

The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

December 1999

Edition 7

Worldwide gathering of namesakes to their Devon origin



FAMILY GATHERING: Members of the Lucraft family met at the Crossmeads Centre, Exeter, at the weekend. **BELOW:** Clinton Leacraft, right, and brothers Matt, standing, and Tom Locraft. Picture: DEREK MEREDITH

Lucrafts visit their ancestral roots

NAMESAKES from across the world have made the pilgrimage to their ancestral Devon roots.

Almost 50 people who share variations on the surname Lucraft converged on Exeter for a special meeting.

The gathering marked the culmination of 25 years' painstaking research by semi-professional historian Ian Lucraft.

And distant cousins from as far afield as America and Zimbabwe were among those who arrived to share their family histories.

Clinton Leacraft was making his first visit to Britain since taking part in the D-Day landings of 1944.

The 80-year-old retired printer, who has homes in Philadelphia and Florida, knew nothing of his ancestry until he

answered the telephone six months ago.

He said: "It was Ian. He asked me if I would come and I said I would."

"I don't know if I am related, but I've had a beautiful welcome."

As well as Lucraft and Leacraft, the surnames Locraft, Lockcraft, Lucraft and Leacraft are all thought to be descended from the same Devon family.

Ian Lucraft traced his ancestors back five generations to the village of Broadclyst, near Exeter.

And he has confirmed the family name originated in the South Hams in the 15th century.

His research is allowing scientists to use DNA testing techniques to build a snapshot of the genetic make-up of Devon people up to 500 years ago.

Geneticists at University College, London,

have already taken 12 mouth swabs from family members and are due to announce their results early next year.

And at the weekend American Thomas Locraft donated a swab sample towards the research.

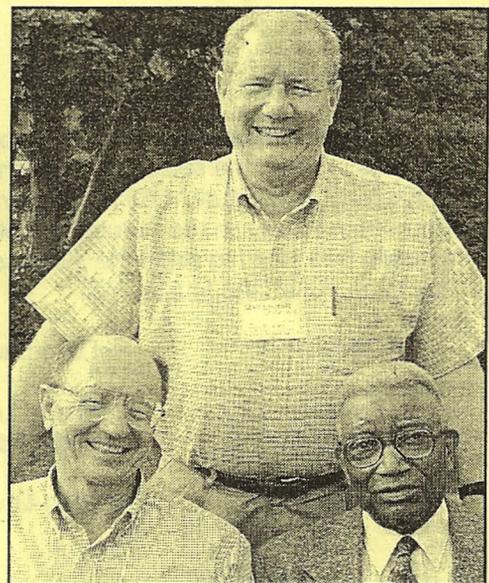
Mr Locraft, 64, who lives in Maryland, has been tracing his own family's history for the past 40 years.

He believes he is descended from a William Lucraft who sailed to New York from Devon in the early 1800s.

Mr Locraft, who travelled to Exeter with his brother Matthew, has been exchanging letters with Ian for the past 25 years.

He said: "I am just thrilled to be here."

"It seems to me this is such a friendly bunch of people. It must be something in the genes."



One Lucraft was wounded at the Battle of Trafalgar, three later became admirals in the Royal Navy and a Benjamin Lucraft helped Karl Marx set up the first International Workingmen's Association.

Ian Lucraft said: "After 25 years, to finally meet all the people I've been writing to or talking to has been great. Everyone here has had a bit to add to the jigsaw."



VISIT: Lawrence Luchraft, of Zimbabwe.

Devon Origins in the South Hams

Reprinted here are the notes of part of one of the sessions at the One Name Day, where Ian Lucraft gave a brief introduction to some of the early records of the Luckraft and Lucraft families.

1332 Lay Subsidy

Queen Isabella, widow of Edward II ruling with her lover Mortimer, and peace had just been agreed with the Scots, under Robert the Bruce. England was more prosperous than ever, 5 million people, of whom 10% were in the towns. It would soon be followed by the Black Death and the Hundred Years War.

By the end of the 13th century, land was no longer the only way to measure a man's worth, and so new taxes were introduced based on moveable property and wages. After 1275 taxes were imposed through parliament, called lay subsidies, or tenths (reflecting the percentage of personal wealth due as payment, which was higher in towns than in rural areas where the rate was a fifteenth).

Essewater (Ashwater) Parish of Black Torrington, north of Okehampton,

Richard de Loccroft 18 pence (about average for non-landed men)

Is this a genuine early reference or an unconnected sound-alike?

1524 Lay Subsidy

Henry VIII had been on the throne since 1509. He's still married to his first wife, Catherine, who had her last still birth six years before in 1518. Henry is still on the side of the Pope, and Pope Clement awards Henry the title Defender of the Faith, (still on our coins today), in gratitude for the book Henry wrote three years before contradicting Martin Luther.

