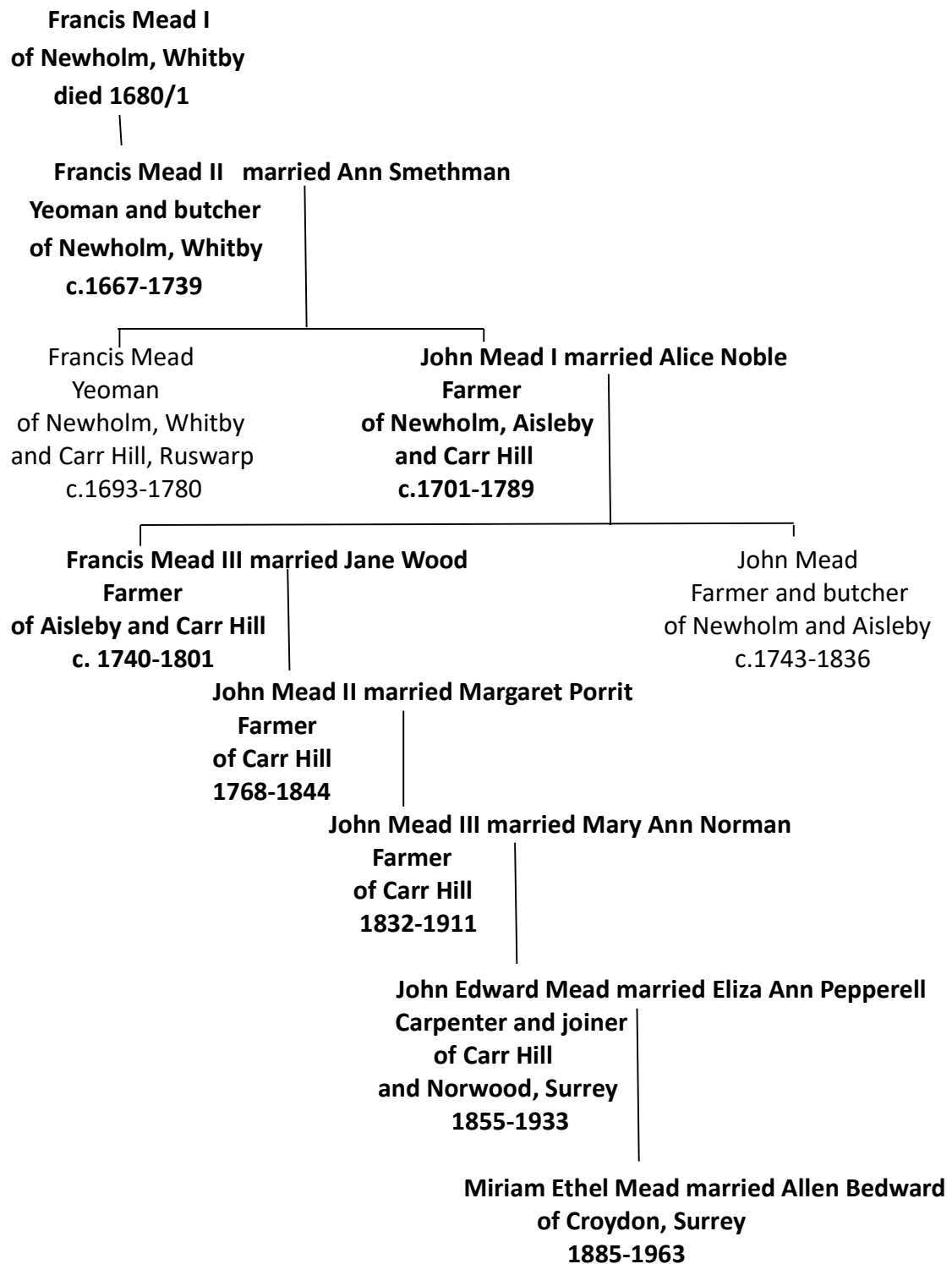
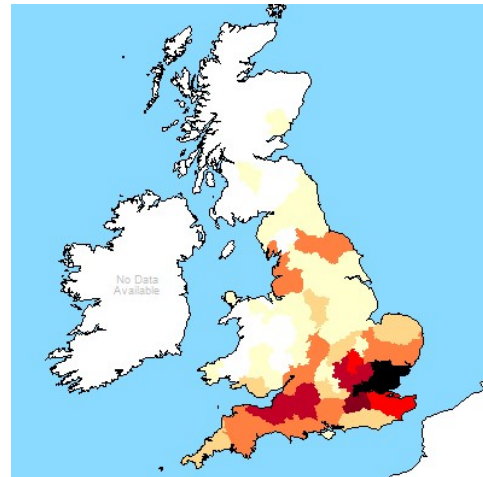


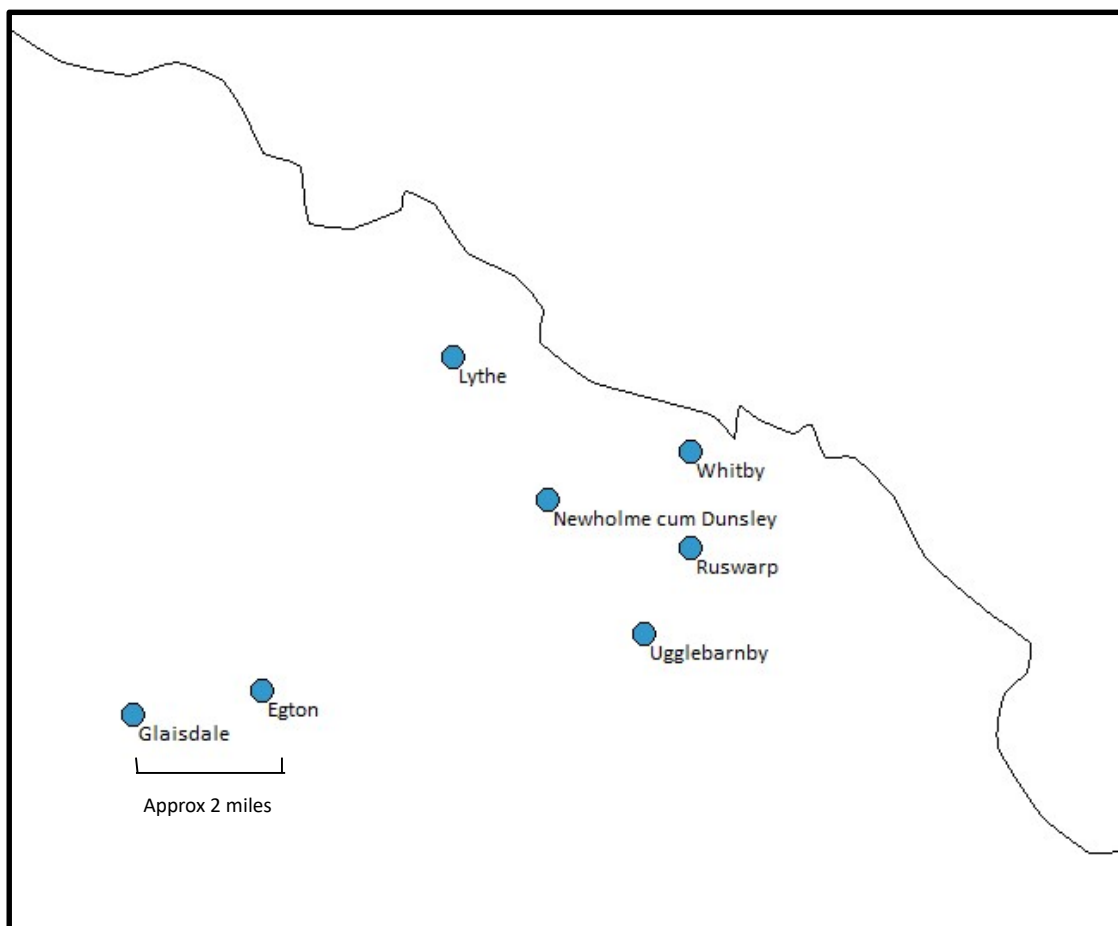
MEAD



There are two possible derivations for the surname Mead. It was either a name given to those who lived by the mead, or meadow, or it is a contraction of meader, someone who brewed or sold mead.¹ It is a surname that is found across the country but is particularly prevalent in the south, in a band from Bristol to Norwich. There is a smaller cluster in Yorkshire and that is where these ancestors are from.² The family had a fixation with the christian names Francis and John. Please refer to the accompanying outline family tree for clarity.



