The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

January 2003 Edition 10 **© Ian Lucraft : The Luc(k)raft One-Name Study**

Joseph and Sarah of Illinois

For years I have been on the track of this family group in America, reporting in past newsletters on fragments of new information; now I have been contacted by Joe Bedell from Washington State in America, who is a descendant of this family, and found out about our Luc(k)raft family research from the web-site.

He and his father are sharing the work they have done on their family group, and we are the lucky beneficiaries. The Lucraft name died out in this family in the 19th century and so we have had to wait for someone to find us.

The Early Story in Lympstone

The family origins lie back in the same Devon roots as all the Lucraft groups descended from Nicholas Lucraft, who married Margaret Westcott in 1691 in the beautiful little church in the hamlet of Farringdon, near Woodbury.

Nicholas' and Margaret's grandson, John Lucraft, was baptised in 1760 in Woodbury, and married Ann Eastman (baptised Woodbury c 1754) in Lympstone in 1786. Lympstone is nearby, on the Exe estuary. (For many years now it has been the training home of the British Commandos.) We don't know why they were married there; perhaps Ann and her parents had moved there.

John and Ann Lucraft had at least eight children, starting with a Joseph in 1787, through to a James in 1805. One of these children also carried the name Eastman as a middle name, Elizabeth Eastman Lucraft, baptised 1794 in Lympstone.

Ann died and John remarried in 1809 to Mary Arthur Newbury, a lacemaker of Lympstone. Lace-making was and still is a traditional Devon craft. John and Mary then had at least two children. Mary lived until 1852, when she died aged about 78.

John lived until 1832, aged about 72, but we don't know anything more about him yet. There was much poverty in the Lucraft household in Lympstone, they were not alone at that time. The Poor Records show that the Widow Lucraft got 4 shillings in 1833. This could be John's widow.

Joseph the Carpenter

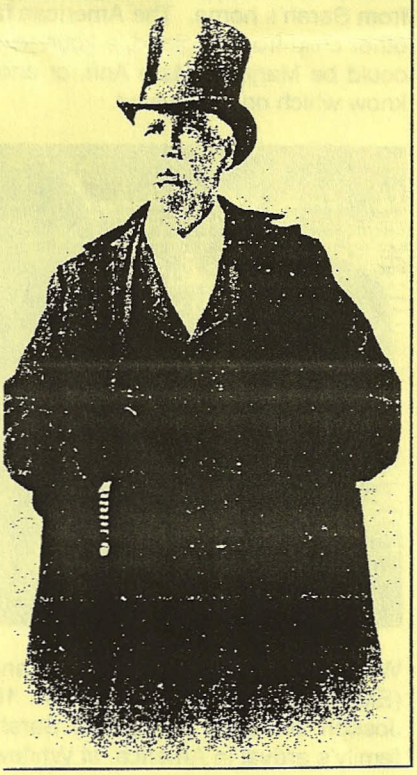
Returning to John and his first wife Ann Eastman's first child, Joseph, born 1787, we find Joseph apprenticed as a carpenter on 2nd May 1796 at the age of nine, which was quite common. At the censuses of 1841 and 1851 he is listed as a carpenter at one of the big houses in Heavitree near Exeter; No 7 Oakfield Place. Joseph may also have had a brother John living and working with his own family too at the same house.

Joseph and a woman named Mary (no marriage found as yet) then had at least six children, all baptised in Heavitree, starting with a John in 1816 who also became a carpenter, and ending with a Thomas Eastman Lucraft in 1832. This last son Thomas was working with his father at the same house in Heavitree at the 1851 census as a Gardener, and one of the daughters was working there too as a servant.

The second son, William, baptised 1816 may also have become a carpenter. He is a prime candidate for the William Lucraft who is recorded as being transported to Australia from Exeter Assizes, in 1841, but we cannot be sure as yet.

Joseph Eastman Lucraft

The third son, Joseph and his family got travelling feet. He was baptised in Heavitree Parish Church on 9th December 1821, and I believe he grew up to be a shoemaker. I have no more evidence of him in the Exeter area after his baptism record. (There is an unconnected record of a Joseph Lucraft working as a shoemaker in Halwell, the other side of Exeter in 1850.)



Joseph Eastman Lucraft

Born 1821 Heavitree

m Sarah Elphic 1848 England
m Sylvia Elphic 1856 USA

Farmer of Fairbury Neb

d 1913 Iowa

Joseph re-appears about 200 miles East of Exeter in 1848, when he marries a young woman named Sarah Elphick, on 9th October in the parish church in the tiny hamlet of Hooe, just outside Hastings in Sussex. Joseph is recorded as being a shoemaker, aged 26, which would put his birth at 1822, but he does say his father is Joseph Lucraft a

and means she was under 21, and she would have needed her father's formal permission to be married. Her father is listed as Stephen Elphick a labourer. The marriage was witnessed by Stephen Carey and Sarah Carey, who made her mark; we do not know who these people were.

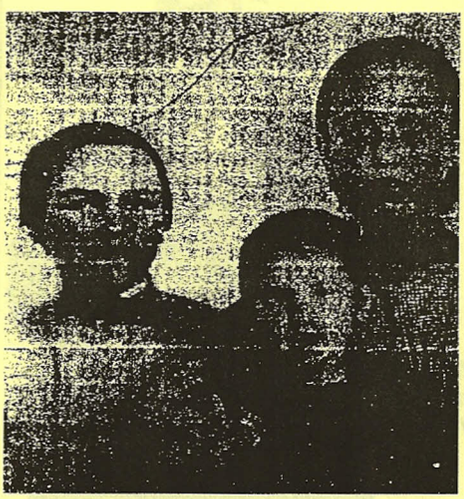
[The name Elphick is usually spelled with a 'k', though there are a few uses without. This family in America have always used it without, though the English marriage certificate in 1848 has the 'k'. Elphick researchers treat the two as the same, but it helps with different family groups.]

Over the first 4 years of their relationship I believe Joseph and Sarah had four children. Joseph, the first son, has dates that suggest a birth about 1847, before they were married, which would not have been uncommon. He was followed by Marjery Hannah in 1848, Mary Ann in 1849 and James in 1850, though only Joseph b c 1847 and one daughter would emigrate with them.

Go West young man

The papers from Joe Bedell in America now pick up much of the story. The family know Joseph, born 1821, as Joseph Eastman Lucraft, and confirm that his birth was 19th November 1821, in Heavitree, just three weeks before his baptism.

Joseph and Sarah's first son, called Joseph, is reported born 18th January 1847 in Heavitree, which is over a year before Joseph and Sarah were married, and a long way from Sarah's home. The American family only know of one other child from England, a younger sister called May, who could be Marjorie, Mary Ann, or another child. We do not know which ones survived.



This picture, taken about 1855, shows Sarah Lucraft aged about 26 on the right, with two children Joseph and May. Sarah must have died a year or two after this very early photo was taken

What we do know is that Joseph and his young wife Sarah (Elphic) travelled to America in 1852 with two children, Joseph and May. Tragically Sarah died shortly after the family's arrival in America, at Whitewater, Wisconsin.