Loddiswell	William Lovecrofte	G5
	John Lovecroft	G4
	John Lovecroft	G3
Harberton	William Lowcrofte	W1
	Richard Lowcrofte	W1
Bridford	William Lomecrofte	G8
Exeter St Sidwell	John Lowcrofthe	G3

1569 Muster Roll

Now Elizabeth has been on the throne for a couple of decades, and relations with Spain are deteriorating. Phillip has ordered the seizure of English ships, though in June 1569 Spain indicated it would not go to war with England. In August 1569 the Queen stayed at Loseley Park, near Guildford, which is where we get nice yoghurt from today. In the Autumn of 1569 there was a serious conspiracy in the north of England because the queen had failed to settle the succession on Mary Queen of Scots. Men were alerted to the need to be ready to be put on the Muster Roll.

Revelstock	Luke Luckrafte	to present as a pikeman
Painton	Martin Lowcrofte	goods valued at £10-£20 to provide 1 bow, 1 sheaf of arrows, 1 steel cap, 1 bill
Harberton	John Lowcrofte	to present as a pikeman

Parish Events by 1599

Parish records began in 1538. By 1600 the war in the Netherlands had ended, and England and the Netherlands had defeated Spain. There was trouble in Ireland, where England ruled.

1552	Stoke Gabriel	Alse, daughter of Nicholas Lucraft	
1561	Painton	Richard Luckraft	**
1577	South Huish	son to William Luccroufte and Agnes Woodmesson	**
1590	Malborough	Roger Luckcrofte marries Margaret Evens	**
1596	Diptford	Walter Lucraft having children	**
1597	Halwell	John Luckraft buried	**

1600 - 1650

Over the next 50 years the records become more readily available to us. The new church in England had not settled its administrative affairs and there were no standard records kept. The number of people we find in the records is more closely related to the number that were actually present in the villages. During the Civil War (1640-1646) many records were lost or destroyed.

Not all the records survive, and not all the records have been made accessible to researchers, and I have not seen all the records that are available. But I think that I have a reasonable coverage. Perhaps 75% of the records?

Luckrafts in Devon villages up to 1650

The following villages show Parish records of Luckrafts during this 50 year period:

Winckleigh	1607	Henricus Lukecraft married Priscilla Jeffrey
Buckfastleigh	1610	Richarda, son of Arthuri Luckcroft born
East Portlemouth	1619	Ursula Luckcroft married William Laphorne
Newton Ferrars	1626	John Luckcraft married Elizabeth Poste
Bovey Tracey	1628	Armanella Luckercraft married
Totnes	1637	Agnes Luckcraft married Geiles Exal
Staverton	1639	Agnes Luckraft married Thomas May
Kingsbridge	1640	Elizabeth Lecraft married Nathaniel Lovell
Dartmouth St Saviour	1644	William Laccraft married Thomasine Mortine
Loddiswell	1652	Agnes Luccroft, widow, lived there

1641 Protestation Returns

In 1641 all the adult males had to swear a public oath of allegiance sent out by Parliament, and read in all the churches, to defend the Protestant Religion against Charles I's perceived attempts to return the state to Catholicism; here we are at the start of the Civil War. The records for the villages exist and the lists for Devon, which contain Luckraft variants are as follows:

Shaugh Prior	John Luckraft
Plympton St Mary	John Luckcrofte
Rattery	James Luccraft
Harberton	David Luccraft
North Huish	William Luckrafte
Diptford	Henry, Thomas, Thomas and Peter Luckraft(e)
Moreleigh	Robert Luccraft
Woodleigh	Henry Luccraft
Loddiswell	John, John, John and Nicholas Luccraft
Churstow	William Luccraft
Dodbrooke	William Luccase and John Luccrast
Stockenham	Robert Luccrast
South Milton	John Luccraft
Malborough	Thomas Luccraft

(There were also Lovecrafts, though no connection has ever been made with Lovecrafts. H.P. Lovecraft, the American cult writer tried but failed to make the connections.)

1700 in the Villages

By 1700 there has been a Luckraft event in most villages in the South Hams of Devon, and there is evidence of settled communities across the South Hams and into Exeter, Kings-bridge, Plymouth, and Dartmouth. The two volumes of village records in the One Name Study show the variety of villages, and the 30-40 trees in the records show the main family groups.

A day in the life of

WESTMINSTER

The calm beyond the crowds:
A behind-the-scenes peek at a
millennium of history and faith

By Charles Lockwood

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Tribune photos by Heather Stone

LONDON—Since its founding in 960 A.D., Westminster Abbey has been one of London's best-loved and most visited landmarks. Pilgrims, royalty, statesmen and tourists have all paid homage to this magnificent building. Today, the abbey attracts 2.5 million visitors a year from Great Britain and around the world.

Architecturally, the building is spectacular. Many consider it Great Britain's greatest Gothic structure. And no other building — not the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London or Buckingham Palace — has played such an important role in Britain's religious life and its history.

