

# The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

January 2002  
Edition 9

## Josephine Butler and the Contagious Diseases Acts

Josephine Butler is famous for her work on behalf of Women's Rights, especially for her campaign in the 1870's and 1880's against the Contagious Diseases Acts. These compelled forcible examinations of women involved in prostitution. Other issues were child prostitution and the trade in women for commercial sexual exploitation. An excellent new biography of her life and work, written by Jane Jordan, and published by John Murray, London, has just been published to critical acclaim.

Benjamin Lucraft, the chair-maker and radical politician was a supporter of her cause, and held office in one of her support groups. In my family study records are cuttings from the newspaper of the movement, the National League Journal from 1877 – 1883. Day by day and week by week you can track where Benjamin and the other advocates of the cause were speaking at public meetings, holding committee meetings and the debates they had about tactics. He became one of the Hon. Secs. of the National Council of the Working Men's National League (WMNL). One report of a speech he made says he described the CD Acts as 'the very worst class of party legislation,' saying to working men who were mostly too embarrassed to discuss sexually transmitted diseases, that 'it is YOUR sisters, YOUR daughters, that these acts are designed to entrap – to make use of. Not only for the army, not only for the common soldiers, but for the "officers and gentlemen".'

In 1866 Ben had travelled to Geneva for the Congress of the First International, as a representative of the London Trades Council. In 1868 he went to Nuremberg Congress of the League of German Workers, and spoke about peace, and against standing armies. In July 1877 Ben was invited onto the National Council of the WMNL and spoke regularly at their meetings, often chairing them. In 1878 he went to Paris for the Peace Congress as a representative of the Workman's Peace Association, and by late 1878 had been selected as an independent working men's candidate for the seat of Tower Hamlets in the general election to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1880.

Jane Jordan, in her readable and fascinating book writes: 'Josephine saw all three of her sons in London in early 1879. She had an appointment on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, to meet Benjamin Scott, George Gillet and a number of Quaker bankers described by Josephine as 'grey beards', who wished to discuss the candidature



of Benjamin Lucraft, a working man, cabinet maker, and a leading member of the WMNL, for the Tower Hamlets constituency at the next general election. An opening prayer was proposed and they all dropped to their knees. George Gillet was just offering a special prayer for Josephine, 'when the door silently opened & in crept Stanley [her son aged about 25, back from college ed.] looking half afraid.' Gillet explained to the gentlemen that this was Mrs Butler's son, 'and the grey beards assented by a subdued tapping of feet and umbrellas on the floor',

In Liverpool University Library, among the Butler archives, there is this extract of a letter of 15<sup>th</sup> March 1879 by Josephine Butler....

*'I have been composing...an address to the King of the Belgians, which is to be presented to him on Tuesday next at the Guildhall ... we are asking him to abolish the regulations of vice in his own Country ... on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup>, I went ... to a working men's meeting in the City to try & support Lucraft's election at the Tower Hamlets ... the working men's league for appeal assisted by the Quakers, have determined upon concentrating their forces on a prominent borough at the next general election & and making it a battle field for a repeal candidate....'*

Benjamin also went to the Annual Federation congress in Liege, Belgium in August 1879, where his speech was translated for the conference by Emilie, Madame de Morsier, a Paris delegate, sentence by sentence as he went along. The photo at the head of this article is reported as of the delegation to the 1877 conference. Josephine Butler is 3<sup>rd</sup> from left on front row. We do not have definite knowledge of whether Benjamin went in 1877, but the man on the extreme left of the photo looks just like the other photo we have of him. This photo is taken from Jane Jordan's book, and is from the Women's Library, formerly the Fawcett Library.

## 1673 Inquest in New England

The genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire records an inquest into the death of John Ellis, to which Walter Luckraft was a witness.

*Inquest : John Ellis, 13<sup>th</sup> September 1673.  
John Ellis, James Skate, George Ford, Walter Luckraft, Edward Skate and Hanca, a Negro, were nere the house of Caleb Beck. James Skate and his son were taking leave of the rest, who had been drinking flip (a quart of rum, mixed with water or beer), and Lodowick Fowler had been drinking with them but now "being of the watch came up the lane after them." Fowler's gun went off, shooting Ellis in the leg so that he [unknown word] died. Fowler was indicted and convicted in Boston. Evidence sworn before Richard Cutt. Coroner's Jury.*

## Web Searches

The Internet continues to generate a number of snippets:

The Daily Telegraph of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1961 records "In Memoriam : Elizabeth Caroline Lucraft, In loving memory of Mother, Muriel and Floe." [ed. Any ideas about this one? I've got records for Muriel and Floe daughters of Benjamin Lucraft and Lillian Lucraft nee Hickman, and there was also an Elizabeth Caroline Lucraft, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lucraft, baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1825 in Exeter; but neither of these fit.]