Distribution of the Surname Mead



**Map of places associated with the Mead family
Drawn using GenMap™**

¹ Reaney, P.H., *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958).

² *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

Francis Mead l c. 1630-1680/1

The earliest ancestor in the Mead line is 7x great grandfather³ **Francis Mead** of Newholm.⁴ Newholm, also known as Newholm-cum-Dunsley, is a rural hamlet about two miles inland from the port of Whitby, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Whitby's safe harbour made it an important maritime centre, with thriving fishing and shipbuilding industries. Little is known about Francis but he would have been born in the decades leading up to the English Civil War. Charles I, in the firm belief that he ruled by divine right, quarrelled with and ultimately attempted to rule without, parliament. In the divisive conflict that followed, families and neighbours were set one against the other, as allegiances to king or parliament were affirmed. Persistent adherence to the Catholic church in parts of Yorkshire might have resulted in royalist support but this seemed not to be the case for landowners in and around Whitby. The Earl of Mulgrave declared for parliament and Sir Hugh Cholmley, the owner of Whitby Abbey and MP for Scarborough, held Scarborough Castle for the parliamentary cause. In 1643, Cholmley turned his coat⁵ and allowed the king to use Scarborough Castle as a royalist base. After a five month siege in 1645, the castle surrendered, parliamentary troops captured and looted Cholmley's home Abbey House and Cholmley was exiled.⁶ Perhaps the religious complexion of Whitby, with both a Presbyterian and a Quaker presence, was not unconnected with the political leanings of the inhabitants.



Printed at London for T. B. 1641.

Most of the Civil War battles took place in the west of the county and in any case, Francis may not have been old enough to fight. The family were likely to have been prosperous farmers, as were later generations, in which case, they may well have supported parliament of their own volition, or because they felt that they should align themselves with the landed elite of the area.

³ The relationships are described in terms of John David Few's relationship. If you are a child, niece or nephew, or child of John's cousins, you will have to add a great each time. Grandchildren and great nephews need to add two greats.

⁴ Abstract of the will of Francis Meed of Newholme, Whitby 1680 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁵ Changed sides. This was not uncommon amongst the landed classes.

⁶ www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/spotlight-on/spotlight-on-whitby-abbey accessed 2 April 2021.

It is unlikely that Francis' house still stands, as most of the farmhouses in the area date from the eighteenth century or later.⁷ It would probably have been stone-built, with a thatched roof made from wheat or rye straw, perhaps with two rooms downstairs and two above, which might have been open to the roof. As a comfortably off person, Francis may have owned a silk shirt, as well as shirts of linen and two or three jerkins and pairs of breeches. The women in the family would have been dressed in linen shifts with heavy, woollen petticoats⁸ and bodices over the top. The adult women would have worn aprons and covered their hair with a linen coif.

The name of Francis' wife is unknown but she would have needed to be skilled in many housewifely tasks about the farm, including baking, brewing, butter-making, cheese-making, spinning and weaving. In addition, she would have used her herb-garden to provide medicines for the household, as well as making soap and candles. The family would probably have been largely self-sufficient for food, growing grain for bread making and brewing as well as peas and beans. Potatoes were not commonplace in this area until the second half of the eighteenth century. Livestock provided not only meat but also dairy products. In addition, oxen, as well as horses, would have been used as draught animals. Living in close proximity to the sea, the family might have been able to supplement their diet with fish and shellfish.



Market day in Whitby was on a Saturday and the family would probably have travelled in on horseback or on foot, the roads making wheeled transport unsuitable. The annual fairs on the 6th of September and the 22nd of November would have been highlights of the calendar, important both economically and socially. The market was principally concerned with selling cloth and farm produce from Whitby's hinterland. Perhaps the young Francis would have been excited to see the new marketplace in Whitby, which was laid out by Sir Hugh Cholmley in 1640. The narrow streets, with timber

**The Children of Francis Mead
Buried 17 February 1680/1 Whitby**

Ann

Jane baptised 15 June 1662 Whitby

Francis born about 1667

John buried 15 April 1679 Whitby

Mary baptised 29 October 1671 Whitby

Katherine baptised 14 February 1674/5 Whitby

⁷ Historic England listed buildings <https://historicengland.org.uk/> accessed 2 April 2021.

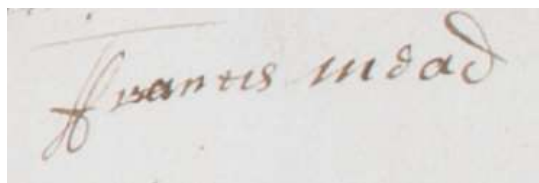
⁸ The petticoat was an outer-garment at this time, what we would call a skirt.

framed houses, which had a jettied upper story, would have been familiar to Francis, as would the church, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and of course, the Abbey, overlooking the town. In Francis' time the Abbey would have been in a comparatively sound state, as most of the damage and deterioration occurred in the eighteenth century.

Francis' will, written in 1680, mentions his son, **Francis**, whom he makes the sole executor, suggesting that Francis must have been an adult at this time, yet other evidence reveals that he was only about thirteen.⁹ Francis I also names four daughters, Ann, Jane, Mary and Catherine.¹⁰ The order that they are listed seems to reflect their birth order. Records of Jane,¹¹ Mary and Katherine's baptisms¹² survive, as does the burial for John, son of Francis, in 1679 in Whitby.¹³ Although it seems probable that Francis' wife was alive in 1675 and dead by 1680, as she is not mentioned in his will, there are no possible burials in Whitby during this period and no likely burials or remarriages after 1680 either.¹⁴ Some of the missing vital events for this family are probably a result of the hiatus in record keeping during the Civil War, when registers were no longer to be kept by the church but by a secular official, known as the parish registrar.

Francis Mead II c. 1667-1739

The next Francis was born about 1667¹⁵ and would have grown up after the end of the Protectorate, with a restored Charles II on the throne. Although the era of extreme puritanical thought was fading, the country was still experiencing religious turmoil, with many restrictions on the lives of those who worshiped outwith the Anglican church.



Francis' Signature from the Cause Papers

Having acted as executor to his father's will in 1680,¹⁶ Francis next appears as a deponent in a tithe dispute in a case that lasted from 1686 to 1688. In this, Francis is described as a twenty year old butcher from Egton, a servant or apprentice to

⁹ Yorkshire Cause Papers 1686-1688 CP.H 3727 p. 28.

¹⁰ Abstract of the will of Francis Meed of Newholme, Whitby 1680 via <http://www.davekinggenealogy.co.uk/>.

¹¹ www.familysearch.org.

¹² Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹³ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁴ Marriage and burial registers of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁵ Yorkshire Cause Papers 1686-1688 CP.H 3727 p. 28.