Since 1066, all but a few of Britain's monarchs have been crowned in the abbey. More than 200 weddings have been held there, including more than a dozen royal weddings, such as the ill-fated union of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson. The abbey has also been the scene of hundreds of state funerals, including Princess Diana's Sept. 7, 1997, services.

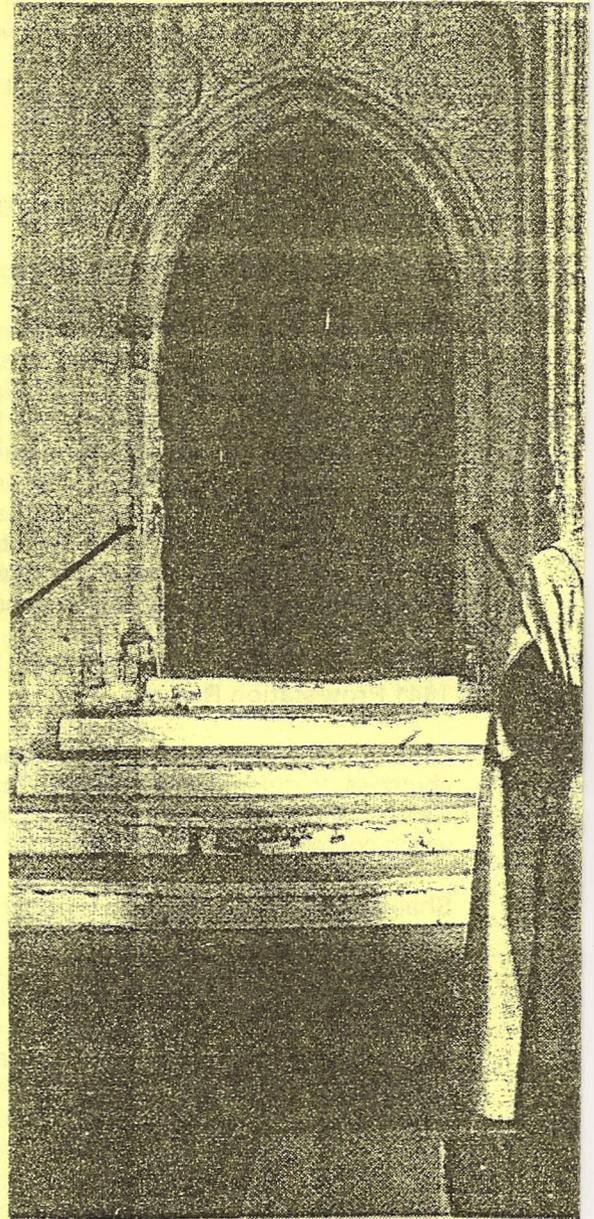
More than 3,000 people have been buried at the abbey, including a saint, some of Great Britain's best-known monarchs like Queen Elizabeth I, hundreds of nobility, leading British statesmen, poets, scientists, and abbey officials and

staff.

While Westminster Abbey symbolizes Great Britain's storied past, its daily religious services, the Westminster School (founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1560), the renowned Westminster Abbey Choir School and the abbey's many philanthropic works make this institution a vital part of contemporary Britain's daily life.

How does this treasured repository of Great Britain's history and religious life stay at the forefront of British life while meeting the needs of millions of visitors from around the world? Let's look behind the Caen stone and marble pillars to glimpse a day in the life of Westminster Abbey.

6:45 a.m.: Surrounded by silence, Ken Lucraft walks through the open air Cloisters at the heart of Westminster Abbey, his footfalls on the ancient stone pavement being the only sound in the pristine morning sunlight. He walks up half



THE DAY BEGINS: Ken Lucraft holds the keys to the

Agnes of Staverton is an ancestor of Anna Harries in Plymouth who wrote asking for information about Luckrafts in Staverton. I was only able to give her the bare register details which I have, not helping her further. If anyone ever wants to adopt a village's registers, in the sense of doing work on all the parish chest papers, that would be most helpful; it is impossible for me from here.

One of Admiral Luckraft's Medals still exists, and I was contacted by Bertie Luckraft of Bakewell to tell me who had it. I've had some correspondence with the medal collector, and hopefully one day I will get to see it. Apparently its worth several thousand pounds!

Karl Marx figured prominently in the life of Benjamin Lucraft, and in Francis Wheen's recent biography of Mark, Wheen gives details of Marx's child by the housekeeper. "The child was given to foster parents soon afterwards, probably a working-class couple called Lewis in east London. [who] spent his entire adult life in the borough of Hackney. he became a skilled lathe operator in several East end factories, a stalwart of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and a founder member of Hackney Labour Party. He died in 1929." How many other children must have been given away in those days? In our family in the 19th century, there are several stories where children, for one reason or another, were brought up other than by their parents, which makes it very difficult to trace lines.