In 1856 Joseph re-married, this time to Sarah's sister, Sylvia Elphic. Joseph and Sylvia moved to the remote village of Oregon in Illinois about 1860, where Sylvia bore eight children to Joseph. In the 1860 US Census the family is shown with "Sarah" being 23 years old, and with three children, Joseph, aged 13, Margery Hannah aged 12 (both born England) and Sarah aged 1 (born Illinois). This suggests Sylvia, for it must have been her, was born about 1837. She was 16 years younger than Joseph, her husband, and married him when she was about 19, perhaps almost the same age her sister had been when she married Joseph in Hooe. One wonders whether Sylvia had travelled out with them in the first place, when she would have been just 15, or went out to care for the children when her sister died. At what stage does such a practical arrangement become a relationship, leading to marriage and a new family? On a following page there is an example of a widow re-marrying her husband's brother; again in the difficult times of 19th century American expansion. And through history there have been many examples of families supporting each other this way. Catherine of Aragon also did the same.

[We do not yet have all the details of these eight children with Joseph's second wife, but I have been able to piece together some. Joe Bedell says there were at least 6 daughters and one son. The son was William H Lucraft, who moved to California and owned a beach hotel at Redondo beach in the 1920s-30s. I believe he died on 30th Jun 1950 in LA Co, Cal. He never married so there were no Lucraft descendants from Joseph and Sylvia's union. I believe one daughter to be Sarah Jane, born about 1858, who married William Charles Rust in 1894 in Calhoun Iowa. Another was Florence, whom Joe reports lived to the age of 104.

Civil War Veteran

Re-focusing then again on Joseph and Sarah's son Joseph, born 1847 in England, he enlisted in the Union Army on Feb 20th 1864, aged about 17, though the family thought it might be he was younger. He served as a private in Company "I"46th Regiment of Illinois Veteran volunteers. He was engaged through the Civil War in the battles of Jackson, Mississippi, and the assault of Fort Blakely, Alabama. He was discharged at Baton rouge, Louisiana, on January 20th 1866.

There is no known record of his whereabouts or activities immediately after the Civil War, though he may be the Joseph who got a job as a lighthouse keeper at several lighthouses along the coast, including Mississippi, in the months after the war. At some point he probably returned to Oregon Illinois and back to farming.

Joseph Lucraft born 1847, and served in the union Army from 1864 to 1866 (standing) and two unknown civil war veterans. This photo was probably taken around 1880

On July 8th 1870 he married Anna Crockett at Mount Morris, about six miles northwest of Oregon Ill.. Young Joseph and Mary had three children; George A (b 1871), Nell (b 1873, and Kate (b Christmas Day either 1874 or 1875). (continued on page 7)

Snippets

As usual there have been a number of enquiries during the year, and a few bits and pieces gleaned from the web and other sources.

Preston

Anne (nee Nickson) and Brian West in Tyne and Wear have been doing some work on Anne's forebears in Preston. She is descended from Richard Luckraft and Elizabeth Halliwell of Preston. Anne is the grand-daughter of Richard and Elizabeth's daughter Mary Ellen Luckraft, who married Christopher Nickson. They have sent me lots of interesting copies of certificates!

Plymouth

Mark Lucraft, gt gt gt gt grandson of Joseph Luckraft, born about 1795, a carpenter, builder and artist of Plymouth, has sent me a detailed update of his family. He's beginning to look back through his family group, which is a fascinating line. His gt gt grandfather Edwin III (b 1883) went to Eton, funded by Edwin II's (b 1855) pawn-broking business, passed down from Edwin I (1824-1885) Edwin III was the only son of 14 children to Edwin II. One of the daughters was an artist and children's illustrator, Marjorie Gwendolyne Luckraft. If anyone comes across any of her work in a book, I'd be delighted to hear about it.

Broadclyst

Mary South, gt gt grand-daughter of John Newton Lucraft, (1822-1902) the village cooper in Broadclyst, and his wife Ann Martin, dress-maker to the Acland family at Killerton Hall, has kindly sent me her South family newsletter.

Stocklinch

Gill Huggins of Somerset, who is researching the history of Bathampton village, Somerset, and therefore working on the Allens of Stocklinch, has sent me a lot of material about the Allens, for which I'm very grateful. This Allen family in Stocklinch is the family of Jessie Allen, mentioned in the piece in this newsletter about Lt John Sulivan Luckraft.

Rattery

I've found a birth of a John Luckraft Nelder in the quiet village of Rattery, Devon in 1785, in a Rootsweb family tree, but not yet tracked down where it comes from.

Cape Cod Times : December 6th 2001

"Leo Luckraft, 77 : World War II Navy veteran; worked for Bell Laboratories.

EAST FALMOUTH – Leo Luckraft, 77, a resident of East Falmouth, died Tuesday at Falmouth Hospital after an illness. Born and raised in New Bedford, Mr Luckraft served in the Navy during World War II from 1942 to 1948. He then worked for Bell Laboratories in New Jersey and then for more than 20 years with Hughes Aircraft in Los Angeles, retiring in 1986. Mr Luckraft was an avid bridge player and loved to read. Surviving are three brothers, Vincent A Luckraft of East Falmouth, Henry S Luckraft of Waterville, Maine, and Arthur Luckraft of Mashpee, and 13 nieces and nephews. (Arthur and his wife Louise are my generous correspondents in Mashpee MA, and have provided previous Luc(k)raft Newsletters with old photos and news.)

London

Alan Hickman has provided more detail on the family of Benjamin Lucraft, who married Elizabeth Caroline Hickman in 1893 in Hackney. Thanks to him.

Julian Lucraft, gt gt gt gt grandson of Benjamin the labour leader, married Jane Riley in Newcastle under Lyme in 2001 and sent me an update.

George Graham of Ontario Canada, has added to the growing information on the family of James Pearce Lucraft. James Pearce (b 1843) was a son of Benjamin the labour leader, and James P was my gt grandfather. I have recently found two further children of James P, one of whom, Horace Frederick (b 1878) married Minnie Amelia Gladstone in 1901. Minnie was George's mother's aunt!

The new on-line facility to see the Census Index for England for 1901 has enabled me to find my own grandfather at that date. Now some more certificates into his first child, Henry Claude Lucraft and others, will take things a step further in that group.

Australia

Warren Luckraft, a fourth generation grazier in the tiny South Australian outback town of Quorn, "Gateway to the Flinders Range" gave the Australian Prime Minister John Howard a roasting according to a January 2000 local news website. Warren has a 13,0000 [sic] hectare wool, beef and lamb property, and was trenchant in his comments. I'm going to call him and find out where he fits in the family groups.

Devon

Hilary Luckraft, of the Aveton Gifford family group, has sent me some interesting research items she has found, including some tantalising entries for people in Plymouth Dock and East Stonehouse, the dockyard part of Plymouth. They are spelled "Lecrafs". Work to be done here on whether this is connected as a variant or is a mis-writing, or is unconnected.

Edgecombe

Chris Palmer of Warwickshire has been in touch with details about the marriage and the 13 children of Honor Edgecombe Lucraft (b 1788). Honor was the sister of Admiral Alfred Luckraft, (b 1790) who is referred to in the article on cannonading in this newsletter, and she married George Towry West in about 1808. Honor is Chris's gt gt gt grand-mother, and on my Naval tree on the web-site, Honor can be seen descended from the Edgcumbes of Edgecombe back to 1285.

