The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

April 1998 **Edition 4**

A Naval family from Plymouth

All eight of John Luckraft's sons serve the Royal Navy

John Luckraft, baptised in Modbury in 1746, became a master cooper, and Paymaster RN in Plymouth Dockyard. He married twice, both times into well-established old Cornish families; the Lobbs, the Warnes and the Littles.

Of his eight known sons, eight joined the navy, and the other carried on his trade of Cooper at the King's Brewhouse, in the Royal Dockyard. Three daughters were named Honor, after his mother, Honor Edgcombe, a daughter of the Edgcumbe family going back to 1285, and the fourth was named Ann Priscilla after his second wife.

John Luckraft, the first son, was present at the Spithead Mutiny. He was captured by the Turks noted for bravery by throwing the powder kegs overboard in a fire, captured pirate ships, fought the French and survived injury and paralysis at sea. **George Luckraft** became the cooper after his father, **Adrian Sweete Lucraft** died in the West Indies, **Alfred** fought at Trafalgar and became an Admiral, **Robert** also died in the West Indies, and **Fred** was drowned at sea.

Charlotte Hannah Campsell was the daughter of J. Campsell of his Majesty's Brewery at Weovill, near Gosport, and she married William in 1825, the year he was promoted to Commander. Charlotte's family were comfortably off, owing paintings and water colours which have been passed down through generations. Some were recently sold at auction in England.

These two photos are of paintings belonging to a very distant descendant of Charlotte, which I've tracked down after years of hunting for them; there was a suggestion 20 years ago that there might be paintings somewhere, and in 1997 I finally met the owner of the paintings, and he kindly allowed me to take these photographs.

William and Charlotte settled eventually at a recently built house called Severals, on Knowles Hill outside Newton Abbot. It still stands, surrounded now by newer houses. The owners say it was built by the Duke of Somerset for his own use, but let or sold a few years after it was built.

Rear Admiral William Luckraft

Charlotte Hannah Luckraft (nee Campsell)

William Luckraft, above, John's second son, joined the Navy aged 14, and rose from Volunteer to be Rear Admiral at his retirement. He saw action and was captured against the French in 1802, at Gravelines, and in the East Indies where he first commanded ships, and shared in the destruction of the Dutch fleet in 1807. He returned to serve in the Baltic, at the siege of Danzig, in the West Indies, and the Mediterranean, where he fought at the "Beyrout" and Acre.

Early this year, a researcher in the US saw the Luc(k)raft Web-site on the Internet, and contacted me because he is researching a Luckraft, who turns out to be John's great grandson, John Sulivan Lucraft. A woman in England had asked me about this man, who married the daughter of Stocklinch Manor in Somerset in 1888 in Colorado Springs! These are the first descendants I've come across for this gallant family.