ABBHEY

a dozen worn stone stairs to an aged wooden door framed by a centuries-old stone arch.

As a deputy assistant chief marshal, it is his turn to open up the abbey for the day. Holding a heavy, 10-inch-long iron key, Lucraft unlocks the West Cloister Door. "A master key opens most of the doors," he explains, "but there are some entrances, like this one and the doors to St. Faith's Chapel and the main gate, that still use the medieval keys."

Lucraft moves swiftly through the hushed abbey. "The priority is opening all the fire and emergency exits first thing," he explains. He also turns on a few lights in the early morning, although "at some times of year, like summer, we don't have to put any on."

Lucraft will spend the rest of the day attending to his main duties. "The marshals look after the people who come into the abbey, and we make sure that those who work here are looking after the abbey," he says. "We have very tight security. We make sure that people don't bring packages into the abbey, and that no packages are left anywhere. We also look out for lost children, lost grannies, lost husbands, lost wives."

The marshals also make sure that the electronically controlled abbey bells ring for services—such as Communion and Evensong—throughout the day. "We have bell ringers who come in and ring the bells for special events and services, such as the peals that are rung when Her Majesty leaves the abbey," he explains.

7:28 a.m.: Madeleine Harris, a

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Henry Frederick Claude Lucraft

was born to my grandfather in 1901, when he was 21, as we discovered a few years ago. My grandfather didn't marry until 1914, and then to another woman, and so the families didn't know about each other at all. A few years ago we met two of Henry's sons, and my father was most touched to know of these other relatives. I've been in touch with two nephews, recently. David made contact, and I've sent him the trees, and Ken Faig in America, who corresponds with me about the Lovecrafts sent me the copy of the Chicago Herald Tribune article about Ken Lucraft which is reprinted on this page. Over the years one or two people had mentioned meeting someone in the Abbey, and I didn't realise it was one of the marshals. So on a recent work visit to London I called in and left my card. Ken phoned back and I've sent him the trees too.

The DNA Study is nearing completion. The last set of test samples went out in November, and the trees for Matt Sears to work on went to him in December. I expect he will get the results sorted out for his dissertation next year. I'll include a summary in the newsletter following the receipt of the information.

John Luckraft - Bankrupt 1811

At the weekend, John and Di, from Plympton, brought along a carrier bag full of old deeds written on huge sheets of parchment. Some deeds had five sheets to them. They all related to the purchase of a plot of land in the centre of the old town in Plymouth in 1808. The land was bought for £300, and John, a builder, was going to build a house on it. It was between Old Town Street, Orchard Street and Garden Street, and was land once part of the gardens belonging to a nearby house. The deeds show the ownership of the land back to the 1730's. But in 1811 John went bankrupt, after having borrowed £1000 towards the enterprise.

I knew about this John from the various parish and other records, and had his tree worked out, until the turn of the 20th century, at which point it fizzled out, not before one man had 12 daughters and one son. There's a piece about this family in an earlier edition.

Recently however, two new avenues opened up. I was sent a diary from the 1810's and it records the rents John's wife charged to their lodgers. It had been found and passed through several hands on its way to me, where I have carefully added it to the archives.

Then I came across a name and address I didn't know, and on following it up, found that it was a descendant of John's family, and of the only son with 12 sisters. One of these sisters Gwendoline Lucraft, went to Newton Abbot College of Art, was a graphic artist in the 1920's and illustrated children's books that people of that generation will have known about.

Deeds, diary, artwork, family history, all lost to the four winds, and all coming together from completely different directions. It's a wonderfully life-enhancing hobby.



West Cloister Door.

My new job. Several people have been kind enough to ask how it was going. Very well thank you. I was ready for a change, and didn't realise how much until after I'd made the move. The job is working for the University for Industry, which is being set up by the government as an internet university, but for all levels of skills from basic skills, through computing and business, to a wide range of occupational skills. New learners will be able to access their learning wherever they are, at any time of day, so it will suit shift workers, people with caring responsibilities, people whose employer does not allow time off and so forth. I've got the job of National Head of Learning Centres, where people will be able to get personal support and tuition, and as it is launching in autumn 2000, I've been so busy. This weekend is the first time I have spent on Family Tree since the One Day weekend.

News from around the kindred

Elizabeth Luckraft of Torquay, married George Parnell in Newton Abbot in 1851, and a descendant, Martin Owen, recently sent me a copy of the marriage certificate, with some family background. This Elizabeth is the daughter of Robert, and probably the niece of Richard Luckraft who founded the Preston family in the 1830's.

Edmund Luckraft's Story from Dean Prior was told in a previous newsletter, in the words of June Harwood, who had done the research. June was disappointed not to be able to come to the weekend, and also that she discovered that while the work on the Luckrafts she had done was right, there was a misunderstanding in her relationship to the Luckrafts. So she and her husband still study their family, and we are grateful to her for all the time she put in, and glad that she enjoys the lovely old church at Dean Prior.