Frederick Arthur George Lucraft is recorded on page 192 of a book "Australia's Fighting Sons of the Empire 1914 – 1918" published in 1920 in the Western Histories and Biographies listing. Does anyone know of this book? [ed. F.A.G. Lucraft was born in Australia in 1892, the son of Arthur Lucraft, Wood Merchant and Preacher. Fred Arthur was born in Hoxton in 1867, the son of George Lucraft and Elizabeth Clarke, on Tree G for those with a set of the trees.] Fred's descendants are still around in Australia.

There is also an extract of church records from 1917, showing that "Brother A Lucraft" is appointed to a committee of Christian patriots in Australia. I'm sure this is the same Arthur Lucraft as above.

Gladys Lucraft, born Gladys Edith Rose Steward in 1897 in Rotherhithe, is reported by one Australian site to be nominated for the "Western Australia Women's Roll of Honour". She was nominated by the Western Australia 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Board for her work as a Braille translator. The citation records that she was an active community worker, involved for over 25 years as a volunteer Braille translator, who transcribed over 700 books, mainly educational and school textbooks. She was the founder of the Royal Perth Hospital Volunteer Car Transport Service. [ed. Gladys was married to the older brother of Arthur mentioned above, one Harry Stephenson Lucraft a renowned doctor in Australia. Gladys

has a special place for me, as we have created a community transport scheme here in Sheffield and it's still going strong nearly 30 years later with two new disabled access buses.]

The Wheaton family website lists a Joseph Lucraft, born about 1829, as marrying Susan Wheaton. In 1851 he was living with Susan Wheaton, the widow of Philip Wheaton at Tithing, Newton Poppleford, Devon, where Joseph was a carpenter. He also has a possible Aylesbeare listing. [ed. Several possible Joseph's. Any ideas, anyone?]

The Police Orders for the London Metropolitan Police Office of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 1861 show that one Police Constable 196 Luckraft is recorded among 10 others as resigning from the force, and paid up to the 12<sup>th</sup>. [ed. Who is this?]

The Exeter records show that a Joseph Luckraft, in the year 1780, subscribed to a local publication. "Life Reviewed" was a poem, founded on reflections upon the silent inhabitants of the Churchyard of Truro Cornwall. To which is added An elegy on the late Rev Mr Samuel Walker, who was for many years curate of that Borough. By Elizabeth Smith, 1789, Exeter.

Daniel Gendron in Quebec is looking for information about a Joseph Lucraft who married Zoe Charron, and I haven't been able to help yet. Joseph was said to have been married in New York when he died in 1893. His son, Joseph-Michel Lucraft married Priscille Thibault in Quebec. There is then a man variously called Alfred Marion in Canada and Alfred, or Fred Lucraft in the US, who is believed to be Joseph's grandson. This Alfred married Denise Dubois about 1880, and she died in Colebrook New Hampshire in 1892. Alfred is believed to have had children called Abel and Lucien [ed. Any ideas, anyone ?]

## Nelson Loucraft

The Lucraft website generates a few enquiries to me each year about Lucrafts and their variants. Here's a fascinating one from Maria Loucraft in Florida.

My grandfather was Nelson Joseph Loucraft, born 1869 in Colebrook, New Hampshire, USA. His parents were Nelson Loucraft and Nancy Haulte(o)n. Our family has heard that the name was changed upon entry to the US by our ancestors. We believe this because there are very few Loucrafts in the US. Nelson Joseph Loucraft had children by the name of Ana Maria, Jose Francisco, Robert Jorge, Carlos Thomas, Augustin, Daniel and Gilberto (my father). These children were born in Cuba. I have heard that Nelson Joseph's brothers were named Francis, George and Charles. The history is hazy at this point because we are going back to the 1860's and 1870's. Our family believes that the Loucraft's came to the US via Canada, from England, but were of Dutch descent.