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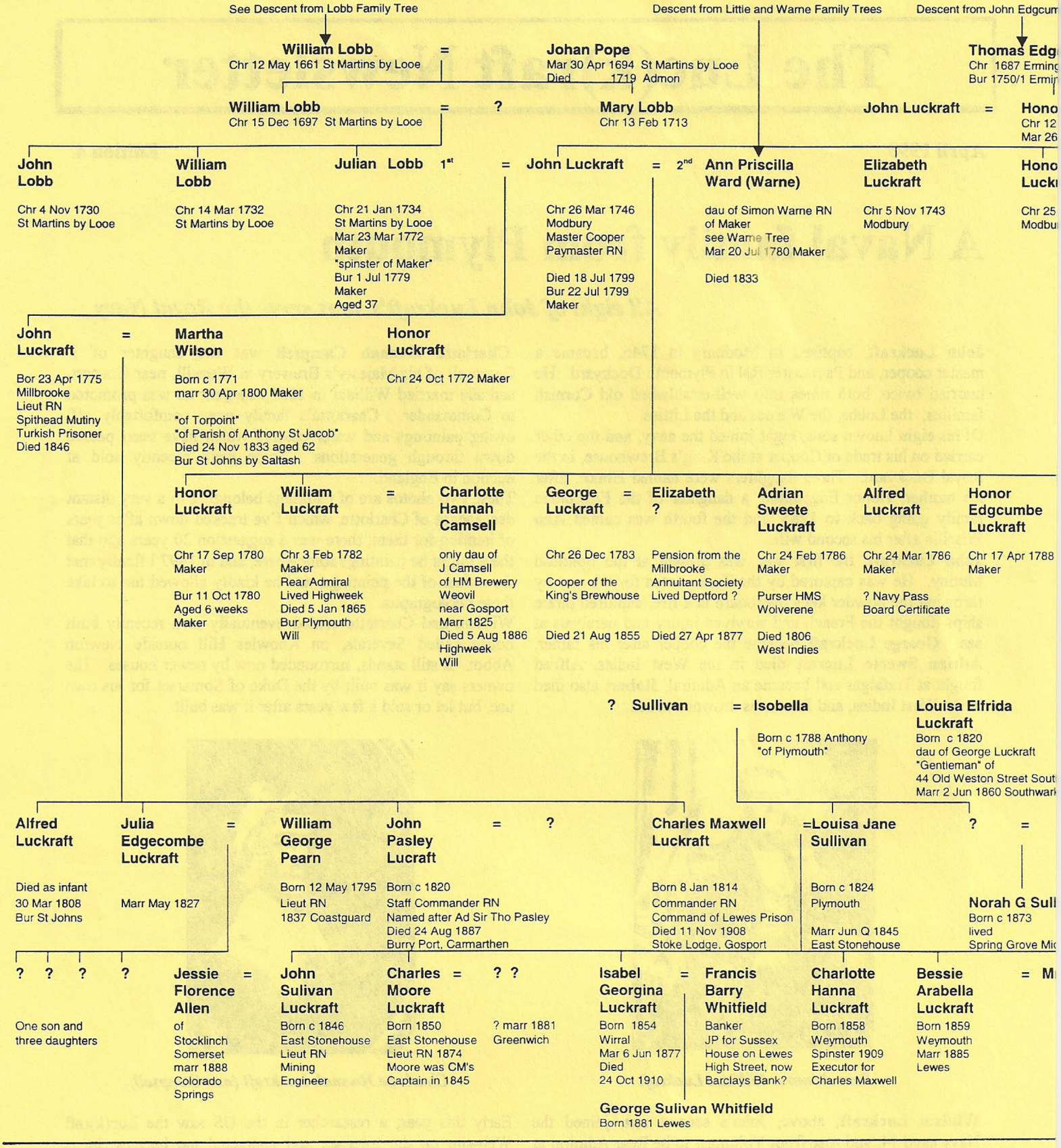
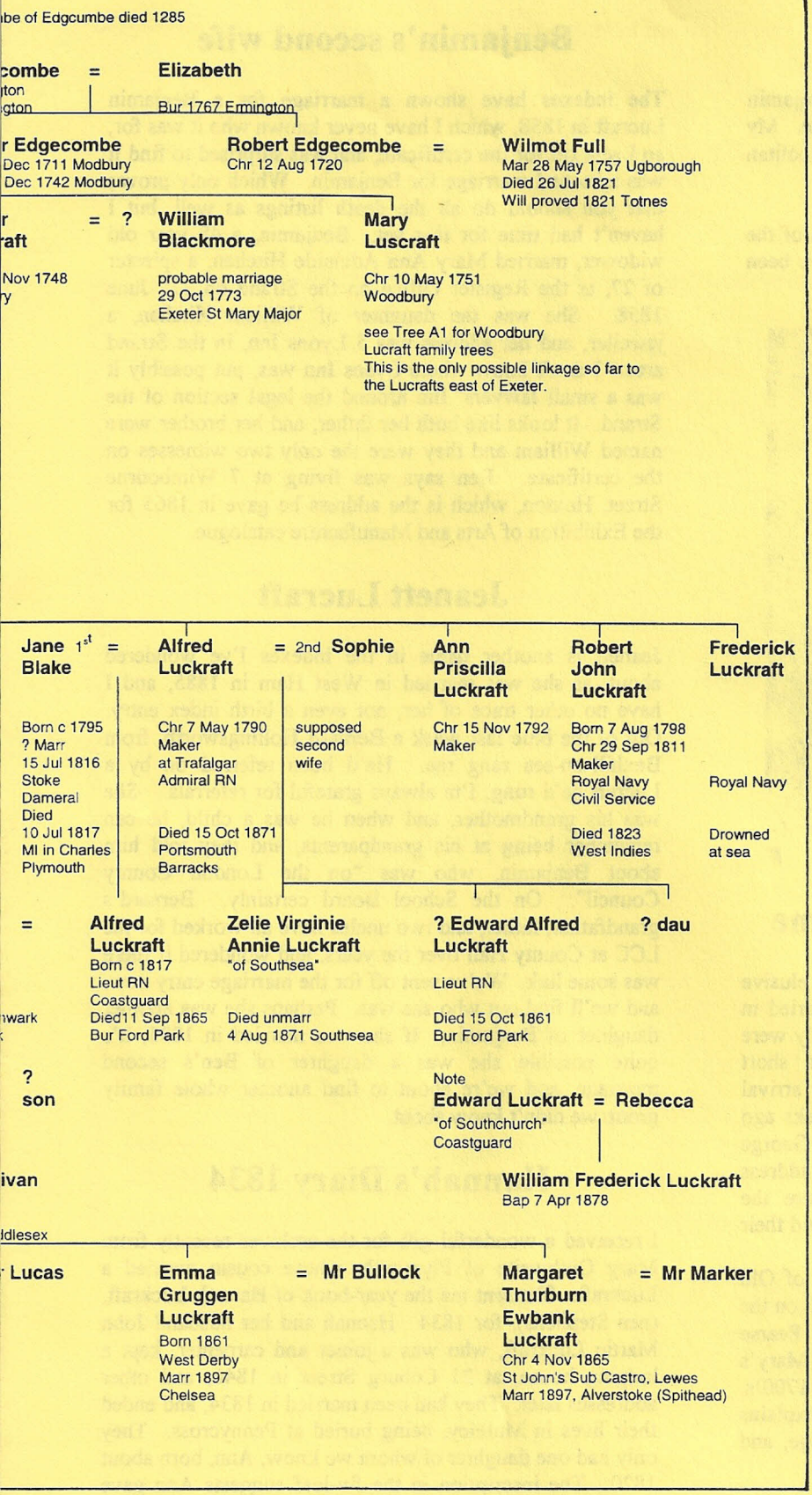