Harberton and Diptford were populous villages, and the Luckraft records have not made sense yet. Robin Holmes recently sent me some more material about the villages collected in the course of his work, which has more Luckrafts in them. I'm sure that we see families moving over time between villages, but without confirmation, it's hard to say they are the same people.

The Nebraska State Gazetteer 1890-1891 recently placed on the internet, shows J Luckraft as a farmer in Fairbury township, Jefferson County. I'm sure this Joseph, is the grandson of Joseph Luckraft born about 1822, who became a shoemaker before moving to the US. Grandad Joseph married Sarah Elphick in Hooe Parish church in 1848, and this summer Gwen and I were in Sussex, and suddenly found ourselves in Hooe without knowing. In the graveyard there were a few Elphicks for that period, itself another rare name.

Joseph's Pension Tom Locraft brought over a copy of the pension declaration which Joseph the grandson made in 1908, claiming his military service in 1864-66 in the Civil War. He has to state his previous addresses, as he was at that time living in Los Angeles. The addresses are Oregon Illinois, Huron S Dakota, and Fairbury Nebraska.

The Story of Alfred Luckraft has interested many people who've asked to hear more about him. His details are in an earlier edition, and here is a re-print from a book of naval biographies.

ALFRED LUCKRAFT, Esq.

Knight of the French Legion of Honour.

WE first find this officer serving as midshipman on board the Mars 74, Captain George Duff, at the battle of Trafalgar, on which memorable occasion he was wounded. He was afterwards sub-lieutenant of the Steady gun-brig, and promoted from that vessel into the Hyacinth sloop, Sept. 3d, 1810. During the latter part of the war with France, he served under the flag of Rear-Admiral John Ferrier, in the Scarborough 74, on the North Sea station; and subsequently under Captains John Parish and Thomas Warrant, in the Foxhound sloop.

In Jan. 1828, Lieutenant Luckraft was appointed first of the Blonde frigate, Captain Edmund Lyons, under whom he greatly distinguished himself at the reduction of the "Château de Morée," in Oct. 1828, as will be seen by the following extracts and copies of official letters relative to that service:—

"H. M. S. Blonde, off Patras, Oct. 14th, 1828.

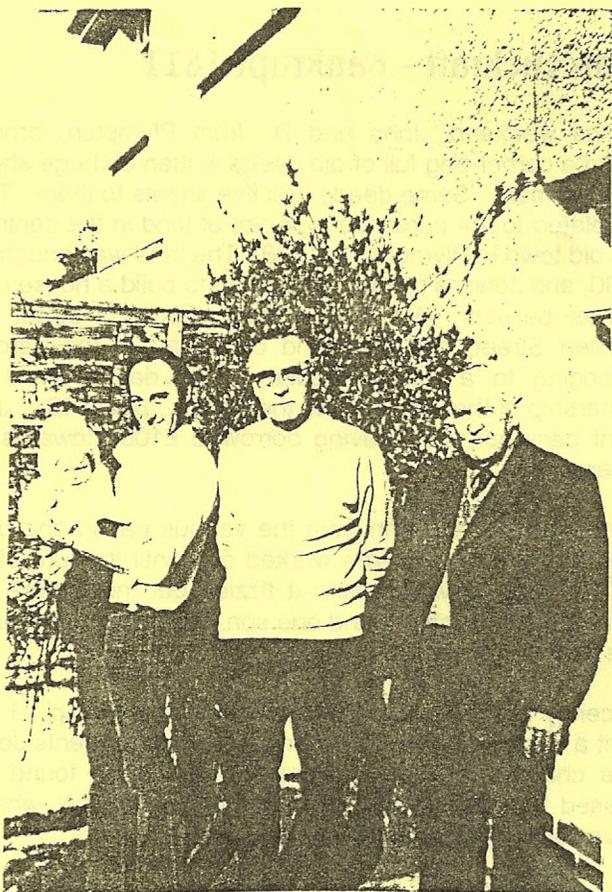
"Sir,—Captain Spencer's letter, by the Echo, will have informed you of the capitulation of Patras. I have now the honor of sending you the terms; in defiance of which five agas, with from 1200 to 1500 troops, have thrown themselves into the Morea Castle, and refuse to surrender, unless a written order to do so be produced from Ibrahim Pacha of Egypt, or Ibrahim Pacha of Lepanto.

"Under these circumstances, General Schneider has resolved on commencing offensive operations against the castle, and intends, on the night of the 19th instant, to open his batteries near the walls, hoping that this operation, accompanied by a demonstration on the part of the allied naval forces here, may induce the agas to surrender. If this should fail, the General will prepare for battering in breach. * * * * *

I have promised to approach the fort on the 19th instant, as near as the wind and other circumstances will admit, under the hope that the dread of a naval attack may have the same effect that it undoubtedly had in the surrender of Patras. * * * * *

(Signed) "EDMUND LYONS, Captain."