[ed. I think this is the same family as Daniel Gendron is looking for, see above, but have not been able to make any connections with anything else yet. Four sons named Nelson Joseph, Francis, George and Charles suggests an English descent?]

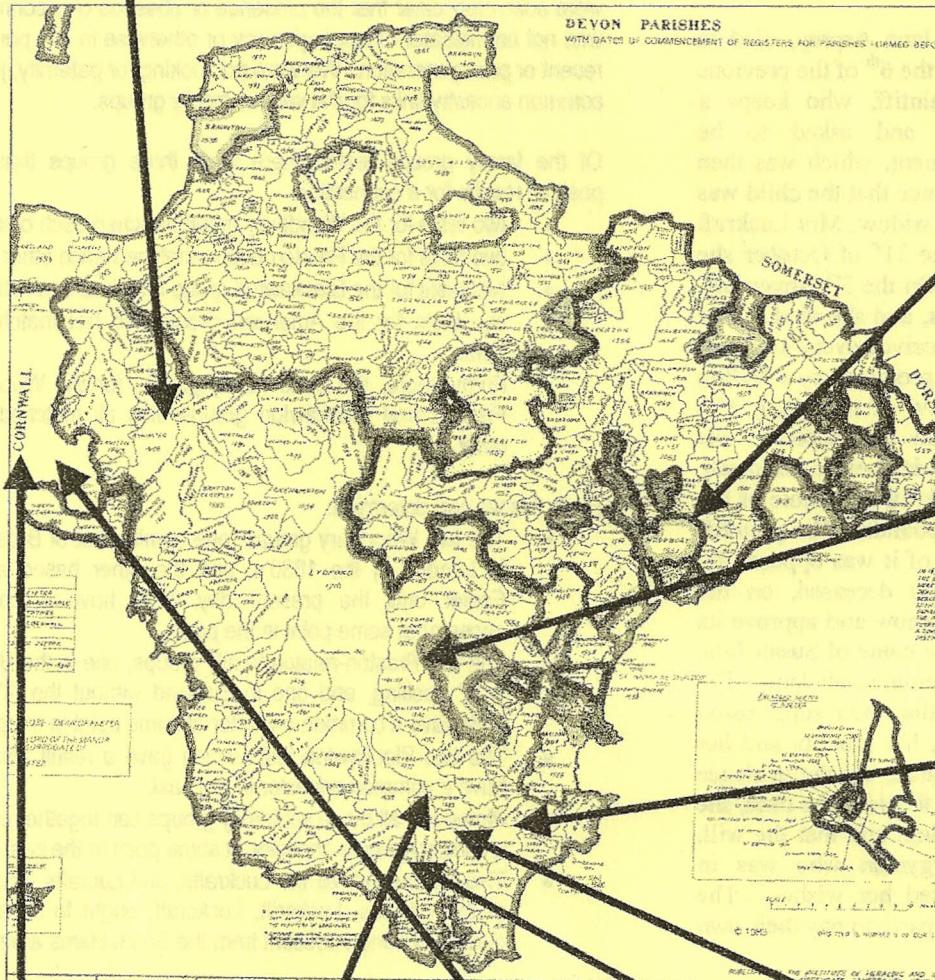
Another web-hit may relate to this family. The University of Massachusetts Lowell Library shows a list of marriages reported in the Lowell Sunday telegram, a local newspaper, for 1915. Among them is one for Francis J Loucraft, aged 39, marrying Catherine Charlton aged 28, (no date given). This looks like it could be the child Jose Francisco referred to in the piece above.

# Locations for the Luc(k)raft DNA Study

The first known reference is to  
Richard de Loccroft 1332  
Ashwater, Black Torrington

Each Location has a tree reference, e.g., A, or KB, followed by the name of the person tested, and the number on their test sample.