¹⁶ Abstract of the will of Francis Meed of Newholme, Whitby 1680 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

Christopher Watson.¹⁷ On the 22nd of May 1690, Francis married **Ann Smoothman** in Egton.¹⁸

The Smoothman and Marshall families

Most surname dictionaries¹⁹ are silent on the derivation of Smoothman, although there is a suggestion that it might mean someone who flatters, a smooth talker.²⁰ It is sometimes spelt Smethman or Smeathman, indicating that it is more likely to be an occupational name, 'smith's man'. It is an exceptionally rare name, with fewer than sixteen hundred entries, using a variety of spellings, in the worldwide indexes at FindmyPast, most of which are Smeathmans.²¹ The name, in all its variants, now seems to have died out, hence there is no distribution map available. There are just nine births in the English and Welsh birth indexes, only one of which occurred in the last ninety years and that a female.²² The parish register entries show that the name is found overwhelmingly in Yorkshire, notably Pocklington and Egton.²³ These parishes are forty five miles apart, with the north York moors in between. All the Egton entries are for Ann's family, so it seems probable that her father, **William**, was the in-migrant, travelling along a pack-horse track across the moors. There is a very likely baptism for him in Pocklington but further information is needed before this can be considered to be confirmed.

The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were a period of religious turmoil. Both Egton and Pocklington²⁴ were noted for their strong associations to Catholicism and this may account for the lack of references to the Smoothman family in the Anglican records. Nicholas Postgate, who had strong associations with Egton, trained as a Jesuit priest in Douai, France and was martyred for his faith, being hung, drawn and quartered at York; he was later beatified.²⁵ In the seventeenth century, Catholicism was feared by many of those in authority and anyone who worshipped other than in the Protestant, Anglican church was viewed as being potentially politically subversive. Anti-Catholic propaganda, including unfounded rumours of a Catholic plot to kill

¹⁷ Yorkshire Cause Papers 1686-1688 CP.H 3727 p. 28.

¹⁸ Marriage register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁹ Cottle, Basil, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* Penguin 2nd edition 1978. Reaney, P.H., *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958).

²⁰ Lower, Mark Anthony, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth Editions Ltd. 1860.

²¹ www.findmypast.co.uk.

²² The variant Smithman, which is used on only three occasions by the Pocklington/Egton families, was more persistent but has only seven twentieth century births and none since 1955. Birth, marriage and death indexes of the General Registrar via www.freebmd.org.uk/.

²³ www.findmypast.co.uk.

²⁴ Pocklington's Catholic Heritage <https://smjpocklington.org.uk/pocklingtons-catholic-heritage> accessed 13 April 2021.

²⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9IfYphWz58> accessed 12 April 2021. This is an excellent video for background.

Charles II and put his Catholic brother, the future James II, on the throne, led to anti-Catholic hysteria. In 1662, the king, Charles II, who had a Catholic wife and strong sympathy for Catholicism, pledged that there would be toleration for Catholics but he was forced to renege on this promise when parliament delayed granting him money because of this.

Parliament passed a series of acts known as the Clarendon Code, which were designed to make life difficult for both Catholics and Protestant non-conformists. Catholics could not hold public office, or positions of authority and worshipping in groups of more than five was only allowed within the Church of England. There were fines for non-attendance at the established church and many Catholics led a religious double-life, attending the established church and baptizing and marrying there from expediency. The Toleration Act of 1689 did ease some restrictions but recusants were still prevented from inheriting land and could be jailed for life if they were found practicing Catholicism. It was not until the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 that discrimination was removed.²⁶

In 1717, a Thomas Smeathman²⁷ of Pocklington appeared on a list of those renting property in Pocklington from landowners who were declared recusants and who would therefore forfeit their estates.²⁸ It was estimated that a third of the population of Egton was papist. Perhaps because of the connection with Nicholas Postgate, the parish was renowned for harbouring Jesuit priests, who came from the continent to further the Catholic cause. Many large homes were equipped with priest's holes, small hiding places behind walls, up chimneys or under floorboards, where the household priest could be secreted. The focus of Catholicism in Egton was at Grosmont Abbeye, which was raided by Lord Sheffield of Mulgrave Castle in 1599. Despite demolishing walls and ripping up floorboards, what appeared to be a priest's hole was found empty and the only traces of papistry was Catholic literature and the accoutrements for saying mass. It did not deter local Catholics as, in 1690, one hundred and sixty seven inhabitants of Egton were presented for recusancy.²⁹

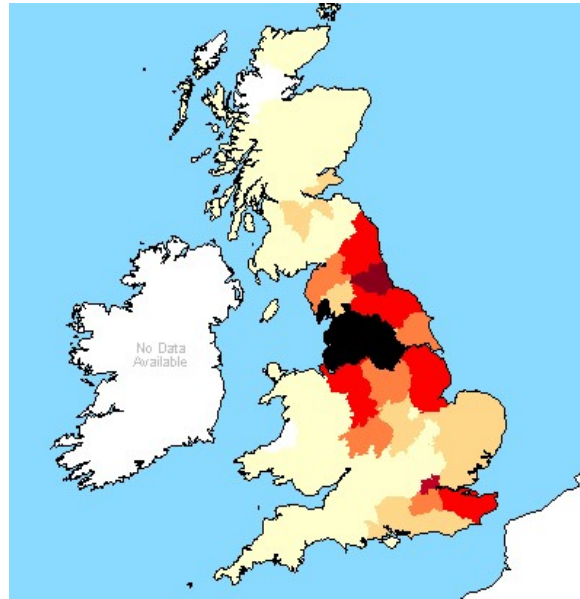
²⁶ <https://www.genguide.co.uk/source/recusant-rolls-catholics/> accessed 13 April 2021.

²⁷ Possibly William's brother or nephew.

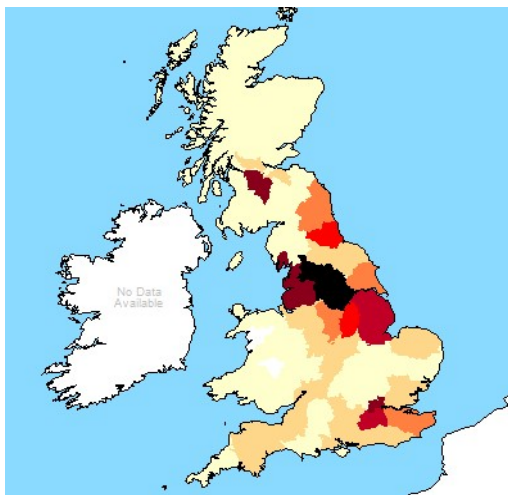
²⁸ Forfeited Estates Commission: abstracts of estates of Popish recusants held at The National Archives FEC 1/1305 and FEC 1/1307.

²⁹ British History Online Egton www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/north/vol2/pp343-348 accessed 3 April 2021

Very little is known about the Smoothman, or Smethman family. Ann was baptized on the 25th of August 1674 at Egton.³⁰ She had a sister, Margaret, who married Marmaduke Pearson³¹ and a brother William.³² Ann's mother was **Jane Marshall**, the daughter of **William Marshall** and **Margaret** née **Pearson** of Oakbridge Holme, Egton.³³ William and Margaret had married at Egton on the 28th of November 1642 and had at least six children. No baptism records survive for these children, so we only know about them from Margaret's will and the will of her son Paul.³⁴



Distribution of the Surname Pearson



Distribution of the Surname Marshall

Pearson is a patronymic surname, meaning 'son of Piers'. Marshall, on the other hand is an occupational name, possibly from the office of marshal, as in 'Earl Marshal' but it is more likely that it comes from the Old French 'marescal', meaning one who tended horses and treated their diseases.³⁵ Marshall is found predominantly in the West Midlands.³⁶ Pearson is a surname that is found mainly in northern counties, notably Yorkshire and Lancashire; unlike Pierson, which is more often found in the southeast.³⁷ This is a result of their slightly different derivations. Pierson being from Piers' (a French form of Peter) son and

³⁰ Baptism register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

³¹ Marmaduke and Margaret were probably second cousins.

³² Baptism register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

³³ Abstract of the will of Paul Marshall of Egton 1712 via <http://www.davekinggenealogy.co.uk/>.

Abstract of the will of Margaret Marshall of Egton 1700 via <http://www.davekinggenealogy.co.uk/>.

