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HallPridgeon0609
1 November 2006

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

OBJECTIVES

- Extend the pedigrees of Thomas Hall and Matilda Pridgeon.

RESULTS

- Identified Thomas Loughton as the biological father of the ancestral Thomas Hall. He was born in Fleet, Lincolnshire on 27 October 1794, the son of Thomas Loughton and Bridget Lefever.
- Found the baptism of Bridget Lefever in Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire on 10 March 1776. She was the daughter of John and Mary Lefever.
- Identified the marriage of George and Ann Forman Hall on 10 May 1799 in Weston, Lincolnshire.
- Located another daughter born to George and Ann Hall who was named Ann and was baptized 22 June 1799 in Weston, Lincolnshire.
- Located the baptism of Ann Forman in the parish of Gedney-Hill, Lincolnshire on 23 May 1779. She was the daughter of William Forman and Hannah Witno, who were married at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire on 6 December 1761.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Further research could be done to locate Thomas Loughton, Sr. His place of birth is currently unknown as well as his first marriage.
2. The Lefever line could likely be extended further once the marriage of John and Mary is located.
3. George Hall was about twenty years older than Ann Forman and has been found to have married before his marriage to Ann. Additional work may reveal his first marriage and his christening.
4. It is possible the Forman and Witno lines could be furthered if the records of Sutton St. Edmunds are examined for an earlier time period.

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RESEARCH REPORT

The objective of this research session was to extend the lines of Thomas Hall and Matilda Pridgeon. The first line of interest was that of the Loughton family, followed by the Hall, Pridgeon and Dodd lines. Time was given to the Loughton and Hall lines during this session.

Loughton

Previous research had identified that Thomas Hall was an illegitimate child born to Mary Hall. Through correspondence with the Lincolnshire Archives, a search of the Bastardy Bonds of the parish of Weston revealed the biological father as Thomas Loughton, a farmer of Fleet (a parish about five miles from Weston) [documents #30-31]. A search in the *International Genealogical Index* listed two possible baptism entries for Thomas Loughton [documents #32-33]:

Thomas Lawton baptized 7 November 1794 at Fleet, Lincolnshire son of Thomas Lawton and Bridget Lefevre.

Thomas Lowton baptized 6 March 1805 at Gedney, Lincolnshire son of Henry and Mary Lowton.

Though the Thomas baptized in Fleet seemed like the best candidate, the other Thomas Lowton needed to be examined as well, since Gedney parish was right next to Fleet. The *International Genealogical Index* listed a submission for the family of Thomas Lawton and Bridget Lefevre [document #1]. The original parish registers of Fleet were examined to verify what had been found in the *International Genealogical Index* and the following entries were located [document #2]:

Thomas son of Bridget Lefever, a bastard by Thomas Lawton Sr. born 27 October 1794 and baptized 17 November 1794 [see also document #11].

Thomas Lawton, widower and Bridget Lefever spinster married 26 June 1795 [see also document #12].

Samuel son of Thomas and Bridget Laughton born 25 February 1801, baptized 1 November 1801.

Michael son of Thomas and Bridget Lawton died at the Workhouse, age 2, 14 January 1801, buried 17 January 1801.

Jashebed (otherwise Bridget) Lawton, widow died in the poorhouse. She was married to her late husband Thomas Lawton, deceased by the name of Bridget Lefevre, age 27 died 28 May 1803 and buried 30 May 1803 [see also document #13].

Samuel son of Thomas and Bridget Laughton, deceased age 5 died 30 March 1806 and buried 31 March 1806.

The parish registers revealed a rather sad story about this family. Thomas and Bridget had their son Thomas prior to their marriage, then apparently had two other sons (Michael and Samuel). Their son Michael died first in 1801 and was followed by Thomas Sr. Bridget died in the poorhouse in 1803 which would have left Thomas Jr. and Samuel orphaned. Samuel died in 1806 leaving Thomas Jr. the only living member of his family. It is somewhat questionable that a poor orphan boy later grew up to become a farmer. The family was obviously plagued with financial problems as they were in the workhouse and since Thomas was orphaned it seems his chances for a better life would have been somewhat slim. However, it is possible he was raised by relatives or another family who were farmers and provided him with circumstances better than what he was born into.

The second Thomas was next examined through a search of the parish registers of Gedney. Four entries were found pertaining to his family [document #3]:

Sophia daughter of Mary Nidd, reputed daughter of Henry Lowton baptized 3 January 1804.