**Lucraft trees, A,B,C, MH are all connected. The others are family groups which have not been connected by historical research as yet.**



A family had farmed for generations at Diftford:  
Luck, Edward Luckerift (129)

The American Locarts all originate from one man who left from Plymouth in around 1820;  
Loc, Tom Locraft, (67)

A family of unknown origins emerged from Plymouth in the 18<sup>th</sup> century:  
JM, Allan Montague Lucraft (122)

The spelling Lucraft normally derives from one family as follows:  
A, and B, for Ian Lucraft (68)  
A and C, for Jack E Lucraft (120), and MH for Michel J Lucraft (121) all originate from the villages around Woodbury

The trees for the family that moved to Preston and USA in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century originate in Dean Prior:  
P, Michael Lucraft (sic) (61)  
P, Henry Luckraft (126)

The trees for the family groups that come from around Blackawton include:  
K, James Luckraft (124)  
KB, Barry John Luckraft (64)  
Ph, Brian Luckraft (125)

There are numerous 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century family groups in the villages around Loddiswell and Blackawton, and to the sea on all sides, including:  
Lin, Terry Luckraft (123, whose family moved to Lincoln in the 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

Many generations of the same family have farmed the land around Aveton Gifford, including:  
AG, George Luckraft, (63)

Lea, Bertram Leacraft (127) is believed to have descended from one 16<sup>th</sup> cent sibling and Leay, Matthew Leaycraft (128) from the other 16<sup>th</sup> cent sibling.

AA Lea: Clinton Leacraft, (60) is believed to be descended from a slave owned by an ancestor of Bertram Leacraft above.

Ian Lucraft 1999, for the  
**Luc(k)raft One Name  
Study.**

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## Luckraft v. Asprey

The Times reported on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1880 a case of a disputed will. Sarah Jane Asprey (the testatrix) had died, while lodging with Mrs Luckraft (the plaintiff). Sarah was 40 years of age, and having a child out of wedlock.

Sarah's brothers, the defendants, had opposed the will Sarah made while dying at Mrs Luckraft's, and the case came to court in London. Here is the Times report; I leave you, the readers to make your own decisions. By the way, anyone any idea which "Mrs Luckraft"?

The testatrix in this cause, Sarah Jane Asprey, died in November last at the age of 40. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of the previous September she called on the plaintiff, who keeps a lodging house at Southampton, and asked to be accommodated during her confinement, which was then imminent. Satisfied with her assurance that the child was legitimate, and that she was then a widow, Mrs Luckraft accepted her as a lodger, and on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October she was delivered of a stillborn child. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, she was attacked with a fatal illness, and she died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same month. She had received every kindness and attention from the plaintiff, and prompted by a feeling of gratitude, and also with the view of recouping Mrs Luckraft for the disbursements on her account, she executed on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, the day before her death, a will by which she left to Mrs Luckraft the whole of her property, amounting to about 200 pounds. The plaintiff propounded the paper, and probate of it was opposed by the defendants, the brothers of the deceased, on the ground principally that she did not know and approve its contents. It was signed by her in the name of Susan Julia Asprey, her true Christian names being Sarah Jane. The circumstances of the case showed that their suppression was for the purposes of concealing her identity and her shame, she being an unmarried woman, but the evidence satisfied the Court that, though very feeble at the time, she was conscious of what she was doing, and that the will, which was prepared by the clergyman who was in attendance upon her, truly expressed her wishes. The Court pronounced for the will, each party to pay their own costs.

A sub-text to this report is that it appears next to two other reports in the same column of the paper. Luckraft is a fairly uncommon name, and yet the cases listed above and below this in the paper are related to two other family studies I've been doing.

Above is a report of an appeal against a verdict at Stafford Assizes. Thomas Sheldon fell down drunk and died. His family were claiming 1000 pounds of insurance. Sheldon is another uncommon name, and my wife's family were Sheldon's from Staffordshire.

The case below the Luckraft case is a matrimonial case between an elderly couple, Mr and Mrs Smithies of Oldham. She wanted a judicial separation and he wanted restitution of his conjugal rights. They both admitted the case was over money. She had thrown a bag of flour over him and he had thrown a sack of soot over her. Both were decided to have committed matrimonial offences, but one was "of a darker complexion", and the case was decided for Mrs Smithies.

Smithies is an extremely rare surname, and one I did a four volume study of for our friends Peter and Gwen Smithies. Benjamin Lucraft, the working man's politician, was a friend and colleague in London of Thomas Bywater Smithies, the radical journalist, and they were both elected to the London School Board.

## The DNA Results

At last I have got the results of some of the DNS tests which we did in May 1999. The principal question was whether the DNA tests could show that the various Luc(k)raft family groups today were all descended from one man in the unrecorded past. We took about 17 samples from various males (it only works on the male DNA), and 8 of the tests provided a DNA sample that was testable. The absence of a test result is not any indicator of anything other than that the sample did not produce a workable test sample. We were very anxious to make sure that no-one felt threatened by the tests, and were absolutely clear that the presence or absence of a connection was not an indicator of any legitimacy or otherwise in any particular recent or past generation. We were not looking for paternity; just for common ancestry links for the various family groups.