"To Vice-Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm, K. C. B., &c. &c. &c."



Four Generations, in 1974 can be seen in this photo sent by Barry John Luckraft. Left to right it shows Tony John, b 1974 in Torquay, Barry John b 1946 in Fleet, Herbert William George b 1919 in Kingsbridge, and William George b 1887 in Ringmore. It is Herbert who sadly passed away in June 1999.

(continued on next page)

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"H. M. S. Blonde, 30th Oct. 1828.

"Sir,—In obeying your orders to act in concert with the senior officer of His Most Christian Majesty's ships, I have had the good fortune of finding myself associated with those distinguished officers, Captains Mauduit Duplessis, of *la Duchesse de Berri*; Hugon, of *l'Armide*; and Ville-neuve, of *la Didon*; and in detailing the proceedings of the Blonde, I at the same time describe those of the French frigates: for I assure you, that throughout an arduous service of twelve days and nights, in very unfavourable weather, the most perfect concert and hearty co-operation have been invariably manifested.

"On the 18th inst., General Schneider expressed a wish that four 18-pounders should be landed from each ship; and in less than four hours they were on shore, with all their appointments; the difficulties occasioned by the surf on the beach being overcome by the fine spirit which animated all—French and English being in the water, mutually assisting each other. In this operation, the zeal and intelligence of Lieutenant Thomas Saumarez Brock, were very conspicuous.

"On the 20th, Lieutenants Alfred Luckraft and Sidney Colpoys Daeres; Messrs. Mockler, Hay, Blair, and Austen, mates; and Messrs. De Saumarez, Kennedy, Hawkins, and Dor, midshipmen; landed with a party of seamen and commenced making the batteries, under the direction of the French officers of engineers and artillery.

"At nine o'clock on the 22d, the Marine battery opened its fire on Morea Castle, and in a few hours silenced the guns opposed to it; but as the army advanced in their approaches to the breaching batteries, the castle opened fresh guns, which rendered it necessary for the Marine battery to fire at intervals, for eight days and nights.

"Last evening, the guns of the frigates, with two 24-pounders which Admiral De Rigny landed from the *Conquerant* on his arrival, and such of the battering train as the weather enabled us to disembark, were fairly established in the two breaching batteries, named by Lieut.-Gen. Maison, Charles X. and George IV., the French and English guns being promiscuously placed in each; and at day-light this morning, together with the mortar battery and the *Ætna* bomb, opened such a tremendous fire on the castle as to produce, in four hours, an unconditional surrender.

"I am sure you will be glad to find, that the zeal and professional talent exhibited by Captain Stephen Lushington, his officers, and ship's company, have excited the admiration of all. The *Ætna* was worked up in the night, under reefed courses and close-reefed topsails, anchored, and sprung with such precision, within eight hundred yards of the castle, as to enable that intelligent officer, Lieutenant George Logan, of the royal marine artillery, to throw 102 shells into the castle, only the first four going too far. Captain Lushington assures me that he received the most valuable assistance from Lieutenant Baldwin Wake Walker.

"I am persuaded, Sir, that in your well-known wish to appreciate and encourage merit, I shall find an excuse for dwelling so much on the conduct of my officers and ship's company; and really, Sir, when I reflect on the peculiar situation in which they have been placed, and know that their gallantry in the batteries, their excellent discipline in their tents, (which were in the centre of the French army,) are highly extolled by the French officers, I feel it to be but fair that it should be reported to their admiral.

"Any thing I could say in praise of Lieutenants Luckraft and Daeres would fall far short of the universal feeling in the French army in their favor; but, perhaps, I may be permitted to say, that the former has been nearly twenty years * a lieutenant. All the mates are highly deserving, and have passed many years.

"My duties having frequently called me from the ship, the command devolved on the second lieutenant, the Hon. Edward Roper Curzon, whose conduct fully justified all I had expected from an officer of first-rate professional talent.

"The French had many casualties in the batteries, but I am happy to add we have only one man severely wounded. I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) "EDMUND LYONS, Captain."

"To Sir Pulteney Malcolm, K. C. B., &c. &c. &c."

"H. M. S. Asia, off Poros, 26th Nov. 1828.

"Sir,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., detailing your proceedings, in conjunction with the French naval force

and a division of the French army, against the Morea Castle at Patras, I have satisfaction in assuring you of my entire approbation of the manner in which you have conducted the service there, and of the exertions and good conduct of the officers and ship's company of the Blonde. I have not failed to make known the same to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and to recommend, in particular, to their Lordships' favorable notice, the merits of Lieutenant Luckraft. I have much pleasure in sending for your perusal a copy of a letter which Vice-Admiral De Rigny has addressed to me on the occasion, expressive of his admiration of the services of the Blonde and *Ætna*, and of the cordiality of feeling manifested between the forces of the two nations. I am, &c.