Henry Laughton of Gedney, Bachelor and Mary Nidd of the same parish, spinster, widow married by license 28 December 1804.

Thomas son of Henry and Mary Lowton baptized 6 March 1805.

Sophia Nid age 7 buried 22 November 1810.

No obvious clues were found in these records to eliminate one of the contending Thomas Loughtons. One idea was pursued which involved the Overseer Accounts of the parish of Fleet.

It was hoped that since records existed in Weston mentioning Thomas Loughton's financial support for his child from 1827-1834 [document #31] that corresponding entries would be found in Fleet. Unfortunately the Fleet Overseer Accounts no longer exist for the years needed [document #4].

Further research revealed that the family of Henry and Mary Loughton also showed up in the parish of Sutton St. James having three additional children. These registers were searched and the resulting entries mentioned that Henry and Mary were of Gedney parish [document #5].

Next, probate records were searched to see if either Thomas Loughton, Sr. or Henry Loughton left wills that may list valuable information to help solve the dilemma. The will indexes only listed one applicable Loughton will, that of William Loughton of Gedney in 1831 [document #6]. The original will was examined and he was found to have had three sons, William, Henry and James, all under age twenty-five. The family does not appear to be ancestral at this time.

Research next turned to British Census records and in 1851 the Thomas Loughton born in Gedney was located in the parish of Gedney [document #7]:

Locality	1851, Gedney, Lincolnshire, England; Piece#2097 Folio#386					
Name	Rel	Age & Sex		Status	Occupation	Birthplace
Thomas Loughton	Head	46	M	M	Ag Laborer	Gedney, Lincolnshire
Happy Loughton	Wife	45	F	M		Loughton, Lincolnshire
William Loughton	Son	18	M	Un	Ag Laborer	Haney in the Tole, Lincolnshire
John Loughton	Son	13	M		Ag Laborer	Sheffield, Yorkshire
Elizabeth Loughton	Dau	12	F			Baghton, Yorkshire
Henry Loughton	Son	10	M		Scholar	Gladeless, Yorkshire
Thomas Loughton	Son	8	M		Scholar	Holbeach, Lincolnshire

This census shows that the family moved around quite a bit throughout Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. They were again located in the 1841 Census living in the West Riding of Yorkshire [document #8]:

Locality	1841, Handworth, Yorkshire, England; Piece#1331 Folio#1 Folio#8				
Name	Age & Sex		Occupation	Born in County	Foreign Birth
Thomas Laughton	35	M	Ag Laborer	No	
Happy Laughton	35	F		No	
William Laughton	8	M		No	
John Laughton	2	M		Yes	
Elizabeth Laughton	16 M	F		No	
Henry Laughton	3 M	M		Yes	

We searched for the marriage of Thomas and Happy Laughton and found it in the parish of Doncaster, Yorkshire [document #9-10]:

Thomas Loughton of this parish and Happy Histrep of this parish were married in this church by Banns the sixteenth of July 1823 by me J. W. Gleadall. This marriage was solemnized between us Thomas Loughton (signed) and Happy Hilstrep (mark) in the presence of G. W. Harmon and George Hatfield

From the evidence obtained it appears this Thomas Loughton was moving around throughout the region during his early years. Thomas Hall's biological father seems to have been living in Fleet during the years 1827-1834. We know that the Thomas who was born in Gedney married in 1832 in Yorkshire, which seems to suggest that he was not at all connected with the ancestral Thomas Hall. Also, his family never seems to have had residence in Fleet as they remained in the Gedney/Sutton St. James area. It is believed, therefore, that the ancestral Thomas Loughton is the one who was born at Fleet in 1794.

Research next moved to the family of Thomas and Bridget Loughton. It was learned from the marriage of Thomas and Bridget that Thomas was a widower. Further searching in Fleet registers did not reveal the burial of a first wife nor the previous marriage record. In fact, the *International Genealogical Index* shows no other possible marriages for a Thomas Loughton in Lincolnshire. It is therefore possible that Thomas may have come from a neighboring county, perhaps Norfolk or Cambridgeshire. The search for his first marriage can continue in the future, if desired.