My job

People have asked me what I do now! I am the national contracts manager for Ufi/**learndirect**, overseeing our contracts with the 2000 learndirect centres you may have seen. This includes managing teams who run the website that supports the centres, data analysis and training.

Richard Luccraft - born 1685 Surgeon

Ken Faig in Illinois is my regular correspondent, and is a key resource for Lovecraft. He works closely with the H P Lovecraft history group. As part of this, he sent me last year a page of workings derived from the work of Michael Barker of Stockport about Richard Luccraft, Surgeon.

From the start nearly 25 years ago this man has been in my records, but I have not been able to piece together a set of relationships for his, as he seemed to have moved around a bit. Michael's paper, which I shall summarise here, suggests some linkages, though not all are yet proven.

We start with a William Lovecraft marrying Joanne Pytt in Loddiswell in 1593, and we think he lived at an as yet unidentified location called Court, and was buried from there at Loddiswell in 1641.

A probable son, John Luccraft, also of Court, baptised 1609, married Grace Stabbe in 1642 in Loddiswell. We think this John was buried in 1689, and his widow Grace was buried in 1695/6, both also at Loddiswell.

It looks as if this John and another John appeared in the Protestation returns of 1641 and the Hearth Tax returns of 1674 for Loddiswell.

In 1647, a Richard Luccraft, son of John Luccraft of Court, is baptised at Loddiswell, and this Richard, recorded as a butcher, married Ann Gruyte at Loddiswell in 1682. The records suggest Ann the wife of Richard died in 1687 at Loddiswell.

On 29th March 1685, at Loddiswell, a Richard Luccraft was baptised. About 56 years later, a Richard, son of Richard Luccraft was buried.

We cannot be sure that these are the same Richards, but it is very possible. In 1711, when he would have been about 26, we think he married Grace Woolcott, the daughter of John Woolcott and Mary Braddicke both of Exeter. At his marriage on 12th October 1711 at Exeter Cathedral, he is noted as a surgeon of Bideford.

Between 1717 and 1719 he moved to Chulmleigh, and in 1741 there is a bond for 100 pounds involving Richard Luccraft of Chulmleigh, surgeon, and Colebrook Parish, though we cannot be sure if this is for him or for a son. In 1742, the year of his death, there is a will proved for Richard Luccraft of Chulmleigh, but like most Devon wills they were destroyed in the blitz.

In the next generation we find a John Luckroft baptised 20th Jun 1722 at Chulmleigh. It appears he trained as a doctor, and went to St Kitts in the West Indies, where he was buried at St George and St Peter Basseterre, on 19th July 17??, and the record shows him as "Dr Jn Leycraft". The records also show that "he lived with Elizabeth Westcott by the time her two daughters are buried in December 1751".

For me the fascinating thing about this is that the Nicholas Luccroft that I have as the earliest part of the Lucraft lines, married a Margaret Westcott in Farringdon in 1691. Now Westcott is a fairly common name in Devon, but who knows where the jig-saw leads.

(Cont. from page 2: Joseph Eastman Lucraft)

The young family moved from Illinois to Iowa, and then to The Dakota Territory and finally to Fairbury Nebraska. Their son George graduated from Fairbury High School on May 29th 1891, and was then awarded a contract to teach grade school in Jefferson Country, Nebraska from the fall. Sadly, before fall came he had died from consumption and never took up the post. This last male on this side of the family meant that the Lucraft name would die out in this family. George's two sisters married brothers. Nell married Homer Bedell in 1891 at Fairbury, and Kate married Melvin Bedell in 1902 at Fresno, California.

In 1908 Joseph applied for pension based on his civil war service. I have a copy of the declaration he signed, stating at the time he was living in Redondo Beach, aged 62. He was 5 feet five and a half inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair, and he said he had been born on 18th January 1846.

Laid to rest

Old Joseph Eastman Lucraft, the young man who had left England in 1852, lived until 1913, when he died at the home of his daughter at Sac City Iowa. He is buried in Scranton Iowa. His second wife, Sylvia Elphic I believe had died by 1870 .

His son, Joseph, died on 4th November 1930, at Sebastopol, California, and he was buried back in Fairbury. This Joseph's wife, Anna Crockett died just two months later on 7th January 1931 in Contra Costa Co Cal, and was also buried in Fairbury. Joseph and Anna were buried in the same grave (section C8) in the old part of the Fairbury cemetery, as their son George, who had died aged 20, forty years before.

My thanks to Joe Bedell for the photos and the later data. I'm sure we will be able to fill out and complete this tree this year.

Cultural Luc(k)rafts

Jennifer Luckraft

trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She played Celia in *As You Like It* once before at the Colchester Mercury Theatre, and her other Shakespeare roles include Ophelia in *Hamlet* (Greenwich Theatre) and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bristol Old Vic Theatre School). At the Hull Truck Theatre she played Elizabeth in *Frankenstein*, Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Steph in *Perfect Pitch*.

At the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Jennifer has had roles in several Alan Ayckbourne plays directed by the playwright, including Jo in *Body Language*, Pearl in *House and Garden*, Barbara in *Knights In Plastic Armour*, and Prim in *Comic Potential*. She also appeared as Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Colchester Mercury Theatre), Rita in *Educating Rita* and Carol in *Oleanna* (both UK Tours for Moving Theatre Company), and Jo in *A Taste of Honey* (Worcester Swan Theatre).

Jennifer appeared as Molly in the film *The Woodlanders*, directed by Phil Agland.

Her television credits include roles in *Bad Girls II*, *City Central*, *Lost For Words*, *Casualty*, *Dangerfield III*, *The Bill*, *Six Sides of Coogan*, *Hettie Wainthropp*, *Drop Dead the Donkey*, *How We Used To Live*, *Losers Weepers*, *Jossy's Giants*, and *Children's Ward*, where she is a series regular. In her first tour with Actors From The London Stage, Fall 2000's *As You Like It*, she played Celia, Phebe, Sir Oliver Martext, and Dennis.

Jeannette Lucraft

A Huddersfield history graduate has won the prestigious Royal Historical Society / History Today Magazine competition – a national competition to find the year's best undergraduate history dissertation.

Jeannette 27, was awarded the prize for her work on Katherine Swynford, mistress and later wife of John of Gaunt, and ancestress of the Tudor dynasty. She collected her prize in London in January 2002. Jeannette, originally from Brighouse, and part of the Halifax Lucraft group, lives in Elland with her husband Michael, and Michael's mum Louie, kindly sent me the paper cutting.

Jeannette was working full-time at Tesco's supermarket in Brighouse when she enrolled on the BA History degree at the University of Huddersfield, and she continued part-time at work while she finished the course, which she did with first class honours.

University lecturer Dr Katherine Lewis said Jeannette's thesis was a ground-breaking re-evaluation of the most notorious "other woman" of the 14th century, showing the ways in which Swynford managed to rise above the taunts and slanders of monkish chroniclers to re-invent herself spectacularly as the highly respectable Duchess of Lancaster and chief patroness of Lincoln Cathedral, where her tomb lies to this day.