Marriage register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

³⁴ Abstract of the will of Paul Marshall of Egton 1712 via <http://www.davekinggenealogy.co.uk/>.

Abstract of the will of Margaret Marshall of Egton 1700 via <http://www.davekinggenealogy.co.uk/>.

³⁵ Reaney, P.H., *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958).

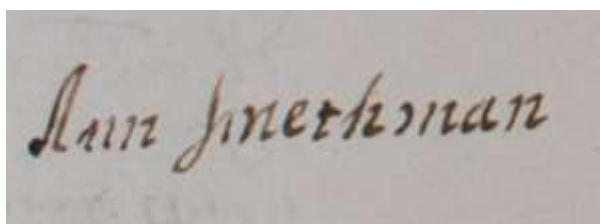
³⁶ *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.

³⁷ *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.

Pearson from Per's son, Per being the Scandinavian form of the same forename. Marshall is found ³⁸

7x great grandfather, William Smoothman, was buried at Egton on the 26th of March 1677.³⁹ In 1687, his widow, Jane, was involved in a tithe dispute. At this time, regular payments in kind were made to the church, traditionally consisting of a tenth of all produce. Jane was in dispute concerning the number of cows that she owned and amount of milk that she produced. Both her daughter Ann and son William, then aged fourteen, gave depositions. It is odd that the eldest child, Margaret, was not called but perhaps she was working away.

The dispute related to unpaid tithes for 1684-6. From the statements of Ann, William and other witnesses, we learn that Jane had four cows, four calves and two fowls at on Horseman Head Farm,⁴⁰ in Egton, at the time and that she had paid the necessary tithes for her milk of one shilling and seven



Ann's Signature from the Cause Papers

pence. The signatures on the statements of the two children suggest that they were confident with a pen and had a reasonable standard of literacy.⁴¹

Jane Smoothman was buried in Egton on the 10th of April 1716⁴² and left a will.⁴³ An online abstract of her will includes mention of her daughter Ann Mead and the correct Mead grandchildren, establishing her as William's wife and Ann's mother.⁴⁴

Francis Mead II c. 1657-1739 and Ann Smoothman c. 1669-1760

Francis and Ann continued to live at Newholm and had nine children baptised in Whitby; at least five and probably six of them died young.⁴⁵ One died as an infant and one as a nine year old but three died in their teens or early twenties, which could possibly suggest tuberculosis as a cause. Another son, William, was left £11 by his grandmother, Jane Smethman in a will written in 1714/5⁴⁶ but is not in his father's

³⁸ *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.

³⁹ Burial register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁴⁰ This cannot now be identified.

⁴¹ Yorkshire Cause Papers 1686-1688 CP.H 3727 p. 28.

⁴² Burial register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk. Bishop's Transcripts of the registers of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁴³ Index to wills at the Borthwick Institute via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁴⁴ Abstract of the will of Jane Smethman, 1714/5 via www.ancestry.uk.

⁴⁵ Baptism and burial registers of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴⁶ Abstract of the will of Jane Smethman, 1714/5 via www.ancestry.uk.

1739 will⁴⁷ suggesting that William died in the interim, although no record has been found. As well as the £11 to her grandson, William, Jane Smethman's will, leaves £20 to her daughter, Ann Mead and £10 each to her Mead grandchildren, Jane, John, Ann, Henry, Marshall and Hannah. Her grandson, Francis Mead, was made sole executor and inherited all her real and personal estate. She also mentioned her son-in-law, Marmaduke Pearson and three Pearson grandchildren.⁴⁸

Francis II wrote his will in May 1739 and mentioned property including Leasholm, Ingfields and Calf Close. Interestingly, apart from his wife Ann and children, Francis, John and Jane, he lists Dickinson cousins and members of the Howlsworth family.⁴⁹ This may prove useful in confirming earlier generations. A Jane Smoothman married Thomas Holsworth, a pewterer, in York in 1662 but it has not been possible to link this family to the Holsworths

The Children of Francis and Ann Mead née Smoothman married 22 May 1690 Egton, Yorkshire

Francis baptised 16 July 1693 Whitby died 1780
William baptised 16 May 1697 Whitby
Jane baptised 25 June 1699 Whitby
John baptised 19 June 1701 Whitby
Ann baptised 1 August 1703 Whitby died November 1722
Henry baptised 10 June 1705 Whitby died November 1720
Thomas baptised 6 January 1709/9 Whitby died May 1709
Marshall baptised 30 July 1710 Whitby died July 1732
Hannah baptised 17 January 1713/4 Whitby died March 1722/3

named in the will.⁵⁰ Francis was buried at Whitby on the 16th of May 1739 and is recorded as being a butcher of Stennel flats,⁵¹ yet in his will, made the previous week, he describes himself as a yeoman of Newholm.⁵² Stennel Flats may be what is now named Flat Farm in Newholm. Ann Mead, widow of Newham (Newholm), was buried at Whitby on the 27th of March 1760; she was in her nineties.⁵³

Francis' daughter, Jane, married twice. Firstly, to Richard Huntrods on the 25th of November 1729 at Whitby⁵⁴ and secondly to Richard Hansell on the 16th of November 1736 in Lythe.⁵⁵ Jane, her son Francis Huntrods and her Hansell step-

⁴⁷ Abstract of the will of Francis Meed of Newholme, Whitby 1680 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁴⁸ Abstract of the will of Jane Smethman, 1714/5 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁴⁹ Abstract of the will of Francis Meed of Newholme, Whitby 1680 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁵⁰ Marriage register of St. Crux, York, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk. Baptism register of Holy Trinity, King's Court, York, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁵¹ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁵² Abstract of the will of Francis Mead of Newholm, Whitby 1739 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁵³ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁵⁴ Marriage register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

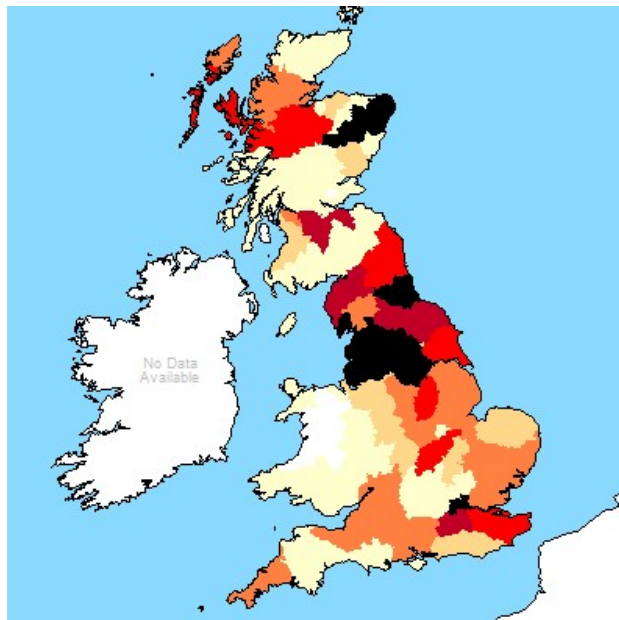
⁵⁵ Marriage register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

children, are all mentioned in her father's will.⁵⁶

Francis' eldest son, also Francis, does not appear to have married and died in 1780. His own will describes him as a yeoman of Newholme. He mentions his brother, John, nephews Francis and John Mead, great nieces, Francis Mead's children, Ann and Jane, his nephew Francis Huntrods and great niece Jane Huntrods. Several other relatives are also named including the Dickinson and Holdforth⁵⁷ families who appeared in his father's will. Francis junior's will provides the first evidence of Carr Hill Farm in Ruswarp (pronounced Rusup) being associated with the Meads. He leaves this property to his nephew, Francis Mead and it was to remain in the family for several generations.⁵⁸

John Mead I c.1701-1789 and Alice Noble c. 1700-1786

5x great grandfather is Francis II and Ann's son, **John**, who was born about 1701 and baptised in Whitby on the 9th of June 'of Newholm'.⁵⁹ In common with many of the Mead men, he married late, to **Alice Noble**, on the 20th of June 1738.⁶⁰ No baptism has been found for Alice, nor does she seem to be a widow.⁶¹ The surname Noble refers to the demeanour of the first holders of the name.⁶² It is found across the country, with the strongest concentration in Lancashire.⁶³



Marrying in their late thirties meant that John and Alice had just two children, sons, inevitably named **Francis** and John, who were both baptized in Whitby.