A christening was sought for Bridget Lefever and nothing was found under that name; however, her burial entry read “Joshebed, otherwise Bridget Lawton.” Joshebed would have been a variant spelling of the Biblical name Jochobed. A search for this name did in fact reveal the following christening in the parish of Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire [document #14]:

March 10, 1776 Jochebed, daughter of John and Mary Lefever

Whaplode Drove is a parish very close to Fleet. The Whaplode Drove registers showed the following additional children belonging to John and Mary Lefever [document #15]:

John baptized 7 July 1756

John baptized 14 May 1759 (buried 9 October 1759)

Jane baptized 19 January 1761

Frances baptized 10 October 1763

Elizabeth baptized 3 March 1765

John baptized 24 August 1766

William baptized 23 November 1770

Rebecca baptized 30 January 1774

A burial entry for Mary Lefever was also found on 13 January 1798. She was sixty-seven years old.

A quick search in the *International Genealogical Index* did not reveal a close match for the marriage record of John and Mary. Further searching could be done to locate this record and possibly extend the line further.

Hall

The last research session for the Hall family ended with the discovery of Mary Hall as the daughter of George and Ann Hall. The first priority during this search was to locate the marriage of George and Ann. The *International Genealogical Index* revealed a marriage between a

George Hall and Ann Forman taking place on 10 May 1799 in Weston parish [document #16]. During previous research, the burial of George Hall was supposedly found in Spalding parish on 11 January 1827. George was listed as age forty-three and since Ann Hall was found to have removed to Spalding to live with her daughter Lucy, it seemed that this entry did pertain to the ancestor. If George were forty-three in 1827, his birth year would have been about 1783, which would have placed him at age sixteen if he married in 1799. It did not seem, therefore, that this marriage could have belonged to the ancestral couple unless the age was reported wrong in the burial record. This was actually a very common occurrence and so, due to a lack of other possible candidates, this couple was further examined.

Since Ann Hall had been located in the 1861 Census, it was hoped that she would also be located in 1851. The following woman was found in Spalding parish and, after further research continued, was determined to be the ancestress [document #17]:

Locality	1851, Spalding, Lincolnshire, England; Piece#2096 Folio#544					
Name	Rel	Age & Sex		Status	Occupation	Birthplace
Sarah McKlery	Head	64	F	Wid	Ammuitant	Barbery, Hampshire
Ann Hall	Nurse	71	F	Wid	Nurse	Sutton St. Edmunds, Lincolnshire

In order to determine if this was the correct Ann Hall, a search was first made in the *International Genealogical Index* to locate possible christenings for Ann Forman who married George Hall. One intriguing entry listed an Ann Foreman baptized 23 May 1779 in Gedney-Hill (Gedney-Hill is next to Sutton St. Edmunds).

Next, a search was made in the extracted batch list for the parish registers of Sutton St. Edmunds. All Anns or Hannahs who were born between 1774 and 1784 were examined, a total of seven [document #18]. These entries were then checked in the *International Genealogical Index* to see if any of them married a Hall. None of them did, making it more probable that the aforementioned Ann Hall was in fact Ann Forman who married George Hall in 1799. A search was made for the original marriage record, which reads as follows [document #19]:

*George Hall of this parish, widower and Ann Forman of the same parish, spinster were married in this church by Banns this tenth day of May in the year 1799 by me J. Mills.
This marriage was solemnized between us George Hall (signed) and Ann Forman (mark)
in the presence of Wiliam Rutlinger and John Shepherd*

The baptism registers show no other George Halls having children in Weston parish and a closer look at the baptism registers revealed the baptism of another child of the ancestral George Hall which had not been located during the last search [document #21]:

Ann daughter of George and Ann Hall baptized 22 June 1799

Since this birth was only a month after the marriage, it was strong evidence to link this couple with the children who had all been previously identified. Further research in the Weston registers also revealed the following burial entry [document #20]:

George Hall of Weston buried 27 June 1830, age 71

This was quite an interesting discovery as it had been assumed that the burial record for George had been located in Spalding parish. The *International Genealogical Index* showed that there was indeed another George Hall living in Spalding. A George Hall married Mary Hinson on 12 July 1804 at Spalding [document #22a] and they had the following children [document #22b]:

Cornelius baptized 4 January 1805

Cornelius baptized 26 September 1806

Mary Ann born 22 April 1808, baptized 23 April 1808

Susannah born 22 May 1810, baptized 22 June 1810

Susannah born 2 July 1812, baptized 5 July 1812

It became obvious that the burial entry in 1827 could have concerned this George Hall and not the father of Mary Hall. A search was made in the probate records for wills of both Georges. The only one found was for George Hall of Spalding, probated in 1827. This will does reference the man buried there on 11 January 1827 and the will listed his wife Mary, son

Cornelius and other minor children [document #25a-c]. This will was vital in proving that the George Hall buried in 1827 is not the ancestral George. It was then apparent that the ancestral burial entry was the one in Weston parish in 1830.