(Signed) "PULTENEY MALCOLM, Vice-Admiral."

"To Captain Lyons, H. M. S. Blonde."

Copies of the letters from Sir Pulteney Malcolm to the Admiralty, and from Mons. de Rigny to the British Vice-Admiral, are given in Vol. III. Part II., p. 88, *et seq.* On the 31st Oct. 1828, the Marquis Maison, commander-in-chief of the French army in the Morea, wrote to the minister-of-war as follows:—

"The delivery of arms, among which were some very beautiful sabres and yatagans, was severely felt by the Turks; but I wished to punish them for their resistance to the capitulation of Patras, and I was therefore inflexible. I have distributed these arms among the general and superior officers of the different corps, the artillery, and superior officers of the French and English squadrons.

"The five batteries had received names. The first was called Charles the Tenth; the second George the Fourth. The other three were those of the Dauphin, the Duke de Bordeaux, and the Marine. The English, who served four cannon (the officers of the frigate Blonde and those of the bomb-vessel *Ætna*), were extremely pleased with the attention which we had shewn them, and giving the name of their king to one of our batteries. We owed them such a compliment for the zeal and frankness which they have displayed on all occasions. I cannot too highly praise Lieut. Luckraft. He is an old and worthy officer, who directed the battery during the whole siege with great ability."

The following are extracts of a private letter from an officer of the Blonde:—

"There were no sailors, either English or French, admitted into the breaching batteries, except the Blonde's and *Conquerant*'s. Ours was the central battery, and the nearest to the castle. Lieutenant Luckraft held the chief command, and next to him was Lieutenant Daeres. They behaved with so much bravery, and so ably maintained the unshaken character of British seamen, as to merit the public approbation of the French commander-in-chief. * * * * The exertions of Captain Lyons have seldom been equalled, certainly not excelled, by any British officer; he was almost constantly in the trenches, and exposed to a tremendous fire of great guns and musketry. Lieutenants Luckraft and Daeres were twelve days and nights in the trenches; the three last of which they worked their battering guns with such effect as to expend upwards of 1000 eighteen-pound shot, and 6000 lbs. weight of powder: never were four guns worked with greater dexterity than those of the Blonde's, which were placed on George the Fourth's battery. * * * * Vice-Admiral De Rigny ought to have commanded the naval part of the expedition, but this he waived in favor of Captain Lyons."

The insignia of the French Legion of Honor was immediately afterwards conferred upon Lieutenant Luckraft; but his promotion to the rank of commander did not take place until Oct. 28th, 1829, previous to which the Blonde had conveyed the British ambassador from Tenedos to Constantinople.

This officer's subsequent appointments were, Nov. 30th, 1829, to the command of the *Cameleon* sloop, which vessel he paid off on the 22d Mar. 1830; and June 20th, 1831, to the *Revenge* 78, in which ship he served under Captains James Hillyar and Donald Hugh Mackay, principally on the Lisbon station, until put out of commission, Mar. 13th, 1834.

* Upwards of eighteen years.

Luc(k)raft One Name Weekend

The weekend was one of the most exhilarating weekends of my life. I still can't get over how pleased everyone was to meet each other, and discover their connections and shared interests. Over 40 of us ended up there for one or both days, and we shared a mixture of talks, meals and general discussions.

On the night before, we arrived early, we met Clinton Leacraft from America, descended from slaves on the Leacraft plantations, and Gwen and Daniel and I, with my parents, Eileen and Ted Lucreft, went for an unforgettable meal with him in an ancient pub in a local fishing village. Since then Clinton and his daughter have been in touch, and sent us generous thank-you gifts.

The next day we were blown away with the American welcome from Tom and Matt Locraft as they arrived from Maryland. Tom's boisterous good fun, and Matt's sensitive good humour mad them both instantly at home with us all, and they brought many documents and pictures for the One Name Study files.

John Nicholas and Mary South talked about the life of their relative Maud Harris, and her time in China as a missionary, and of Mary's grandfather, Fred Simmonds, who went down on the Titanic. Mary brought some of Fred's clothes they had in the family.

Frank Luckraft told us of the history of his Preston family, and spoke movingly of the privilege of meeting Clinton Leacraft and hearing some of his life's story.

Veronica Keightley who is a great great grand daughter of Benjamin Lucreft, the 19th century radical leader, brought the book he was presented with by his colleagues. It was beautifully illuminated in script, and signed by many of his friend and colleagues. Veronica is the same relation as me to Benjamin, and she has kindly decided to deposit the book with me with her estate, so that it continues in my son's keeping and in the Lucreft One Name archives.