The Case of Mr Lucraft.....

is a 19th century mystery story, and people have asked where they can get it.

A version is at
http://gaslight.mtroyal.ab.ca/gaslight/lucraft.htm
and can be downloaded from there. There was some speculation that Walter Besant who wrote it, and we think also knew Benjamin Lucraft, used the name; but there is no other connection.

Lena Lucraft has contributed two songs to a 3CD Readers Digest set of Andrew Lloyd Webber songs...

Fiona Lucraft, food historian, continues to write and speak, including on BBC, about her research....

The Johnathon Lucraft show is a feature of Radio 5UV Adelaide...

Marc Lucraft did his work experience in 2002 at the New Empire theatre....

Leacrafts of North Carolina

Sale of Wife – 1804

This original item was found in the North Carolina State Archives, and was put into the Carteret County website by Joel S Russell.

NB The bill of sale give below is a coppy of the original that is in the archives of the Court House here and is among other papers that was ordered by the Clerk of Court to be recorded in the Registers Office. The reason this one was not recorded in said office the Purcher of the woman refused to tag the register's furs (??). I certify this is a true coppy

P.B. Loftin

This indenture this the 14 day of December Eighteen Hundred & four between Abner Willis of the State of No. Carolina & County of Carteret the one part and William W. Oliver of the other Part

Witnesseth
That I Abner Willis have bargained Sold & delivered unto Wil. W. Oliver one sertain white woman by the name of Marce Which is or was formally my wife for the sum of Two Dollars the Receipt I hereby
Acknowledge My Self dully Satisfied. In witness where of I place my hand Seal the day & year first written.

Abner Willis (his mark)

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of us.
Benj. Lecraft *State North Carolina*
June Term 1822 *Carteret County Cort of Pleas*
& Quarter sessions

I certify the Execution of the above bill of sale was then proved in open court by the oath of Benj. LeCraft the subscribing witness thereto and ordered to be registered.

G. Rumley CC

P.S. I am now living in the house that G Rumley occupied at the time this bil of sale was made. P B L

The Benjamin Lecraft who acted for the State in this record is Benjamin Leecraft, born 1795 in Beaufort North Carolina. He was a successful merchant, after his father had been a successful trader with ships plying between England and America, having come originally from Bermuda. This Benjamin built the two identical houses in Beaufort for his two daughters, at least one of which still stands in the conservation area, and is known as the "Leecraft House".

But what was going on? Apart from its shock value, one asks why, if the dates are recorded correctly, was an indenture for the sale of a wife in 1804 recorded and signed before the State's Officer in 1822? Was there a property rights issue, or a change of heart? The comments in the first paragraph by P B Loftin might be construed as implying that there was either embarrassment or disagreement on the part of William Oliver, the "Purcher" [purchaser] about the whole matter. We don't know the dates of the transcription by Loftin.

By the way, two dollars in 1804 would be worth about 400 dollars now, or would buy what about 40 dollars would now buy. And it also shows how a name can be spelled two ways even in a court document.

Susan Verell Leecraft

Susan was the sister of Benjamin and we had a marriage for her in 1803 to Abraham Piggott. Pat Fleury in the States, whose family this is, has now found that Susan was married twice. She re-married James Johnson Verell in 1814, which explains why she is later known as Susan Verrell Leecraft. Pat keeps me up to date with much of her work, and adds details and corrects my mistakes.

My Darling Edwina

One item from Pat's records is a wonderful letter written in 1907 by Daisy Leecraft, the grand-daughter of the above Benjamin Leecraft.

Daisy was born in 1876 at the "Cabin Home" on Iron Ore Creek near Denison in Texas, to Benjamin Leecraft III and Susan Elizabeth Stowe. Benjamin III had been a Captain in the Confederate Army, and was a widower previously married to Mary Arendell. [Benjamin and Mary had at least nine children at least five of whom died at birth or in infancy, and two boys who survived, one also called Benjamin] Susan's father was Col Samuel Neal Stowe who served on General Lee's staff during the war between the states.

Both Daisy's parents had been born in North Carolina, and after losing everything in the aftermath of the defeat of the South in the war they moved to the Sherman/Denison area of Texas. These are adjoining areas on the Texas Oklahoma border just north of present-day Dallas.

Daisy first married Edwin Eugene Moody, who was about 10 years older than Daisy. He had graduated with honours from Cumberland University in Tennessee, and became a Presbyterian Minister, moving to Denison, Texas. In Dennison the Rev EE Moody was the pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and Edwin and Daisy had at least one child, called Edwina, born in 1895.

After Edwin died in 1896 Daisy remained in Denison, with her mother, and later went to Meridian Mississippi with Edwina when Edwina was about one year old. Edwin Moody's brother, Francis [Frank] Sims Moody had asked her to marry him. She would not accept his proposal until after her mother's death in 1904. The wedding was originally planned to be done in the First Presbyterian Church in Denison. However, because of a major yellow fever epidemic in Louisiana, traffic west across the Mississippi River was halted, and Frank Moody was unable to come to Dennison. She packed and proceeded to Mississippi with her daughter, then 9 years old. The wedding took place in Meridian, Mississippi in 1905.

This is a letter written to her daughter Edwina on 17th July 1907, when Edwina was about 12 years old. It was written the day before Daisy's second daughter Daisy Dean Moody was born.

My Darling Edwina,

I am not well this morning and some day it may happen as it does to some little girls, that you may have no mother. In this case, I should like you to have a letter which I want you to read frequently, whenever you are troubled or tempted to do wrong – also when you miss me and want me very much, that you may know how much I have loved you and still love you. I believe in guardian angels, and will ask God to let me be yours to be with you constantly night and day, to guard you and comfort you and keep you from harm.

Mother wants you to be a pure sweet girl and grow up to be a fine, sweet, true woman. To do this, you must avoid making friendships with any boy or girl who tries to lead you into doing wrong things. You are now old enough for your conscience to tell you what is wrong, and through your prayers God will help you to resist it. Learn to say "No" to any suggestion of wrong-doing. And remember that your mother and your papa who had to leave his baby years ago will be grieved if you are not brave enough to do right.

I feel so glad to leave you with the one who is now your papa as he is capable of instilling into your mind only the bravest and noblest of thoughts. Listen to his every word of advice and do not grieve him by disobedience, and comfort him on any sorrow he may have.

Study hard and do not neglect music, but remember to take good care of your health.

With love and kisses, I am
Devotedly - Your Mother ("Daisy")

Recent research in England on portraits of melancholy pregnant women from the 17th to 19th century suggests that they may be the upper-class equivalent of the "mother's letter" so eloquently exampled here. My thanks to Pat Fleury for this poignant letter from her archives.

Benjamin Leecraft Sailor and Trader born c 1753

Pat's research has turned up a bit more about the Benjamin Leecraft at the head of this family. We knew he was born about 1753 and died about 1799. There are two versions of how and where he died. One says at sea, and another suggests at Gastonia, North Carolina. It is also possible that he was born at Gastonia, though there are no records of that yet found, and it had been assumed that he arrived in North Carolina from Bermuda.