Distribution of the Surname Noble

⁵⁶ Abstract of the will of Francis Mead of Newholm, Whitby 1739 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁵⁷ Despite the different spelling this is clearly the same family.

⁵⁸ Abstract of the will of Francis Mead of Newholm, Whitby 1780 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁵⁹ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁶⁰ Marriage register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁶¹ Indexes to baptism and marriage registers for Yorkshire www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁶² Cottle, Basil, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* Penguin 2nd edition 1978. Lower, Mark Anthony, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth Editions Ltd. 1860. Reaney, P.H., *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958).

⁶³ *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

Their father, John, was described as a farmer of Aislaby,⁶⁴ a small village just outside Whitby, associated with the Huntrods family.⁶⁵

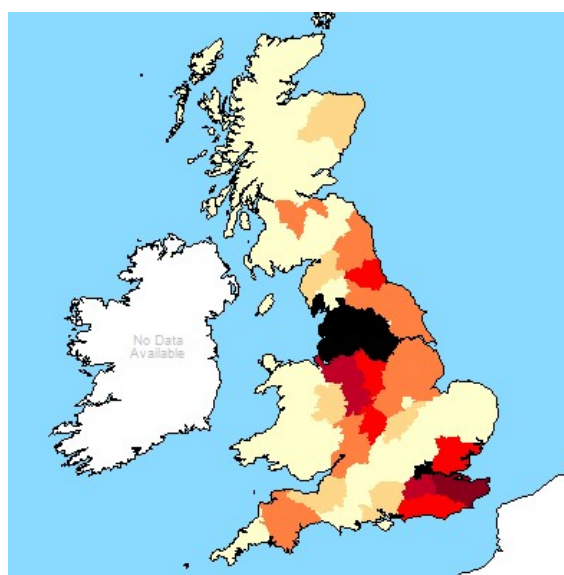
John and Alice's younger son, John, who was born about 1743, married Elizabeth Staincliff in Whitby in 1769⁶⁶ and they had seven children baptised there. John was variously described as a butcher or farmer of Newholm.⁶⁷ In 1782, his address was given as Coop Butts.⁶⁸ He later appears to have taken over the family's Aislaby property.⁶⁹

St. Mary's Church in Whitby contained large box pews. These were rented to specific families. In 1794, John was involved in a dispute over who had the right to a particular pew. The depositions that were taken, in an attempt to ascertain who the pew had been assigned to, give family relationships. It appears that the pew had originally belonged to John's wife's family and the Drings, who were related to this family had laid claim to it. In the course of the dispute, it was recorded that John Mead used to sit in a pew in the north aisle of Whitby Church.⁷⁰ Like many of the family, John lived to a great age, dying in his nineties in 1836.⁷¹

Alice, described as the wife of John, a farmer, was buried in Whitby on the 28th of March 1786, of Carr Hill,⁷² presumably by then the home of her son Francis.⁷³ John I was buried in Whitby on the 15th of September 1789, he was described as a farmer of Carr Hill.⁷⁴

Francis Mead III c. 1740-1801 and Jane Wood c. 1746-1823

4x great grandfather, Francis Mead III, the eldest son of John I and Alice, was



Distribution of the Surname Wood

⁶⁴ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁶⁵ Abstract of the will of Francis Mead of Newholm, Whitby 1739 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁶⁶ Marriage register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁶⁷ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁶⁸ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁶⁹ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁷⁰ Transcription of Cause Papers from the Church Courts of the Diocese of York ref. CP.I.2418, 2419, 2420, 2420a, 2421 & 2423 via <http://www.davekinggenealogy.co.uk/>.

⁷¹ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁷² Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁷³ Abstract of the will of Francis Mead of Newholm, Whitby 1780 via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁷⁴ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

born about 1740 and baptized on the 31st of August in that year, at Whitby. His father was described as a farmer of Aislaby.⁷⁵ On the 12th of February 1765 he married **Jane Wood** at Whitby; both were said to be of Whitby.⁷⁶ Wood is a locational surname, given to those who lived by, or in, a wood. The distribution is widespread but there is a noticeable concentration in Lancashire.⁷⁷ Jane had been baptized on the 29th of June 1746 at Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby and was the daughter of John Wood.⁷⁸ Francis and Jane had six children baptized in Whitby, the eldest of whom was born less than seven months after the wedding.⁷⁹

In 1780, Francis inherited Carr Hill Farm in Ruswarp from his uncle Francis.⁸⁰ Ruswarp is situated on the River Esk, giving easy access to Whitby a couple of miles away. This would have given the family access to mussels, salmon and sea trout, to supplement their diet. Ruswarp was the site of a mill, owned by the Abbey until the dissolution. A dam was created to increase the water flow to the mill and Ruswarp marked the tidal extent of the River Esk.

**The Children of Francis and Jane Mead
née Wood Married 12 February 1765
Whitby, Yorkshire**

Ann born 8 September 1765
Jane born 2 January 1767
John born 30 December 1768
Francis born 28 March 1770
Elizabeth born 29 November 1772
William 6 April 1780

Francis died comparatively young for a member of the Mead family, being buried at Whitby on the 18th of December 1801.⁸¹ His wife, Jane, was buried in Whitby on the 18th of July 1823.⁸²

John Mead II 1768-1844 and Margaret Porrit 1792-1876

3x great grandfather **John Mead** was married late in life to **Margaret Porrit** in Whitby, on the 21st of November 1826.⁸³ Porrit is another surname that is centred on Yorkshire and Lancashire.⁸⁴ It is probably derived from the French forename Pierre.⁸⁵

⁷⁵ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁷⁶ Marriage register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁷⁷ *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

⁷⁸ Baptism register of All Saints, Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁷⁹ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁸⁰ Abstract of the will of Francis Mead of Newholm, Whitby 1780 via <http://www.davekinggenealogy.co.uk/>

⁸¹ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁸² Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

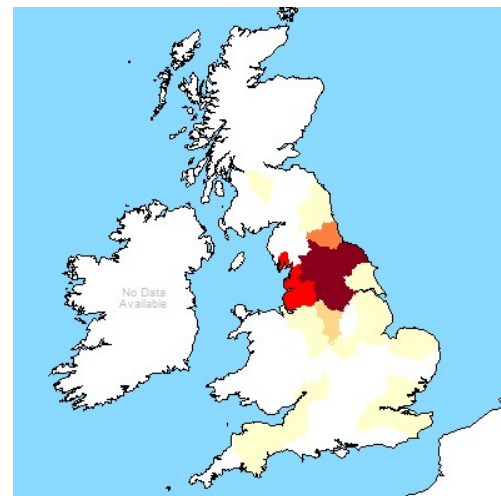
⁸³ www.familysearch.org.