Barry and Patricia Luckraft brought Barry's parents, Herbert and Dorothy, and have sent some copies of old photos; sadly we heard recently that Herbert died soon after the weekend, which he enjoyed so much. We send Barry, and his sister Marilyn French, our best wishes and condolences.

There was a great conglomeration of relatives from the Aveton Gifford lines, including Lawrence from Zimbabwe, Peter and Cathy, with their son Alexandre from France, Bertie and Rosemary from Bakewell, Garland and Hilary from Torquay, George and Hilda from Ivybridge, Augustus and Helen from Plymouth, and Ian and Kay from Oxford. It was amazing to see the family likeness and to hear some of the stories, and see some of the photos of the old farmhouses which the family occupied in years gone by. Garland produced then and now photos of one of the houses.

John and Di Lucreft, from Plympton, turned up with a carrier bag full of old deeds, dating from 1808 - 1812; there's a piece about these deeds elsewhere in these pages, and John and Di recently turned up in Sheffield, and have let me borrow hem for a while to transcribe.

Sybil O'Brien and her son, brought photos of the chairs that are in the family which were made by Benjamin Lucreft in the 19th century.

Michael Lucreft, and his daughter Stephanie, told me about some mapping software, which they have kindly sent on to me afterwards. Terry and Lyn Luckraft told us some of their Windsor stories, and kindly invited us down to the grounds when we can make it.

People were very generous in buying the printouts of the complete sets of family trees and other bits and pieces. It meant that together with the gifts which were given to me at the weekend, I actually covered all the costs I had incurred for the weekend, which was a great help to the family finances! Thank you to everyone.

The photo on the front page was taken early on the Saturday, before everyone had arrived, because the photographers were keen to make the London copy deadlines. In the event the London papers didn't use it, and the front page here is lifted from the Exeter paper. I've overlaid the original photo as the paper cropped people off both ends in their printed version.

The list of people in the photo, I hope I've got them all correct, reading strictly from the left, is as follows:

1 Patricia Luckraft, 2 Gwen Lucreft, 3 Lawrence Luckraft, 4 Virginia Nicholas, 5 Eileen Lucreft, 6 Ted Lucreft, 7 Pat Luckraft, 8 George Luckraft, 9 Hilda Luckraft, 10 John Nicholas, 11 Clinton Leacraft, 12 Ian Luckraft, 13 Mary South, 14 Kay Luckraft, 15 Rosemary Luckraft, 16 Peter Keightley, 17 Helen Luckraft, 18 Frank Luckraft, 19 Veronica Keightley, 20 Clare Luckraft, 21 Augustus Luckraft, 22 John Luckraft, 23 Cathy Luckraft, 24 Tom Locraft, 25 Peter Luckraft, 26 Bertie Luckraft, 27 Lyn Luckraft, 28 Terry Luckraft, 29 Barry Luckraft, 30 Michael Lucreft, 31 Hilary Luckraft, 32 Stephanie Lucreft, 33 Marilyn French, 34 Sybil O'Brien, 35 Peter O'Brien, 36 Garland Luckraft, 37 Di Luckraft, 38 Dorothy Luckraft, 39 Matt Locraft, 40 Ian Lucreft, 41 Herbert Luckraft

The full list of attendees is as follows:

Residents	Family Group	Current Home
Ian and Gwen Lucreft and Daniel	Broadclyst - London	Sheffield
Ted and Eileen Lucreft	Broadclyst - London	Epsom
Bertie and Rosemary Luckraft	Aveton Gifford	Bakewell
Frank and Pat Luckraft & Clare	Dean Prior - Preston	Oxford
Marilyn French	Kingsbridge	Bude
John and Virginia Nicholas	Broadclyst	Cirencester
Garland and Hilary Luckraft	Aveton Gifford	Torquay
Mary South	Broadclyst	Eastleigh
John and Di Luckraft	Kingswear	Plympton
George and Hilda Luckraft	Aveton Gifford	Ivybridge
Ian and Kay Luckraft	Aveton Gifford	Oxford
Veronica and Peter Keightley	Broadclyst-London	Southsea
Augustus and Helen Luckraft	Aveton Gifford	Plymouth
Sybil O'Brien and Peter	Broadclyst-London	Shoeburyness
Michael Lucreft and Stephanie	Dean Prior - Preston	Chelmsford
Terry and Lyn Luckraft	Loddiswell-Lincoln	Egham
Tom and Matt Locraft	Broadclyst-Maryland	USA
Clinton Leacraft	Bermuda-N Carolina	USA
Peter, Cathy and Alex. Luckraft	Aveton Gifford	France
Lawrence Luckraft	Aveton Gifford	Zimbabwe
Edward Luckerit	Diptford	Wales
Barry and Patricia Luckraft	Kingsbridge	Teignmouth
Herbert and Dorothy Luckraft	Kingsbridge	Newton Abbott
Joan Corbishley	Aveton Gifford	Hertfordshire