Lucraft's Delight

John Lucraft, and his wife Elizabeth, lived on "a tract of land....known by the name of Lucraft's Delight", in Charles County, Maryland, USA. He was a planter, and his will was proved on the 18th December 1771. In 1742 he was a witness to the will of Allen Heuton, in the same town. He leaves the land to Elizabeth, and after her to his daughter Claire, or Claudia, and after her to his grandson, John Chilton, the son of another daughter, Priscilla

Benjamin and Susanna

This couple were settled in Beaufort County, North Carolina in the 1790's, but we can't find where they came from. Tom Locraft in America keeps trying to work on them for us. They had six children, one also called Benjamin, who became a manufacturer and trader, with 8 male and 9 female slaves. This Benjamin too had six children, of whom one was yet another Benjamin. This Ben, and three of his brothers were also in business, and owning slaves, including one brother called Lafayette and another called Franklin Lucraft. Even this third Ben had a



son called Benjamin, born about 1855. It's tempting to speculate on the importance of the name to a family group, that it might have come from the same family group in England that also produced a line of Benjamins.

Bed and Breakfast

Marilyn French, nee Luckraft, writes that she has moved, to the White Cottage, Northcott Mouth, Bude. She is starting up bed and breakfast in a cottage 100 yards from the beach and the coastal path, in an area of Special Scientific Interest, and National Trust land. Sounds nice!

The Naval Luckrafts

The tree to the left shows this Naval family. The only two living descendants I've found so far are descended from Jessie and John in the bottom left. Apart from the fact that many of the men died at sea, and so their progeny are less, the daughters all changed their names; the descendants are out there.

Booklets

I've produced a booklet, about 100 pages, with some photos, wills, certificates copied into it, setting out all the details of this Naval family as I have it. I would be happy to post a copy of to anyone requesting it. It's one volume of the study, and not printed. You would get a photocopy, and I would have to ask for £10, to cover copying and binding.

There are also similar booklets for the following family groups either finished or in writing; Aveton Gifford families, Blackawton Village, Broadclyst Village, Biography of Benjamin. A similar arrangement would apply to these as they are available. I expect to do ones also for Preston, Lincoln, USA, and London.

Luckraft and Torring

Garland Luckraft, of Torquay, but originally of the Aveton Gifford families, has sent me a wonderful set of photocopies of some property deeds relating to the Torrings into which his family married.

Edwin Luckraft : Pawnbroker

Edwin, born 1824 in East Stonehouse, son of Joseph Luckraft, of Maker, was a pawnbroker in Duke Street, Plymouth in the 1850's. His father had been an artist, and his son took over the pawnbroking business. I recently made contact with Edwin's descendants, and finally linked in Gwendoline Luckraft, the artist and illustrator of children's books, who painted in Newton Abbot School of Art in 1924, aged 22. She was Edwin's granddaughter, and had 11 sisters and one brother. Does anyone know where she might have gone, and if any work of hers survives?