⁸⁴ *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

Margaret was born on the 8th of November 1792 and baptised in Lythe.⁸⁶ Lythe is an arable farming parish, about four miles from Whitby and a little inland from the coast. Like Egton, there was a strong Catholic presence in Lythe, with twenty seven recusants being identified in 1690.⁸⁷

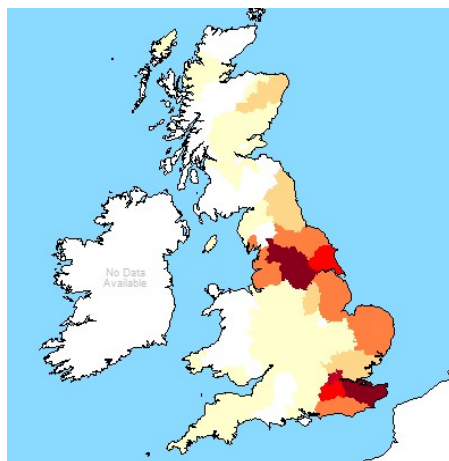
**The Children of Thomas Porrit
and Mary Woodwork
baptised in Lythe, Yorkshire
1785**

Ann born 7 August 1782
Elizabeth born 30 January
Jane born 8 December 1786
John born 13 September 1789
**Margaret born 8 November
1792**



Distribution of the Surname Porrit

Margaret's parents were **Thomas Porrit** and **Mary Woodwork** who married on the 18th of January 1781 at Lythe. The witnesses were Robert King and Mary's uncle, Thomas Woodwork. Thomas Porrit signed the register and Mary made her mark.⁸⁸ In the baptism register entries for his children and on the burial entry for his wife, Thomas was described as a farmer of Newton.⁸⁹ This refers to the township of Newton Mulgrave, some five miles west of Lythe itself but still within the parish. They had five children baptised in Lythe.⁹⁰



**Distribution of the Surname
Woodwork**

Mary was buried in Lythe on the 11th of June 1801.⁹¹ Thomas was buried there on the 4th of May 1819, still of Newton. His age was given as 76, so he was born about 1742/3.⁹²

⁸⁵ Lower, Mark Anthony, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth Editions Ltd. 1860.

⁸⁶ Baptism register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁸⁷ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/north/vol2/pp388-399> accessed 16 April 2021.

⁸⁸ Marriage register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁸⁹ Baptism and burial register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁹⁰ Baptism register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

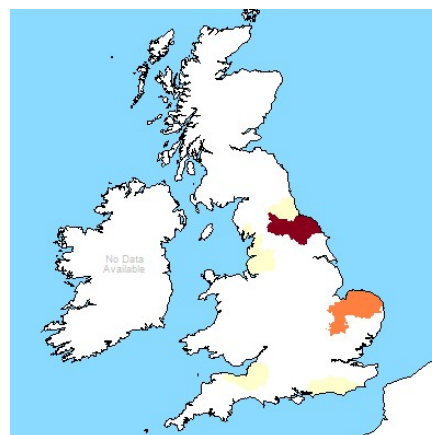
⁹¹ Burial register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁹² Burial register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

Before following John and Margaret Mead née Porrit's story, it is time to look further back and consider Margaret's ancestry and the Bean and Woodwork families.

The Bean and Woodwork Families

The name Bean, which also appears as Beane and Bain, is one that is found down the east coast of England and in Lancashire.⁹³ Bean may have been a name given to someone who was friendly and pleasant, or perhaps to a seller of beans.⁹⁴



**Distribution of the Surname
Bean**

All that is known about 8x great grandfather, **Leonard Bean**, is that he had two children, Isabel and **Rowland**, baptised in Whitby in the 1660s⁹⁵ and that he was buried in Whitby on the 23rd of May 1702.⁹⁶

Rowland was baptized on the 10th of December 1665⁹⁷ and married **Alice**. They had five children baptized in Whitby.⁹⁸ Alice was buried in Whitby on the 25th of February 1741/2. Rowland, a labourer, was still alive at the time⁹⁹ and no burial has been found for him.

The Children of Rowland and Alice Bean Baptised in Whitby, Yorkshire

Elizabeth baptised 27 March 1687
John baptised 21 September 1690
Margaret baptised 18 November 1693
Ann baptised 26 December 1695
Richard baptised 22 December 1700

Rowland and Alice's daughter, **Ann Bean**, was baptised on the 26th of December 1695 at Whitby.¹⁰⁰ On the 28th of January 1719, she married **Francis Woodwork** at nearby Egton.¹⁰¹

Woodwork, sometimes written as Woodwark, is another unusual surname and one that is rooted in Yorkshire, with another concentration further down the coast in

⁹³ *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

⁹⁴ Reaney, P.H., *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958).

⁹⁵ Index to baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁹⁶ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁹⁷ Index to baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁹⁸ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

⁹⁹ Burial register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰⁰ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰¹ Marriage register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

Norfolk.¹⁰² It is probably a corruption of Woodward, meaning a forester.

Francis had been baptised in Glaisdale on the 6th of October 1691.¹⁰³ Glaisdale is about eight miles to the south west of the village of Lythe however Lythe parish is a large one and shares a border with Danby of which Glaisdale was a part.

Francis was the son of **Richard Woodwork** and **Mary Wildes** who had married in Lythe on the 8th of November 1688.¹⁰⁴ 1688 was the year of the Glorious Revolution, which saw William III ascend the British throne. He was a strongly Protestant monarch, replacing the Catholic James II. William was effectively a figurehead for the Parliamentary elite and this marked a further diminishing of the power of the monarchy. Richard and Mary had two sons, Francis, as mentioned above and Richard, baptised in 1694, also in Glaisdale.¹⁰⁵ No burials have been confirmed for Richard and Mary. A Richard Woodwork of Danby was buried in Lythe in 1695¹⁰⁶ but it is not certain if this was Richard senior or his infant son.

On his marriage to Ann Bean and at the baptisms of his two eldest children,¹⁰⁷ Francis Woodwork was described as a talor (sic) of Lythe. Francis and Ann had at least five children.¹⁰⁸ Francis was buried at Lythe on the 3rd of January 1760. At this point, he was described as a labourer of Lythe;¹⁰⁹ perhaps his eyesight

**The Children of Francis and Ann Woodwork
née Bean**

Richard baptised 6 November 1720 Egton
Francis baptised 3 November 1722 Egton
Elizabeth baptised 19 July 1731 Lythe
Thomas baptised 10 February 1733/4 Lythe
William baptised 15 August 1736 Lythe

was no longer up to tailoring. When his widow, Ann, was buried at Lythe on the 9th of March 1766,¹¹⁰ she was recorded as having been a midwife.

In the 1600s, midwives were licensed by the church, so that they could perform baptisms on sickly babies, who were unlikely to survive long enough to be baptised by the vicar but this practice was declining by Ann's time. From the eighteenth century there was increased regulation and male midwives were more common.

¹⁰² *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

¹⁰³ Index to baptism register of St. Thomas' Glaisdale, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰⁴ Marriage register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰⁵ Baptism register of St. Thomas' Glaisdale, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰⁶ Burial register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰⁷ Baptism register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰⁸ Baptism register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk. Baptism register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁰⁹ Burial register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹¹⁰ Burial register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

They considered themselves superior to their female counterparts, who would have been much less likely to have undergone any kind of apprenticeship or training, beyond what they could learn from assisting at births. Midwives were often criticised for their lack of competence, which might have fatal results. This caused some concern in medical circles and training began to be offered in London but this was exceptional. Although it was recommended that midwives should be young, literate, sober, healthy, intelligent and knowledgeable,¹¹¹ they were often anything but. Ann was over seventy when she died.¹¹² Interestingly, cleanliness was not a priority. It was not until the mid-nineteenth century that germs and the spread of infection were understood. In Ann's time, it would have been normal for a physician to go straight from autopsy to operating theatre without washing his hands.

Francis and Ann's daughter, Elizabeth, gave birth to an illegitimate daughter, Mary, who was baptised at Lythe on the 29th of December 1760.¹¹³ It was she who married Thomas Porrit in 1781.¹¹⁴ Elizabeth Woodwork of Barnby was buried on the 24th of January 1819 at Lythe.¹¹⁵

John Mead II 1768-1844 and Margaret Porrit 1792-1876 continued

Although John would have been in his fifties at the time of his marriage to thirty four year old Margaret, he was said to be a bachelor on marriage. John, a yeoman, was able to sign his name but Margaret made her mark. The witnesses were Peter Featherstone and John Copperwhite, who was John Mead's brother-in-law.¹¹⁶ Perhaps they were able to visit Whitby Botanic Gardens, which had opened in 1812.¹¹⁷

John and Margaret's only known child, great great grandfather **John**, was born more than five years after the marriage, on the 9th of January 1832 and baptised in Whitby on the 11th of January,¹¹⁸ having been born in the hamlet of Ruswarp, almost certainly at Carr Hill Farm.¹¹⁹

The Whitby to Pickering railway was constructed in the 1830s and ran through Ruswarp, opening up the possibilities for both the sale of farm produce and travel.

