paddington in 1901⁴⁰
- vi. Annie Beard. Born 1873 and working as a domestic servant in Paddington by 1901⁴¹

²⁶ 1841 Census of Great Totham

²⁷ 1851 Census of Great Totham

²⁸ "http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm" by Nathan Watkins

²⁹ 1861 Census of Great Totham

³⁰ 1871 Census of Great Totham

³¹ 1871 Census of Great Totham

³² "http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm" by Nathan Watkins

³³ 1871 Census of Great Totham

³⁴ "http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm" by Nathan Watkins

³⁵ 1871 Census of Great Totham

³⁶ 1871 Census of Great Totham

³⁷ 1871 Census of Great Totham

³⁸ 1901 Census of London

³⁹ 1871 Census of Great Totham

⁴⁰ 1901 Census of London

⁴¹ 1901 Census of London

2b. Thomas of Plumstead

Born in Great Totham c.1841⁴². Unmarried and still living with father in 1851⁴³. Married a Rebecca from Woolwich circa 1863⁴⁴. Living at 96 Maxey Road, Plumstead, Kent in 1891 and 1901⁴⁵. William was a 'fitter and turner', retired by 1901⁴⁶

Children of Thomas and Rebecca were:

- i. Louisa R Beard - Born 1864 in Plumstead, Kent⁴⁷
- ii. Thomas G Beard - Born 1865 in Plumstead, Kent⁴⁸
- iii. Arthur Beard - Born 1866 in Plumstead, Kent⁴⁹
- iv. Elizabeth Beard - Born 1867 in Plumstead, Kent⁵⁰
- v. Andrew Beard - Born 1869 in Plumstead, Kent⁵¹
- vi. William W Beard - Born 1872 in Plumstead, Kent⁵²
- vii. Harriet L Beard - Born 1874 in Plumstead, Kent⁵³
- viii. John J Beard - Born 1876 in Plumstead, Kent⁵⁴
- ix. Ernest E Beard - Born 1877 in Plumstead, Kent⁵⁵
- x. Mary A Beard - Born 1879 in Plumstead, Kent⁵⁶

⁴² 1841 Census of Great Totham

⁴³ 1851 Census of Great Totham

⁴⁴ "http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm" by Nathan Watkins

⁴⁵ "http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nathanwatkins/beard_family_tree.htm" by Nathan Watkins

⁴⁶ 1901 Census of London

⁴⁷ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁴⁸ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁴⁹ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁵⁰ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁵¹ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁵² Census of Plumstead 1881

⁵³ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁵⁴ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁵⁵ Census of Plumstead 1881

⁵⁶ Census of Plumstead 1881