Pat's papers now show that he sailed out of Philadelphia during the Revolution against Britain, on the ship "Active". He is recorded as a Mate on this ship, under Captain Biddle of Philadelphia. He was commissioned on September 29th 1781 after previously serving several years. He applied for a Certificate of Marque as Privateer to Continental Congress in that year. He was 5 feet 8 inches tall, with brown hair and skin. Pat's papers also note that he died at sea near Bermuda.

In 1790 he owned land in Beaufort North Carolina. Pat quotes a source "Dandridge, in his history of the English prison ship 'Jersey', lists a Banjamin [sic] Leecraft as one of the prisoners of war," and suggests he may have been the father of this Benjamin Leecraft, though I suspect that the prisoner may have been this man himself.

Benjamin Leecraft IV

Pat has also passed on an e-mail from descendants of Daisy's half-brother, Benjamin IV. From this we think that Benjamin Leecraft IV married Adelia Jones, and had eight children, called, Odell, Paul, Phyllis, Odessa, William, Robert, Haskew, and Mary Alice. We'll have to find more space on the tree for them!

Other American Enquires

I'm still on the look-out for any hints about two other family groups. Eileen and Brian Loucraft of New Hampshire are looking into the background of **Nelson Loucraft**, born 1842 in St Venant-de-Herford Compton QC. Nelson later moved to Massachusetts and then to Colebrook NH and Maine.

Daniel Gendron is also still on look-out for help with **Joseph Lucraft of New York** when he died in 1893.

I think Nelson may be connected with the Leecraft family groups, but there is work to be done here!

More on Lucraft's delight

Regular readers will remember Lucraft's delight as a plot of land in Charles County Maryland, belonging to John Lucraft about 1770. Robert Chatham in America has kindly sent me some of his records, looking back at early records, for this man and his land.

The earliest citation found for John is 23rd December 1717 where he is a witness on an indenture from Juliana Price, to Thomas Hussey Luckett gent, for 1s and love for Elizabeth Luckett of a tract of land of about 200 acres on Port Tobacco Creek. In 1733 John is listed in the taxable people, and living in Port Tobacco East Side.

In a deposition of 1762 John states that his age is 83 years, which means he was born about 1679. I cannot identify yet a John in the records of that time. In 1770 we find his probate record, which includes mention of John Chittim, who is a forebear of Robert Chattam who has been doing this excavation of the old records.

A property Assessment for 1783 lists John Chatham as the owner of a parcel of land of 132 acres called Lucraft's Delight in the 6th taxing district of Maryland.

Robert helpfully provides much more detail, but it is too soon to say where John Lucraft actually fits in.

Drunk in charge of the cannons on H M ship Hawke

Lt Edward Alfred Luckraft's career in the navy came to a spectacular end with him firing the ship's guns while in port in Queenstown (Dublin) in 1858. The Times of London carried reports of the Court Martial which followed, and though the text is long, covering two sessions of hearings, on December 1st and 2nd, it is re-produced here in full, with slightly amended punctuation to ease our reading today.

Perhaps the nerves he suffered led to an early death. After Leaving the Navy in 1859, he died on 15th October 1861, and was buried at Ford Park cemetery in Plymouth. The grave would soon hold his mother, Sophie, Admiral Alfred's second wife, who died just three months later in January 1862. His older sister, Zelie Virginie was buried with them in August 1871, followed just two months later by the old Admiral himself, Alfred, who had been wounded at Trafalgar as a young man.

This was truly a sad family. Admiral Alfred's first wife, Jane, had died aged about 20, weeks after giving birth to her only known child, Alfred's first, called Alfred, and born about 1817. (The following article is about Edward Alfred Luckraft; they were keen on the Alfred name.) This first son too would suffer mental health problems, and was posted to the Coast Guard service after a spell at the Royal Navy's Lunatic asylum at Haslar. He died in 1865, aged about 48. He had only been married about 5 years, to a woman called Louisa Elfrida Luckraft. That is her maiden name, and her father was George Luckraft, of Southwark in London. (We don't know who she was, but possibly she was Alfred's cousin, and daughter of Admiral Alfred's brother George. This is only hypothesis, based on the fact that George's wife lived and died as a widow in Deptford, not far from Southwark.)

By one of those strange co-incidences, some years ago a present day Luckraft was working at Haslar, which is now a naval hospital.

The Times **Wednesday December 1st 1858**

IRELAND

(From our own correspondent)
DUBLIN, Tuesday Morning

THE CANNONADING AT QUEENSTOWN

A court martial was held at Queenstown on Monday, on board Her Majesty's ship Nile, on Lieutenant Edward Alfred Luckraft, Second Lieutenant of her Majesty's Ship Hawke, on a charge of having acted in an improper and un-officer-like manner on the night of 31st October. The alarm caused to a large portion of the residents of Queenstown on the night of Sunday, 31st October, by loud and prolonged cannonading from the Hawke, must be still fresh in the minds of the public, and the proceedings today were an investigation of the charge against the officer who had ordered the cannonading,

Lieutenant Luckraft. The officers composing the court were, Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Chap's KCB, Port Admiral, President; Captain Forbes, Captain Ommanney, Captain Chads, Captain D'Eyncourt and Captain Wright. Captain Crispen was also nominated, but having been objected to by the prisoner his name was struck out.

Mr C E Pritchard, secretary to Rear Admiral Sir C Fremantle, acted as Judge- Advocate; Lieutenant Pickard, her Majesty's Ship Hawke, was the prosecuting officer and Mr Kenneth Sutherland, Paymaster of the Royal Albert, appeared on behalf of the prisoner.

The following charge was read to which the prisoner pleaded not guilty.
For that he Lieutenant Edward Henry Luckraft being in actual service and in full pay in Her Majesty's fleet and a Lieutenant belonging to Her Majesty's ship Hawke did on Sunday 31st October 1858 without orders from his superior officer, beat to general night quarters, and in an improper and un-officer-like manner did cause fire to be opened from the great guns of Her Majesty's ship Hawke, the said Lieutenant Luckraft being at the time drunk.

The charge refers to a cannonading which took place on the night in question from the Hawke while lying in Queenstown harbour, by the orders of Lieutenant Luckraft who happened to be the senior officer on board.

Lieutenant Pickard, First Lieutenant of the Hawke was sworn and deposed to having proceeded on board the Hawke on the night of 31st October, on hearing the firing in Queenstown and to having been informed by the gunner that it had taken place by the orders of Lieutenant Luckraft. The gunner also informed him that Lieutenant Luckraft was drunk and he then placed the latter officer under arrest.

Thomas Andrews, gunner of the Hawke, deposed that about 8 o'clock on the night to 31st October he was directed by one of the men to go down to Lieutenant Luckraft, and on going down he found him in the wardroom with a decanter and gin on the table, and a number of officers there. He asked witness would he take some gin and witness said he would rather not. He then told witness that he wished the men to beat to night quarters to which witness replied, "Very well sir." Witness then asked him if Lieutenant Pickard knew of it as it, was usual when the men were beat to night quarters to know it some time before, and Lieutenant Luckraft said it was all right. He, the prisoner, added afterwards that he had got a letter directing him to do so. Witness then remarked that a number of the men were ashore and that it was impossible to man all the guns, and the prisoner told him to fire four rounds from both sides.