¹¹¹ À Daventer, Henry *The Art of Midwifery Improv'd: fully and plainly laying down whatever instructions are requisite to make a compleat midwife* (1728).

¹¹² Burial register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹¹³ Baptism register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹¹⁴ Marriage register of St. Oswald's, Lythe, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹¹⁵ Burial register of St. Hilda's, Egton, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹¹⁶ Marriage register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹¹⁷ White, Andrew *A History of Whitby* Phillimore (1993).

¹¹⁸ Baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Whitby, Yorkshire via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹¹⁹ 1861 census for Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire RG9 3649 folio 38.

Unusually, this line was worked using horse to pull the carriages until 1847.¹²⁰

In the 1841 census, the family were living at Carr Hill in Ruswarp, with two servants.¹²¹ The Tithe Map and Schedule allocates eleven plots in Ruswarp to John Mead; he was both the owner and occupier. The field names are evocative. John owned grasslands named Low Pasture, High Pasture, Garth, Car Head and New Laid Field. The arable fields were called ox close, Low Walker Leas, High Walker Leas and the quaintly names Six Days' Work and Five Days Work. There is also reference to 'Ellen Car and orchard'.¹²²

John Mead II died on the 22nd of May 1844 of apoplexy¹²³ and was buried at St. Mary's, Whitby on the 24th of May.¹²⁴ In 1851 John junior and his mother Margaret were still running the farm at Carr Hill, with the aid of a servant.¹²⁵

**The Children of John III and Mary Ann Mead
née Norman**

John Edward Mead born 13 January 1855
Carr Hill, died 1933
Hannah born 1856/7 Ruswarp, died 21 June
1880
Margaret born 1857/8 Ruswarp, died January
1874
William born 1860 Ruswarp, died 2
September 1861
William born 1862 Ruswarp
Francis born 1864 Ruswarp
Ann Elizabeth born 1866 Ruswarp
Rachel born 1867/8 Ruswarp, died 31 March
1897
Miriam born 1871 Ruswarp
Ada born 1872 Ruswarp
Emily Mary born 1874, died 1874
Arthur born 9 June 1875 Ruswarp

***Family of John Mead III 1832-
1911 and Mary Ann Norman c.
1836-1876***

John Mead III was married by
licence to **Mary Ann Norman**,¹²⁶
whose family came from
neighbouring Lambert ¹²⁷ Hill
Farm, at Whitby parish church on
the 5th of November 1854. He
described himself as a twenty
two year old unmarried farmer
of Ruswarp and the witnesses
were James Norman, Mary Ann's
brother and Ralph Greenbury.
John was able to sign his
name. ¹²⁸ Mary Ann was

¹²⁰ White, Andrew *A History of Whitby* Phillimore (1993).

¹²¹ 1841 census for Carr Hill, Ruswarp, Whitby, North Yorkshire HO107 1265 en dist 11 folio 57.

¹²² Tithe Schedule for Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire IR29 42 316. Tithe Map for Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire IR 30 42 316. He owned plots, 960, 961, 963, 964, 966, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972 and 973. The house at 965 appears to have been omitted from the schedule.

¹²³ Death certificate of John Mead 1844 from the General Register Office.

¹²⁴ National Burial Index accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

¹²⁵ 1851 census for Carr Hill, Ruswarp, Whitby, North Yorkshire HO107 2374 folio 573.

¹²⁶ See Norman paper.

¹²⁷ This is the modern form of the name, which also appears as Lombart and Lombard in earlier records.

¹²⁸ Marriage certificate of John Mead and Mary Ann Norman 1854, from the General Register Office.

seventeen years old and seven months pregnant at the time.¹²⁹ John and Mary Ann's eldest son was great grandfather **John Edward**, who was born on the 13th of January 1855 at Carr's Hill, Ruswarp; at this time, John III was described as a farmer.¹³⁰ John and Mary Ann had eleven more children born at Ruswarp.¹³¹

1861 found John still farming the sixty one acres at Carr's Hill, Ruswarp, Whitby. The four eldest children were at home and John Edward, Hannah and Margaret were described as scholars. John's mother, Margaret and two servants (one domestic servant and one farm servant) were also part of the household.¹³²

In the September of 1861, tragedy struck. Fifteen month old William, the youngest child at the time, met with a fatal accident. It is described in the newspapers. *"On Monday afternoon at Carr Hill, Ruswarp, William Mead, aged 15 months, son of Mr John Mead, came to his death by falling into a watering trough. It appears the child had been playing in the yard beside its father, who left it to look after some other business and the mother, coming out two or three minutes after could not see the child. She then called the father and they found it lying on its face in the trough, which had about a foot of water in it."* The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental drowning.¹³³ The account of the inquest in *The Yorkshire Gazette* adds, *"although means were used to restore animation, they were unhappily unsuccessful."*¹³⁴

In 1869, John advertised in *The Whitby Gazette* for tradesmen to tender for rebuilding and slating the farm buildings at Carr Hill Farm.¹³⁵ None of John's four sons followed him into farming. Two became carpenters and two grocers, thus bringing to an end over two centuries and six generations of Meads farming in the area.

By 1871, the eldest son, John Edward, had left the family farm to take up a joinery apprenticeship; he was lodging with Esther Elders at Arundel Place in Whitby.¹³⁶ Two more sons and two daughters had been born to the family and of those living at home, all but the eldest and youngest were scholars. John's mother remained living with the family.¹³⁷

John was mentioned in the press in 1875. Richard Fenwick, together with Jeremiah

¹²⁹ See Norman paper.

¹³⁰ Birth certificate of John Edward Mead 1855, from the local Register Office.

¹³¹ Birth Indexes of the General Registrar; 1861 census for Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire RG9 3649 folio 38; 1871 census for Carr Hill Lane, Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire RG10 4849 folio 15.

¹³² 1861 census for Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire RG9 3649 folio 38.

¹³³ *Whitby Gazette* 7 September 1861 p. 4 col b.

¹³⁴ *Yorkshire Gazette* 7 September 1861 p. 4 cols. d & e.

¹³⁵ *Whitby Gazette* 29 May 1869 p. 4 col. c.

¹³⁶ 1871 census for Arundel Place, Whitby, Yorkshire RG10 4849 folio 11.

¹³⁷ 1871 census for Carr Hill Lane, Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire RG10 4849 folio 15.