Of the family groups tested there were three groups that gave positive results for a connection.

- two tests for the Woodbury group matched each other
- two tests for the Preston Group matched each other
- two tests for the Blackawton group matched each other
- two tests for the American groups did not match each other.
- Furthermore, the three family groups for the Woodbury, Preston and Blackawton groups also all matched each other.

From this we can determine:

- The two Woodbury groups, one coming out of Broadclyst to London in the 1830's, and the other based around Exeter until the present day, both have a common ancestor at some point in the past.
- The two Preston-related family groups, one in the US with a "k" spelling, and one in England without the "k", also both have a common ancestor at some point in the past.
- The two Blackawton tests which gave a result also both have a common ancestor in the past.
- Moreover, all these six family groups can together point to a common single ancestor at some point in the past.
- This means that all the Luckrafts, and Lucrafts, and most of the variants, Luckerift, Luckcraft, ought to be able to claim a common descent from the South Hams area.

The American results for the Locraft and Lea(y)craft lines are different, in that they do not match the English results, and they also do not match each other. Given the dispersion of the family groups this is not surprising. There is a distant possibility that the mutation present on one gene might be a clue, but there is no firm evidence to be had here. This does not mean that the American descents are outside the Luc(k)raft family; just that there is not genetic evidence in the samples to demonstrate a link. Recorded history will have to be our research method.

## Probability

Of as much interest as the results themselves are the probabilities. It turns out that the Y chromosome that is the marker for the Luc(k)rafts is a fairly rare one, and there is a probability of .0023 of the match in each group of two being by chance; that means well beyond normal testing limits. The probability of the six common genes being shared is  $6.49 \times 10^{-14}$ ; incredibly rare. For six of the eight to match the probability against the English population is  $1.35 \times 10^{-12}$ ; which is phenomenally low. These are the most tightly grouped set of Y chromosome tests in the UCL study, and show that all the Lucraft and Luckraft family groups with recorded links back to the South Hams and Exeter can claim a common ancestry with a high degree of confidence. If you want to ask me about this, please do

# The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

January 2002

Edition 9 Supplement for USA

## The DNA Study and our American Family Groups

This supplementary note is designed to provide some background support to the outcomes of the DNA study in respect of my American contacts in the Luc(k)raft Family History group. I felt that the note in the newsletter was too short, and might be misleading in respect of the American family groups, and wanted to go into a bit more discussion about the situation as a result of the DNA study. There is no more actual information likely to come from the study itself; it is rather the situation as it affects the family groups in the US. Also, please remember that this is not in any way a result which has any relevance in respect of paternity for any individual or group of individuals; it is indicative of the movement of family groups over centuries.

You will have noted that the study concluded that the two US samples which were successfully tested were not linked to the other six English samples which were linked. What does that mean for family groups in the US? There are several family groups, and also a number of individuals, in the US. This note only relates to the large, long-term family groups, and I will try and deal with each one separately. Individuals in the US from UK originating families are not covered by comments in this note.

One family group in the US is descended from William Luckraft and Julia Ann Thompson, both of Preston, England, who married in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1896, and whose family is now spread throughout the US. I see glimpses of them on the internet, involved in church life, education, professional golf and other things, and I am kept regularly and wonderfully informed about the development of the family by William and Julia's grandson, Arthur, and his wife Louise, both still of New Bedford. The DNA study has shown that the Luckrafts from Preston, together with the Lucraft variant section of that family, have a common ancestor in the pre-recorded past, with the other Luckraft and Lucraft family groups in England. This would therefore include the American family group which traces their family back to Preston.