If George was about seventy-one years old in 1830, his birth would have been in about 1759, making him nearly twenty years older than his wife, Ann. However, this is not improbable as George Hall was a widower at the time he married Ann Forman. Research in the Weston registers did not reveal a definite match for the burial of George's first wife, but there was an entry concerning a Mary Hall, age forty-six, buried 27 July 1798 [document #21]. It is possible that because the burial took place one year prior to his remarriage that this is George's first wife; however, her age would have made her nearly ten years senior to George. This is not impossible, but somewhat unlikely. It is possible that her age was incorrect and there is some evidence to support that George's first wife may have been named Mary.

In the Bishop's Transcripts of Weston, which were copies of the original parish registers, the baptismal entry for George and Ann's daughter Ann reads thus [document #23]:

*Ann daughter of George and **Mary** Hall baptized June 22, 1799*

Since the parish registers recorded the parents as George and Ann for the same child on the same date, we can assume that that refers to the same event. It is suggested that the parish priest made a mistake when copying the transcripts and may have accidentally wrote "Mary" thinking of George's first wife. After all, she would have only been dead a year.

Another mistake was found in the Bishop's Transcripts concerning the baptism of the ancestress Mary Hall. The record read [document #24]:

*Ann daughter of George and **Mary** Hall baptized September 3, 1805*

Once again, since the original parish registers list "Mary daughter of George and Ann Hall," we can assume that the Bishop's Transcript refers to the ancestral entry. Whether the

priest was again referencing George's first wife or simply transposing the names Ann and Mary is unknown. We do know that George Hall was married prior to Ann Forman and that he was nearly twenty years her senior. Further research will be needed in order to locate his christening and first marriage.

Research then turned to the Forman line in hopes of better proving that Ann Forman really was the ancestress. Her baptism was found in the registers of Gedney-Hill and provided the following information [document #26]:

May 23, 1779 Ann daughter of William and Hannah Forman of St. Edmunds

It should be noted that this entry listed the family's place of residence as St. Edmunds! This corresponds perfectly with Ann's birthplace in the 1851 Census. Other children were born to William and Hannah Forman as well [document #27]:

John baptized 27 February 1763

Mary baptized 9 June 1765

William baptized 16 January 1769

Hannah baptized 9 June 1775

All of these baptismal entries said that the Forman's were of St. Edmunds. The registers of St. Edmunds were searched to see if any other children had been missed and also to see if burial entries could be found. The burial of William Forman was found [document #28a]:

22 November 1795, William Forman, Laborer aged 58 years

There was also a burial for an Ann Formen of Lutton Gate which took place 25 February 1790 [document #28b]. This could be Hannah Forman, as Lutton Gate was a small village in St. Edmunds on the border of Gedney-Hill. It would make sense that the Formans lived here and that they found the church at Gedney-Hill closer to attend and baptize their children.

The final search entailed the marriage of William and Hannah Forman. The marriage was located in the parish of Long Sutton, Lincolnshire [document #29]:

William Forman of the parish of St. Edmonds, Batchelor and Hannah Witno of the parish aforesaid, Spinster, were married in this church by Banns this sixth day of December 1761 by me R. Haygarth, curate of Lutton. This marriage solemnized between us William Forman (mark) and Hannah Witno (mark) in the presence of mark Forman (mark), Wiliam Sollarfon and Mary Buck (mark)

In summary, the efforts of this research session have been very fruitful and not only have many new pieces of information been discovered, but doors have also been opened which have made further research possible. The biological father of Thomas Hall has been identified as Thomas Loughton of the parish of Fleet. His parents were found to be Thomas Loughton and Jochobed, otherwise known as Bridget, Lefever, whose parents were John Lefever and Mary. On the Hall line, the marriage of George Hall and Ann was found, which revealed Ann's maiden name as Forman. Her parents were identified as William Forman and Hannah Witno. Future research appears promising in extension of the Loughton, Forman, and Witno lines. The first marriages of Thomas Loughton, Sr. and George Hall could also be sought during a future session.

It has been a privilege to work on your Hall and Loughton ancestry. We look forward to being of continued assistance and furthering research according to your instructions.

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