

## Sambell

The Sambell name is very unusual and is spelled in various ways – Samble, Sambel, Samball – and is also sometimes corrupted into Sammel or Samel. All versions are also found with an ‘s’ on the end. For consistency, Sambell has been used throughout. Mis-transcriptions also make searching in indexes problematic, with errors such as Campbell and Samuel. It is a name that is Cornish in origin.<sup>1</sup> Surname dictionaries are not very helpful concerning the derivation of the name, suggesting that it might be a variant of Semple, a constriction of St. Paul.<sup>2</sup>

10x great grandparents **John Sambell** and **Elizabeth Lucas** married at St. Leonard and St. Dilpe, Landulph, Cornwall on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1618.<sup>3</sup> Landulph is a parish on the banks of the River Tamar just north of Saltash. The mild climate and rich soil make it a suitable area for arable farming and more recently, market gardening has predominated.



St. Leonard and St. Dilpe, Landulph

It is likely that Elizabeth Lucas was baptised in neighbouring Botus Fleming on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1591, daughter of John.<sup>4</sup> John may have been baptised in

Landulph on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1577, son of Thomas and Joan née Bennye however this does seem a little early and there are three John Sambells baptised in nearby Pillaton in the 1580s.<sup>5</sup> All three of these were sons of a Gregory and Sislye Sambell née Smalye and it is probable that the eldest two died young, although no burials have been located with twenty miles of Pillaton. The youngest was baptised on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1588 and he may be a more likely candidate for the John who married Elizabeth Lucas.<sup>6</sup>

It is likely that John and Elizabeth had four children baptised in Landulph, Johan in 1619, an unnamed male in 1623, Elizabeth on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1623 and 9x great grandfather **Gregory** on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1626.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

<sup>2</sup> P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1979).

<sup>3</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk). The index does not use double dating, so it is not clear if this is 1617/8 or 1618/9.

<sup>4</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>5</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>6</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>7</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

Gregory married **Johan Skelton** on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1655 at Landulph.<sup>8</sup> Skelton is a name more usually found in the north of England,<sup>9</sup> where there are several places of that name.<sup>10</sup> It is likely that Johan was baptised on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1628 at St. Erney, Cornwall.<sup>11</sup> They had four sons baptised in Landulph. William on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1656, John on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1658, Alexander on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1662 and 8x great grandfather **Gregory** on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1665.<sup>12</sup> Gregory senior was buried at Landulph on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1712.<sup>13</sup>

Gregory junior married **Thomasin Smalye** on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1685 in Landulph.<sup>14</sup> Smayle, or Smale, is a Devonshire surname,<sup>15</sup> probably indicating someone who was small or slender.<sup>16</sup> A Thomasin Smalye was baptised in Landulph on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1649, the daughter of William and Thomasine.<sup>17</sup> If this is the correct baptism, then Thomasine was sixteen years her husband's senior and she would have been fifty when her youngest child was baptised, which seems very unlikely. Gregory and Thomasin had five sons baptised in Landulph. William on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1685, Edward on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1689, 7x great grandfather **William** 19<sup>th</sup> March 1690/1, Joseph on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1693 and James on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1699.<sup>18</sup> Thomasin was buried on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1720 in Landulph.<sup>19</sup> Gregory's burial has not been located.<sup>20</sup>

William Sambell married **Grace Strout** on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1713 at Landulph.<sup>21</sup> Strout is an unusual surname found mostly in eastern Cornwall.<sup>22</sup> Its derivation is obscure. It could be a corruption of Stout, which would be more likely to mean stout of heart, rather than stout in stature.<sup>23</sup> They had four children baptised at Landulph. Elizabeth on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1716, Mary on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1716, 6x great grandmother **Thomasin** on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1719 and James on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1722. Grace was buried on the same day, so presumably she died in childbirth.<sup>24</sup> William may have remarried at Landulph on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1721, to Mary

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<sup>8</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>9</sup> *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

<sup>10</sup> P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1979).

<sup>11</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>12</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>13</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>14</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>15</sup> *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

<sup>16</sup> P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1979).

<sup>17</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>18</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>19</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>20</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>21</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>22</sup> *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

<sup>23</sup> P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1979); Mark Antony, Lower *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth Editions Ltd. (1988).

<sup>24</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

Gimblet.<sup>25</sup> William was buried on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1766 at Landulph.<sup>26</sup> Thomasin married **Robert Johns** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 1742 just across the River Tamar at Bere Ferrers, Devon.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>26</sup> Index to Cornish baptisms, marriages and burials, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>27</sup> Marriage register of St. Andrew's, Bere Ferrers, Devon via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk). Their story continues as part of the Bishop narrative.