One family group in the US is that which carries the name Locraft. We have family records and documentary records which show that this family originated in the US in a William Locraft, who was naturalised in New York in 1837, and said he came from Devonshire where he had been born about 1817. The DNA sample we tested from this family group has not given a result which confirms the group is connected to the other Luc(k)raft family groups. This is perhaps the most disappointing outcome of the study as this was one where we had high hopes of making a connection which the records had not yet achieved. Of course, there are many possibilities of why this is not the case, both in the US and in England pre-1837. The family group itself remains solid; it is the connections into the pre-1837 family groups which are not yet supported. This is a classic case where the family and documentary records will have to continue to be our main source of enquiry. I am sure that given the degree of confidence of the Devon Luc(k)raft samples generally, and if we can connect this family group through records evidence, then this group too will be part of the Devon Luc(k)raft family group. We have not yet been able to find that recorded evidence yet. However, old records are continually becoming available through new access and dissemination of old records, and we can hope that we will be able to produce a firmer documentary link in the future. Tom Locraft in Maryland has been wonderfully supportive with this family group, and we will keep going on this one for sure. Tom also recently assisted my father who at 78 finally achieved a lifetime ambition to go to the States, and for which I'm most grateful to Tom and his delightful family.

The US family which was the most speculative, and the least likely to provide a DNA result which connected with the Devon Luc(k)raft family groups is the Leaycraft/Leacraft/Leecraft family group. We know that this family arrived in Bermuda from England probably in the 1600's, and elements of the family moved to America and Canada around 1700, settling in the Carolinas, New York and Quebec. The family history of this group did not include a Devon connection, though some of the spellings suggested a Luc(k)raft connection, and the evidence of the oral family history for a descent from the English midlands is not convincing. So it is not surprising that we do not have a DNA connection for this family group. We were always realistic that this might be the case. Again, though, this is a family group whose history I will continue to research, because there are no discovered records which support a descent from any particular part of England. I think that there is the possibility of doing some useful library work in the British Public Records Office in London on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Bermuda records, but that would take some time and investment, which is not available yet. Thanks to Clinton Leacraft especially for keeping in touch.

A recently emerging family group in the US is that named Loocraft. There is a note on the recent enquiry in this issue of the newsletter. Though there is a suggestion of Dutch descent, the existence of Christian names such as Nelson, George... etc., as noted in that article is highly suggestive of English ancestry. Obviously this family group was not included in the DNA study and further historical work will be necessary to track any connection with the Devon Luc(k)rafts.

I remain on the lookout for descendants of Joseph Luc(k)raft who left England around 1840 and settled in Nebraska after fighting in the Civil War. I have not found any named Luc(k)raft, but there may be some descendants on a female line who may one day find the web-site and make an enquiry.

I hope this note is of some help. Best wishes to you all, and thank you for your help in the study. Ian.

## Lucraft-Coombe

The Times of Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 1865 carried in its front-page classified the following appeal:

**UCRAFT-COOMBE.**—To Parish Clerks and others.—£5 will be paid for a CERTIFICATE of the MARRIAGE of NICHOLAS LUCRAFT with MARY COOMBE, celebrated about the year 1820, in London, if furnished immediately to Terrell, Chamberlain, and Blake, solicitors, 30 Basinghall St., E.C.

Lucraft-Coombe — To Parish Clerks and others. - £5 will be paid for a CERTIFICATE of the MARRIAGE of NICHOLAS LUCRAFT with MARY COOMBE celebrated about the year 1820 in London, if furnished immediately to Terrell, Chamberlain and Blake, solicitors, 30 Basinghall St., E.C.

This couple, Nicholas and Mary are at the top of a tree which has several living identified descendants today, including a banker, Paul and a barrister Mark. It is possible that they were married in 1823 in St Leonard's, Shoreditch, but we have yet to identify, after 20 years' sporadic trying, where Nicholas comes from. He may be Benjamin Lucraft's uncle, from Broadclyst, born about 1793. We think he was a wine cooper, and in the baptism record for Nicholas and Mary's child Louise, in 1824 in St Leonard's, he is recorded as "A gentleman of Haberdashers Street" no less! Any ideas or information would be welcome. Is there a wine cooper's guild, or some other body whose London records might still be extant?

## Killed in Action

The Times of 7<sup>th</sup> April 1882 reports:

The Secretary of the Admiralty communicates to us the following telegram, which has been received from the Commodore on the Australia Station, dated the 31<sup>st</sup> March :- "Her Majesty's ship Cormorant returned from Espiritu Santo (New Hebrides). Regret Lieutenant Luckraft killed. No other casualties. Has brought native prisoner supposed implicated in Isabelle massacre. Communicated to High Commissioner."

[I cannot place this Lt Luckraft yet. Any information about the Isabelle Massacre?]