Her sisters, with their birth dates, were Beatrice 1879, Adelaide 1880, Mabel 1881, Hannah Florence 1883, Ethel 1884, Annie 1885, Hilda 1887, Dorothy 1889, Winifred 1891, Mildred 1892, Olive 1894, and Phyllis 1890. Marjorie Gwendoline herself was born in 1890, and brother Edwin Montague in 1883. The births of all these 13 children were registered in the Plympton district. Her brother, the third in a line of Edwins, married a woman in Lambeth, London in 1905, where his three children were born.

Edwin's brother, Joseph Luckraft, born 1832, was a seaman in 1851 at the census, but by 1897 he was listed as a Bird and Animal Preserver, a taxidermist, at 103 Union Street, East Stonehouse, Plymouth. Does anyone know anything about this interesting and talented family?

Benjamin Lucraft

Here's the first photo we've discovered of Benjamin Lucraft, whose biography I featured in the last issue. My parents have made visits to the London Metropolitan Archives where the staff have been most helpful.

It comes from a volume of photos of the members of the London School Board, and looks as if it might have been taken about 1880, when he was about 70.

Mary Pearce & the Seely name

Benjamin Lucraft's wife, Mary Pearce, has been elusive for some time. We knew Benjamin and Mary married in Taunton on Christmas Eve 1824. He and his family were carpenters living in East Reach in Taunton; a short stopping place from their origins in Exeter to their arrival in London about 1833. But it was only a few weeks ago that we found them in the 1851 Census. When George Seely Lucraft married Amelia Welch, he listed his address as 52 Britannia Row, Islington, and that's where the researcher in Hackney found Benjamin and Mary and their family.

Mary said she had been born in the tiny village of Old Cleeve in Somerset, which is just each of Minehead, on the north Somerset coast. Their we've found the Pearse family, (usually spelled Pearse there), and found Mary's forebears back four generations to the early 1700's. Mary's mother's name was Betty Sealey, which explains the Seely name used by Mary and Ben for George, and then by George for his son.

Benjamin's Grave

Gwen and I went to see Benjamin's grave in Abney Park again recently and I'm glad I recorded it 20 years ago, as the letters are starting to fall off, and trees are growing through the graves. One of the Friends of Abney Park is interested in the Chartists buried there, and I'm going to write to him about Benjamin.

Benjamin's second wife

The indexes have shown a marriage for a Benjamin Lucraft in 1858, which I have never known who it was for, so I sent off for the certificate, and was surprised to find it was a second marriage for Benjamin. Which only proves that you should do all the death listings as well, but I haven't had time for that yet. Benjamin, a 48 year old widower, married Mary Ann Adelaide Hitchen, a spinster of 27, at the Register Office on the Strand on 27th June 1858. She was the daughter of William Hitchen, a jeweller, and her address was 5 Lyons Inn, in the Strand area. I don't know where Lyons Inn was, put possibly it was a small lawyers' Inn around the legal section of the Strand. It looks like both her father, and her brother were named William and they were the only two witnesses on the certificate. Ben says was living at 7 Wimbourne Street, Hoxton, which is the address he gave in 1865 for the Exhibition of Arts and Manufacture catalogue.

Jeanett Lucraft

Jeanett is another name in the indexes I've wondered about, as she was married in West Ham in 1885, and I have no other trace of her, not even a birth index entry. Out of the blue last week a Bernard Hollingsworth, from Bexhill-on-sea rang me. He'd been referred on by a Lucraft he'd rung; I'm always grateful for referrals. She was his grandmother, and when he was a child, he can remember being at his grandparents, and they told him about Benjamin, who was "on the London County Council". On the School Board certainly. Bernard's grandfather, father, and two uncles have all worked for the LCC at County Hall over the years, and wondered if there was some link. We've sent off for the marriage entry now, and we'll find out who she was. Perhaps she was another daughter of Benjamin; If she was married in 1885, it's quite possible she was a daughter of Ben's second marriage, and we're about to find another whole family group we didn't know about.

Hannah's Diary 1834

I received a wonderful gift for the archives recently from Mary Outhwaite of Plymouth, whose cousin married a Luckraft. She sent me the year-book of Hannah Luckraft, (nee Stephens), for 1834. Hannah and her husband John Martin Luckraft, who was a joiner and carpenter, kept a lodging house, at 21 Coburg Street in 1846, and other addresses later. They had been married in 1834, and ended their lives in Muteley, being buried at Pennycross. They only had one daughter of whom we know, Ann, born about 1820. The inscription in the fly-leaf suggests Ann gave her the book. In it Hannah notes the rents for some of her lodgers, lists of her friends, events she went to and ships that were launched. John Martin Luckraft was the uncle of Edwin Luckraft, the pawnbroker mentioned elsewhere on the previous page.

Thank you
to everyone who makes enquiries, sends information, passes names on, and makes donations !

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