Witness went to execute the order and took out 48 rounds. Had no suspicion at this time that the prisoner was intoxicated. In a quarter of an hour after witness was sent for again and asked by the prisoner was everything going on, to which the witness replied in the affirmative. And the other then desired him to proceed and to report when all was ready, as he, the prisoner, wanted to have everything over by 10 o'clock.

Everything being ready at a quarter past nine the prisoner came on deck and gave orders to the men to fire three rounds on both sides. As soon as 48 rounds of powder were handed from the magazine, witness told the gunner's mate not to let out any more until further orders. The prisoner then sent for him and asked what right he had to interfere, and told him he had better mind what he was about, or he, the prisoner, would order him down to his cabin. Witness apologised saying he was very sorry, and asked would he go back to the magazine and go on. The other replied, "You can go wherever you like, for I do not want you." Witness then observed prisoner staggering while walking, and he desired a ship's corporal to observe him, and take notice of him as he was drunk.

Went on the main deck then and the prisoner ordered the men to fire four rounds quick, and turning round to give the order he staggered and fell against the after gun-tackle on the main deck. Witness asked the chaplain to speak to Lieutenant Luckcraft, and persuade him to cease firing, which the chaplain did, but he did not order the firing to cease until he, the witness, gave the orders himself. At this moment Lieutenant Pickard came on board in a boat, and the witness stated to him that the men had beat to quarters by Lieutenant Luckraft's orders, and that he was drunk, and Lieutenant Pickard then ordered the prisoner to his cabin.

John Streeting, sailmaker's mate, deposed to the facts of the firing similarly to the last witness, and said the prisoner appeared at the time to have been drinking. Was led to suppose so from his having given a wrong word of command. Observed that after the first three rounds did not consider that the prisoner was exactly drunk but he had been drinking to the best of witness's belief. Saw him reel against the foremost side tackle of the after-gun, but he did not exactly fall. The wrong order he gave was "Inboard secured the guns," instead of "Outboard secured the guns." That was the only reason the witness had for supposing the prisoner to have been drinking.

"Are the main-deck guns of the Hawke ever secured inboard in the harbour after firing, for the purpose of been cleaned? - Not secured but run in.

"Examined by the prisoner - might not a sober man in turning round suddenly have staggered as you state me to have done? - He might.

"The President - Did you consider it was from drinking that he staggered and fell against the gun? - He might have done it from turning quickly. I have done the same thing myself. I do not think it was from drinking.

"Assistant Surgeon Conway of the Hawke deposed to a conversation which took place between him and Lieutenant Pickard after the firing, in which he, the witness, stated that he was satisfied that the prisoner was drunk. Saw him about three-quarters of an hour before the beating to quarters and he was not then drunk.

"The Reverend George G W Clemenger, Chaplain of the Hawke, stated that he saw the prisoner during the firing and he was staggering and apparently unable to take care of himself. That partly arose from drink, and partly from confusion and excitement. Believed that the working of the guns and the firing had excited him in addition to the drink he had taken. Saw him about 10 minutes before beating to quarters and considered him then to be sober.

"James Hyde, corporal of the Hawke, stated that he was desired by the gunner to observe Lieutenant Luckraft during the firing and notice if he was drunk, but witness did not observe him to be so.

This closed the case for the prosecution, and the prisoner having asked for time until next morning to prepare his defence, it was granted and the court adjourned to 10 o'clock.

Thursday 2nd December 1858

THE CANNONADING AT QUEENSTOWN.

The court martial on board Her Majesty's ship Nile in the harbour of Queenstown on Lieutenant Luckraft of Her Majesty's ship Hawke on a charge of having while drunk beat the ship's company to general night quarters, and opened fire from the ship, on the night of 31st October, which had been adjourned from Monday, was resumed on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

The prisoner's defence was read, which, after referring to the evidence of the different witnesses to show that he was perfectly sober when the drums beat to night quarters, and that it was improbable he could have got drunk after, when he could have tasted no liquor, proceeded to state that it was much more probable that the staggering and thickness of speech which had been deposed to were produced by a constitutional affection, called by medical men a congestion of the brain, which he would endeavour to prove had been produced in him by a long exposure in a tropical climate. The defence then stated that the best evidence would be produced to show that he was subject to such attacks, and that they might produce all the symptoms which he had exhibited on the night in question, and which had led to the suspicion that he was drunk.

Lieutenant Pickard, First Lieutenant of the Hawke, was then examined, and stated that he had never seen the prisoner under the influence of drink previous to 31st October, and that he had never hesitated to leave him as commanding officer of the Hawke when circumstances required it. The prisoner had also been frequently commander of the Hawke at Plymouth.

Believed the prisoner to be of a nervous temperament, and from his manner and the peculiar nervous twitching of his head and eyes, which were observed in him since he joined the ship. Witness's opinion was that the prisoner's conduct, as an officer and gentleman, had always been perfectly correct while on board for Hawke, up to the 31st October.

Mr Thomas Heywood, Paymaster of the Hawke, also stated that he had observed prisoner to suffer occasionally from nervous attacks while on board the Hawke, particularly a few days after joining the Hawke at Plymouth, when the prisoner requested him to write an application for 42 days' leave, and when witness endeavoured to ascertain the reason, he seemed perfectly unaware of why he wished to get the leave.

Mr George Simmons additional paymaster of Hawke, also gave evidence as to the nervous temperament of the prisoner, and as to his uniformly correct conduct up to 31st October.

Mr John M'Kay chief engineer, Stephen Cuer, boatswain, and George Creed, carpenter, all deposed that the prisoner was sober up to 9 o'clock, and the two latter stated that about 10 minutes past nine he told them the ship's crew were going to quarters, and he then was quite sober.

Rear Admiral Alfred Luckraft, father to the prisoner, was next sworn, and deposed that while the prisoner was serving in China he wrote several letters to him, the witness, stating that he had on several occasions suffered from sun-strokes, one of which was a very severe one. And from his letters after that he appeared to be very depressed. He returned in November 1857 in a state of great weakness and ill-health and on several occasions showed symptoms that made him appear as if he had been drinking. The witness knew very well that he had not taken any drink and that it would have been impossible for him to have taken it without his knowledge. Witness did all he could to keep prisoner from being employed until he should be in a better state of health, but he got an appointment in the Hawke, and he wished himself to join. Witness, before allowing him to go, made enquiries about Hawke and her captain, and finding that she was a quiet harbour ship, he allowed the prisoner to go to sea in her.

A certificate was then read from Dr Magrath of Guernsey, which that gentleman had sworn to stating that he had been in attendance on the prisoner after his return from China, and considered him to be naturally nervous and excitable, and possessed of a naturally week mind, which would be likely to break down in after life. The certificate also deposed to the state of nervous excitement under which the prisoner laboured while under the doctor's care, which led him to impress on the prisoners' father that he should not go to sea for at least six or 12 months.

An affirmation from the sister of the prisoner, made before Mr Gallagher J P of Queenstown, was next to read in which she stated that the prisoner, after his return from China, had frequently laboured under fits of nervous excitement during which he appeared to suffer under delusions, and sometimes did not recollect afterwards what had occurred while labouring under one of those fits.