## Bankruptcies

The Times reported the following bankruptcies:

19<sup>th</sup> July 1862

Notice of Adjudication: **Benjamin Lucraft, Wimbourne Street, New North Road, chairmaker;** Aug 5 at 12. This is almost certainly Benjamin the chairmaker and working class leader. He gives Wimbourne Street as his address in the catalogue of the Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures in which he was involved in organising in 1865. Benjamin was in good company for his bankruptcy hearing; the one before him was an Anglican priest and the one after him was a schoolmaster. It was probably after this that Benjamin's son George Seely Lucraft took over the running of the business, employing his father, and enabling his father to continue his political activities, which George shared, by being his sometime agent. The company was called GS Lucraft and Son continued in one form or another until the 1930's. When Benjamin died, the London School Board wrote to his family with their condolences. At the Board's next meeting, the Marquis of Londonderry presided and opened the

business with a report of a letter in response from Benjamin's son, which was probably George Seely Lucraft. According to the Times of 8<sup>th</sup> October 1897 the son wrote: "The members of my family and myself express our sincere thanks to you for the very kind letter of sympathy, and trust that any works of usefulness that Mr Lucraft may have been instrumental in doing in connexion with the Board will be a blessing to the children in years to come." The Board agreed that the letter should be printed on the minutes. Here is a print of the company's advert in the Cabinet Maker in June 1882.



26<sup>th</sup> April 1877 and 19<sup>th</sup> July 1877

It's not itself a bankruptcy case, but it follows on from one at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Regular readers will remember the transcripts of deeds from 1811 in the last edition, relating to property being built by John Luckraft in the centre of Plymouth, when he went bankrupt as the builder. In 1877, descendants of the people he was dealing with then were disagreeing with his descendants as to whether the property could be given to charities. I don't understand what was going on in all this. If anyone with a legal bent wishes to help, I'd send them copies

4<sup>th</sup> February 1893

Adjudication: **James Lucraft, Kingsland Road N.E. and Chiswick, upholsterer.** I'm fairly sure this is Benjamin's 6<sup>th</sup> known son, the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of whom we have adult records. James was born 1843 at the first London family home, 33 Mill row off Kingsland Road, where Benjamin and his mother Mary had settled when they arrived in London around 1832. James trained as a cabinetmaker; his father and grandfather, and older brothers are usually described as chairmakers. James Pearce Lucraft would have been about 50 at the time of this adjudication, having married Eliza Sophia Barrett, the daughter of an upholsterer when he was 21. James and Eliza had nine children that we know of, and adult records for seven of them, including Henry James Lucraft, my grandfather. By 1893 at least one son was himself working in the woodworking trade. Ernest Lucraft, the eldest son, born 1870, was a cabinet maker married in 1890 to Martha Johnson, the daughter also of a cabinet maker.

18<sup>th</sup> March 1905

Adjudication: **John Lucraft Southampton, grocer.** This is almost certainly John Martin Lucraft, who was apprenticed to a London grocer in 1871 to learn the trade, by his father John Newton Lucraft, from Dartmouth. J M Lucraft went bankrupt at least three times, after getting into hock over his bar bills. John Nicholas, his descendant has recently written a piece about the family, with photos, for inclusion in a future newsletter.

## Inquest on Harriet Lucraft

From The Times of 21<sup>st</sup> March 1878.

Yesterday Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest at the Islington Coroner's Court as to the death of Harriet Lucraft, 53, of 219 Essex Road Islington. She lived apart from her husband and was addicted to habits of intoxication. On Monday evening she retired to bed the worse for drink, and on the following morning she went into the attic at the top of the house and threw herself out of the window, falling into the back yard, some 60 feet beneath. On being picked up she was found to be quite dead. The jury returned a verdict "That the deceased committed suicide while of unsound mind."

[ed. Harriet Lucraft may be formerly Harriet King, daughter of John King, soap-maker, who married Henry Lucraft on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1850 at St Mary's Haggerstone. Henry was the second youngest brother of Benjamin the chair-maker and radical politician, and had been born in Taunton during the family's stay there around 1830, on their way from Exeter to London. Henry and Harriet had four known children, Benjamin born 1852, John Ernest b 1856, and twins Martha Ada and Mary Jane b 1859. The twins were born at 3 Britannia Row, the same street on which George Seely Lucraft, son of Benjamin the chair-maker, is recorded as living at number 52, in 1851.]