Dr Alexander Eugene M'ki, staff surgeon of the fleet, was then sworn, and stated that he had served in China, and was acquainted with the diseases peculiar to the climate. Believed that sun-stroke produced congestion of the brain, and that such a disease caused by sunstroke had a great tendency to relapse. Believed that staggering gait, temporary mental delusions, flushed face, and embarrassed speech were produced by such a disease and that frequent relapses had a decided tendency to produce mental disorder. The symptoms mentioned sometimes had the appearance of drunkenness. A person drinking spirits to a moderate extent under such circumstances would be much more liable to have his head affected than ordinary persons.

A letter was then read from Admiral Richards, lately one of the Lords of the Admiralty, addressed to the prisoner, which referred in high terms of praise to his uniform good conduct, and certificates were read from the following ship's of Her Majesty's fleet in which he had served; Sybille, Encounter, Vengeance, Impregnable, Caledonia, and Victory.

Dr Robert Bernard, surgeon of the Hawke, was called by the court and examined, and he gave similar testimony to that given by Dr M'ki as to the effects of sunstroke and the symptoms produced by congestion of the brain.

This closed the evidence on both sides, and the court was cleared.

After an interval of about an hour-and-a-half the public were again admitted, when the Judge-Advocate read the decision of the court which declared their opinion that the charge was proved against Lieutenant Edward Alfred Luckraft, but in consideration of the medical testimony which had been produced and his previous good conduct the sentence was that he should be dismissed from Her Majesty's ship Hawke and rendered incapable of serving in Her Majesty's employment again.

The court then broke up and the prisoner was released from custody. The sentence does not preclude Lieutenant Luckraft from receiving half pay.

Another dismissal

In 1875, just seven years later, Edward Alfred's second cousin, Lt John Sulivan Luckraft, descended from his dad's half-brother, also was dismissed from his ship for being incapable of keeping the watch.

The Times of Thursday May 20th 1875 reported:

> News from the Channel Squadron states that a court-martial was held on board the Triumph, Captain H D Grant, for the trial of Lieut. John S Luckraft on a charge of being incapable of keeping his watch. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and called upon Captain J D MaCrea, the senior officer at Gibraltar, to speak in his favour. He was sentenced to be dismissed from Her Majesty's ship Triumph, to be severely reprimanded and to lose two years' seniority.

John Sulivan Luckraft had been an outstanding junior officer at Dartmouth, and passed with the highest possible marks for navigation. After he left the Navy, he travelled to the Us to be a surveyor for the prospectors, using his navigational skills. He met sometime Jessie Allen the daughter of a minor county family in Somerset, and she travelled out to Colorado Springs in 1888 to marry John.

On the following page is reproduced the US naturalisation paper for John Sulivan Luckraft.

Benjamin Lucraft : Labour Leader

A recent web-publication about the foundation and history of the Birmingham Trades Council records that Benjamin visited Birmingham in 1867, for what became known in Birmingham as the great Brookfields Demonstration on Easter Monday that year.

Over a quarter of a million people were reported there, and the history says

> "From the eight platforms trade union leaders spoke. George Howell and George Odger from the "Junta" of Amalgamated Unions; George Potter, editor of the Beehive, and the Junta's opponent; Benjamin Lucraft of the General Council of the International Working Men's Association; William Cremer, the Carpenters' leader, and Roger Bateson, Secretary of the Trades Council were at this great demonstration. There were a sprinkling of old Chartists and middle-class Radicals among the impressive and influential speakers on the representative."

FINAL CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION.—Colo.—R.—Colver, Page, Hayes & Co., Stationers, Chicago.

United States of America,

STATE OF COLORADO,

COUNTY OF El Paso SS.

Be it Remembered, That on the Twentyeighth day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eightynine personally appeared before Hon. John Campbell Presiding Judge of the District Court of the County of El Paso and State aforesaid (the same being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, a Seal and a Clerk), and sitting judicially for the dispatch of business at the Court House in the City of Colorado Springs in the County aforesaid an alien, above the age of twenty-one years, and applied to the said Court to be admitted to become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America, pursuant to the several Acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject, and the said John S. Luckraft having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony showing that he has heretofore reported himself and filed his Declaration of his Intention to become a Citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of the said several Acts of Congress, and the Court being satisfied, as well from the oath of the said John S. Luckraft as from the testimony of Leonard Jackson and O. L. Godfrey who are known to be citizens of the United States, that the said John S. Luckraft has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past within the State of Colorado, and that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same, and two years and upward having elapsed since the said John S. Luckraft reported himself and filed his Declaration of his Intention aforesaid, IT WAS ORDERED, that the said John S. Luckraft be permitted to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the usual oath whereby he renounces all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state and sovereignty whatever, and more particularly to Victoria Queen of Great Britain and Ireland whereof he was heretofore a subject, which oath having been administered to the said John S. Luckraft by the Clerk of said Court, it was ordered by the Court that the said John S. Luckraft be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of a naturalized citizen of the United States, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court, under the Seal of said Court, accordingly.

John Campbell Judge

STATE OF COLORADO, } ss.
COUNTY OF El Paso }

I, Edgar Howbert Clerk of the District Court of said State and County, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy from the Records of said Court.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Seal of the said Court is hereto affixed, at the Clerks Office in Colorado Springs this 28th day of March A. D. 1889, and of the Independence of the United States the 114th.

By order of the Court.
ATTEST: Edgar Howbert
Clerk of the District Court of El Paso County.

The US Naturalisation Certificate for John Sulivan Luckraft Lt RN

11

The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

January 2003 Edition 10 **© Ian Lucraft : The Luc(k)raft One-Name Study**

Joseph and Sarah of Illinois

For years I have been on the track of this family group in America, reporting in past newsletters on fragments of new information; now I have been contacted by Joe Bedell from Washington State in America, who is a descendant of this family, and found out about our Luc(k)raft family research from the web-site.

He and his father are sharing the work they have done on their family group, and we are the lucky beneficiaries. The Lucraft name died out in this family in the 19th century and so we have had to wait for someone to find us.

The Early Story in Lympstone

The family origins lie back in the same Devon roots as all the Lucraft groups descended from Nicholas Lucraft, who married Margaret Westcott in 1691 in the beautiful little church in the hamlet of Farringdon, near Woodbury.

Nicholas' and Margaret's grandson, John Lucraft, was baptised in 1760 in Woodbury, and married Ann Eastman (baptised Woodbury c 1754) in Lympstone in 1786. Lympstone is nearby, on the Exe estuary. (For many years now it has been the training home of the British Commandos.) We don't know why they were married there; perhaps Ann and her parents had moved there.

John and Ann Lucraft had at least eight children, starting with a Joseph in 1787, through to a James in 1805. One of these children also carried the name Eastman as a middle name, Elizabeth Eastman Lucraft, baptised 1794 in Lympstone.

Ann died and John remarried in 1809 to Mary Arthur Newbury, a lacemaker of Lympstone. Lace-making was and still is a traditional Devon craft. John and Mary then had at least two children. Mary lived until 1852, when she died aged about 78.