## Lucraft-Purser

I had long wondered about the two or three occurrences there are of this form of the surname, until I had an e-mail from Susan Sayers in South Africa. Susan wrote:

'I discovered your Lucraft web-site recently and found it fascinating. To give you a bit of background, I am from England but have been living in South Africa since 1972. My maiden name was Susan Mary Lucraft Purser. I am not one of the Lucraft family, but thought you might like some background as to why my family carry the Lucraft name. On your A1 Nicholas Luccroft tree, you have William Lucraft marrying Mary Ann Fitchew. Mary Ann's sister, Frances Fitchew, was my great great grandmother. She married John George Purser in 1854 at Christ Church, Hampstead. They had one child, [in 1885] and named him William Lucraft Purser, in honour of his uncle by marriage... William ... married Hannah Eliza Bolton in 1880 at St Dunstan in the East... They had 4 children. Both boys carried the Lucraft name.....'

Susan says that the name has passed down to her and she continued the trend and her daughter is called Hannah Elizabeth Lucraft Sayers. After giving me a few more details Susan says....."I hope this may clear up why there are Lucrafts that aren't Lucrafts! Perhaps we can be known as the honorary Lucrafts.....PS it's a great site!

Susan is the archivist at the University of Cape Town.  
[Thanks to my son, Daniel Lucraft, for doing the site for me, and repairing it when it gets broke! ed.]

**Happy Christmas and New Year  
to all our readers in 2002.**

**Ian and Gwen Lucraft and family**

## Arthur Lucraft "Guilty"

The Times of 15<sup>th</sup> January 1880 carried this report from Middlesex Sessions held in the Session House in Clerkenwell the day before. [ed. This one is a mystery; I have no idea yet who he is.]

Arthur Lucraft, 25, upholsterer, pleaded "guilty" to an indictment charging him with assaulting and occasioning actual bodily harm to Henry Blight, a constable of the Metropolitan Police Force, in the execution of his duty. Mr Thorne Cole appeared for the prisoner. According to the statement of Henry Blight, police constable 88 of the N Division, on December 24 he was on duty in plain clothes with another constable in the Kingsland Road when he saw the prisoner in company with another man cross the road and go down Guildford Road. He then saw Lucraft go to the front door of No 63, where he waited a minute or two and then came back again to the garden gate. His companion – who was discharged at the police court – then walked across the garden and went to the kitchen window. He went back to Lucraft and they both moved off to No 25. Lucraft went to the front door, and the constable saw him stooping down and putting something in his pocket. Blight sprang out and caught hold of Lucraft, and asked him what he was doing there. He made no reply, but struggled violently and struck and kicked Blight several times in a very dangerous part of the body. Blight then said "I know you, it's no good for you to try and get away." Lucraft thereupon put his hand into his pocket and drawing out a "jemmy" struck at the constable's head. Blight warded the blow off with his truncheon, which was split through the force with which the blow was given. The prisoner then struck Blight a second time on the head with the "jemmy" and knocked him down and ran away. Blight saw him as he was running away throw the "jemmy" into the garden of a house, where it was afterwards found. He followed the prisoner until he came up with him in Southgate Street, where he detained him until another Constable came up, and with his assistance the prisoner was taken to the police station. Mr. Morgan Howard, in sentencing the prisoner said that he was glad to find that there was no previous conviction against him. He had, however, been guilty of a double offence – an attempt to commit burglary, and an assault on the police. For these offences he must have an adequate sentence, and he ordered him to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for 15 months.

## Leaycraft in Quebec

The Leaycraft family left Bermuda in the early 18<sup>th</sup> entry to escape English taxes, and one brother settled in the Carolinas, where the wooden Leecraft house can still be seen in historic Beaufort. (See Newsletter 5). One brother settled in Quebec and continued in the shipping business. A new web-listing is the Ship Arrivals in Canada for May 1835, and there are several ships listed as entering Montreal and Quebec for Mr J Leaycraft. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May the schooner Ben, master Mr Terry, which had left port (unlisted) on 24<sup>th</sup> April; on 27<sup>th</sup> May the bark Dixon, master Mr Slater, which had left Hull on 7<sup>th</sup> April; on 28<sup>th</sup> May the Schooner Moose, master Mr King, which had left Maryport on 13<sup>th</sup> April. [ed. Maryport is a favourite spot for us. Gwen's son Andrew married a young woman from Maryport, Tania Riley, where the old port has recently been restored as a historic site on the Cumbrian coastline.