John lived until 1832, aged about 72, but we don't know anything more about him yet. There was much poverty in the Lucraft household in Lympstone, they were not alone at that time. The Poor Records show that the Widow Lucraft got 4 shillings in 1833. This could be John's widow.

Joseph the Carpenter

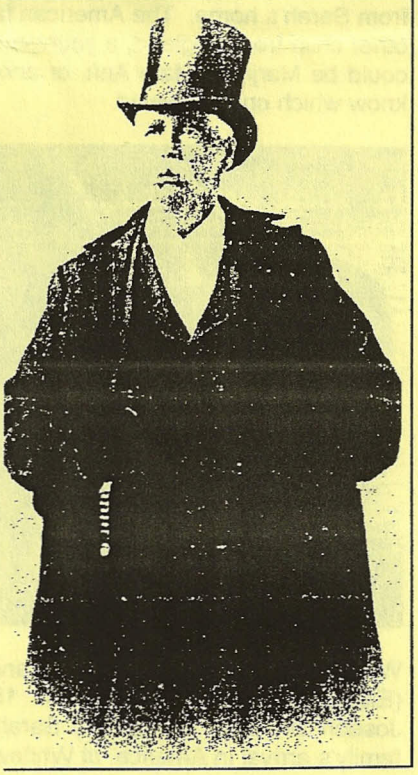
Returning to John and his first wife Ann Eastman's first child, Joseph, born 1787, we find Joseph apprenticed as a carpenter on 2nd May 1796 at the age of nine, which was quite common. At the censuses of 1841 and 1851 he is listed as a carpenter at one of the big houses in Heavitree near Exeter; No 7 Oakfield Place. Joseph may also have had a brother John living and working with his own family too at the same house.

Joseph and a woman named Mary (no marriage found as yet) then had at least six children, all baptised in Heavitree, starting with a John in 1816 who also became a carpenter, and ending with a Thomas Eastman Lucraft in 1832. This last son Thomas was working with his father at the same house in Heavitree at the 1851 census as a Gardener, and one of the daughters was working there too as a servant.

The second son, William, baptised 1816 may also have become a carpenter. He is a prime candidate for the William Lucraft who is recorded as being transported to Australia from Exeter Assizes, in 1841, but we cannot be sure as yet.

Joseph Eastman Lucraft

The third son, Joseph and his family got travelling feet. He was baptised in Heavitree Parish Church on 9th December 1821, and I believe he grew up to be a shoemaker. I have no more evidence of him in the Exeter area after his baptism record. (There is an unconnected record of a Joseph Lucraft working as a shoemaker in Halwell, the other side of Exeter in 1850.)



Joseph Eastman Lucraft

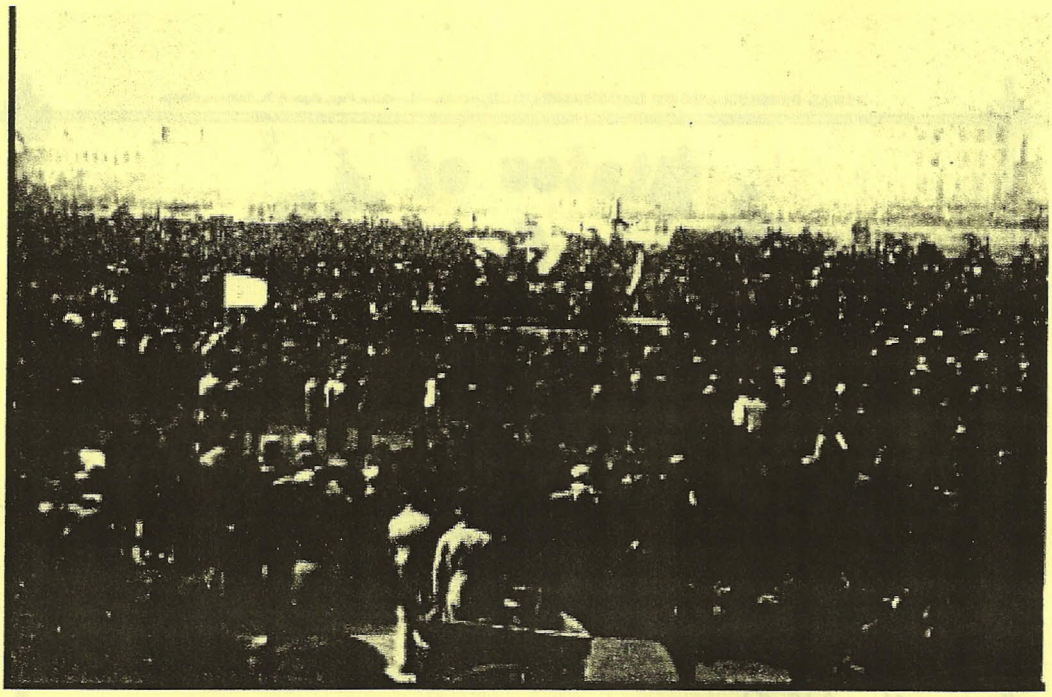
Born 1821 Heavitree

m Sarah Elphic 1848 England
m Sylvia Elphic 1856 USA

Farmer of Fairbury Neb

d 1913 Iowa

Joseph re-appears about 200 miles East of Exeter in 1848, when he marries a young woman named Sarah Elphick, on 9th October in the parish church in the tiny hamlet of Hooe, just outside Hastings in Sussex. Joseph is recorded as being a shoemaker, aged 26, which would put his birth at 1822, but he does say his father is Joseph Lucraft a



Kennington Common

The picture above, taken at the great Chartist rally on Kennington Common in 1848, is one of the very first, if not the first news photograph. While this reproduction is not very clear, it gives a flavour of the reality of the event. It has an especial interest for us, because we know that Benjamin Lucraft was present. He had arrived with his mother and family in London in about 1832, already interested in radical politics, and while he was not yet at the height of his activity, he was, said George Howell, one who kept the embers of Chartism alive.

The Newsletter and Website

I would like everyone to know about some changes to the newsletter and the website over the coming months.

The Website and e-mail

This is going to be updated and moved from its present address **www.lucraft.demon.co.uk**, to another address, which is not yet determined. There will be some overlap and you will be re-directed for a while from one to the other during the change-over. After the change-over, if you type +Lucraft +Luckraft into any search engine you should be able to get the new site.

Because of the problems of spam that I have had with a public web-site and a public e-mail address, I shall not be putting my new e-mail address in correctly on the new site. To help prevent the auto-searching software finding me, for my new e-mail address I will instead put:

My e-mail address is ian1ucraft@btinternet.com,
Please replace the number 1 (the fourth character) with a letter l when you use this e-mail address.

The Newsletter

I will still be producing the newsletter, but I have decided to go to one larger edition once a year, which is what it has been now for two years in fact. It will still be produced as a photocopied newsletter for libraries and individuals who want or need the paper copy sent to them, and it will still be free. For readers who would be prepared to accept it via e-mail, I would be grateful if you would let me know. Obviously it will cut down on postage, especially abroad. But if you want the paper one, please don't hesitate to say so.

As part of this change, I am trying to make the newsletter more web-friendly, and it won't be the old scissors and paste job it has been. This will mean that I will be able to put the newsletter on the website too, and anyone will be able to download it free when they find it.