'Jerry' Warrener, had stolen four pigeons from Francis Norman, John's father-in-law. Fenwick had been working as a farm servant for Mr Norman and had a reputation for running away. Warrener was John Mead's farm servant at the time. On being arrested, Fenwick stated that Warrener had stolen another four pigeons from John Mead. The lads were sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.¹³⁸

In January 1876, John Edward's coming of age was celebrated at Carr Hill Farm in some style. *The Whitby Gazette* reported, "*One of those dear old English customs (the coming of age) was celebrated at Carrhill Farm, Ruswarp on the 13th and 14th inst., when the majority of the eldest son of Mr John Mead was made the occasion of some very enjoyable festivities. The rooms were very tastefully decorated with evergreens, kindly given for the occasion by H A H Rastall and John Corner Esqs.. On the second day the party was honoured with the presence of the Rev. J Dingle and his lady, who proposed health to the individual they had come to honour, coupled with some very happy remarks as to how to tread the rough paths of life in the smoothest manner. The first day was devoted to a musical entertainment and the opening of a harmonium, made by Mr J E Mead, which was inaugurated in fine style by Miss M R Norman and Mr Brown, schoolmaster, Ruswarp and they enlivened the company with many duets and songs. A very superior magic lantern helped to pass the remainder of the evenings most pleasantly. The health of the worthy host and hostess was drunk with enthusiasm as the grey dawn of morning began to peep upon the scene, when the company departed highly delighted with their enjoyable entertainment.*"¹³⁹

Four more children had been born between 1871 and 1876 when, on the 16th of November, Mary Ann died at Carr Hill, having suffered from diarrhoea for sixteen days and 'abortion', probably a miscarriage.¹⁴⁰ The death certificate also gives additional information about John Edward. Although he registered his mother's death and was in attendance, he gave his address as 1 Crowe Place, Stockton on Tees.¹⁴¹ Apart from the fatal accident to William, two daughters, sixteen year old Margaret and the infant Emily Mary, had pre-deceased their mother, both dying in 1874. John's mother Margaret had died of senile decay, on the 13th of July 1876,¹⁴² four months before the death of his wife, leaving John to bring up his large family alone. Margaret was buried in Whitby on the 17th of July 1876.¹⁴³

Carr's Hill Lane Farm was still John's home in 1881 and five of his children were with him. Francis, the eldest still living at home, was a grocer's apprentice and the three

¹³⁸ *Whitby Times, and North Yorkshire Advertiser* 29 October 1875 p. 4 col. g.

¹³⁹ *The Whitby Gazette* 22 January 1876 p. 4 col. e.

¹⁴⁰ Death certificate of Mary Ann Mead 1876 from the local Register Office.

¹⁴¹ Death certificate of Mary Ann Mead 1876 from the local Register Office.

¹⁴² Death Indexes of the General Registrar.

¹⁴³ National Burial Index accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

youngest, Rachel, Ada and Arthur, were scholars. Eliza Norman was acting as live-in housekeeper to the family. Her husband John and ten year old daughter Eliza J. were at the same address. John Norman was the brother of John Mead's late wife Mary Ann.¹⁴⁴ Thomas Helm was the live-in farm servant.¹⁴⁵ Nearby was another child of John and Mary Ann, Miriam, she was living with her Norman grandparents at Lombard Hill Farm, Ruswarp and was a scholar.¹⁴⁶

By the late nineteenth century, tourists were coming as far up the River Esk as Ruswarp on pleasure boats. Perhaps because of his age, or may because Ruswarp was getting busier, at some point in the 1880s, John Mead left the farm that had been in the family for at least four generations and went to farm at Pinkney's Farm in nearby Eskdale cum Ugglebarnby, Sleights, with four of his children, Francis, Ann Elizabeth, Ada and Arthur.¹⁴⁷ John's daughter, Rachel, died at North Riding Infirmary on the 31st of March 1897.¹⁴⁸

John had moved again by 1901, when he was living at the three rooms that were 1 Chapel Cottage, Glaisdale, Whitby. He was still farming and his daughter, Ann Elizabeth was acting as his housekeeper.¹⁴⁹ Later that year Ann Elizabeth married tailor, Robert Summerson¹⁵⁰ and they had two daughters, Hilda Mead in 1901 and Eva Mary in 1904. Both the girls were born in Glaisdale, Yorkshire.¹⁵¹ Robert died in 1906¹⁵² and in 1911, Annie Elizabeth was again living with her father, John Mead at Fryup, Lealholm, Danby, Yorkshire; this may well have been Ann Elizabeth's marital home.¹⁵³

John Edward Mead 1855-1933 and Eliza Ann (Annie) Pepperell 1859-1900

John Edward Mead joined the Whitby Branch of the Carpenters and Joiners' Union, late transferring to the Penge Branch.¹⁵⁴ Apart from the harmonium, mentioned at his coming of age celebration, he also made a clock that remained in the family.¹⁵⁵

¹⁴⁴ See Norman paper.

¹⁴⁵ 1881 census index for Carr Hill Lane Farm, Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire RG11 4835 folio 40.

¹⁴⁶ 1881 census index for Lombard Hill Farm, Ruswarp, Whitby, Yorkshire RG11 4835 folio 39.

¹⁴⁷ 1891 census for Pinkney's Farm, Eskdale cum Ugglebarnby, Sleights, Yorkshire RG12 3993 folio 73.

¹⁴⁸ *Daily Gazette for Middlesborough* 1 April 1897 p. 3 col. h.

¹⁴⁹ 1901 census for 1 Chapel Cottages, Glaisdale, Whitby, Yorkshire RG13 4558 folio 95.

¹⁵⁰ Marriage Indexes of the General Registrar, 1901 census for Ellers Farm, Fryup, Danby Yorkshire RG13 4573 folio 56.

¹⁵¹ 1911 census for Fryup, Lealholm, Danby, Yorkshire RG14 29124 sn 34.

¹⁵² Death Indexes of the General Registrar.

¹⁵³ 1911 census for Fryup, Lealholm, Danby, Yorkshire RG14 29124 sn 34.

¹⁵⁴ Membership Registers of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners Whitby Branch held at the Modern Records Centre MSS 78/ASCJ/2/3/1 folio 582. Membership Registers of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers and Joiners Whitby Branch held at the Modern Records Centre MSS 78/ASCJ/2/3/1 folio 234.

¹⁵⁵ This was in the Towler family.

Having been in Stockton on Tees in 1876,¹⁵⁶ great grandfather John Edward moved to South London. In 1881, he was living in the house of Nathan Savidge from Somerset, at 6 Kingswood Road, Beckenham, Kent and working as a carpenter.¹⁵⁷ On the 4th of July 1883 John Edward married **Eliza Ann (Annie) Pepperell**¹⁵⁸ at St. Luke's Church, Norwood, Surrey. Both gave their address as 69 Hamilton Road and both could sign their name. John described himself as a 28 year old unmarried carpenter. The marriage was by banns and the witnesses were John Parker and E R Brown.¹⁵⁹

John Edward and Eliza Ann had seven children.¹⁶⁰ The eldest, Beatrice Ada, known as Ada,¹⁶¹ was born less than five months after the wedding on the 5th of November 1883 in Norwood, Surrey.¹⁶² [Beatrice] Ada married William Thomas Towler in Croydon, Surrey registration district in 1906¹⁶³

The Children of John Edward and Eliza Ann (Annie) Mead née Pepperell born in Norwood

Beatrice Ada (Ada) born 25 November 1883
Miriam Ethel born 24 April 1885
Annie Elizabeth born 12 February 1887
John William born 1888
Arthur Edwin born 1890
Florence Mabel born 1892
Winifred Daisy (Daisy) born 16 April 1894

and had four sons. Percy William was born in Selhurst in 1906. The next two boys were born in Thornton Heath, Surrey: Leslie John in 1908 and Albert Thomas in 1909.¹⁶⁴ By 1911, the Towlers were living at 31 Milton Road, Croydon, although William Thomas was away from home on census night.¹⁶⁵ Shortly afterwards the Towlers emigrated, sailing for Boston, Massachusetts¹⁶⁶ and by 1913, when their youngest son was Arthur Allen was born, they were living in Illinois.¹⁶⁷

Miriam Ethel Mead was born on the 25th of April 1885 at 2 Allen Terrace, Berridge Road, Norwood. Her father was still described as a carpenter at this time.¹⁶⁸ In 1911, Miriam was working for the Manger family of 18 Westfield Road, Beckenham, Kent,

¹⁵⁶ Death certificate of Mary Ann Mead 1876 from the local Register Office.

¹⁵⁷ 1881 census for 6 Kingswood Road, Beckenham, Kent RG11 851 folio 51.

¹⁵⁸ See Pepperell paper.

¹⁵⁹ Marriage certificate of John Edward MEAD and Annie PEPPERELL 1883 from the General Register Office.

¹⁶⁰ 1911 census for 25 Cambridge Road, Anerley, Kent RG14 3378 sn 26.

¹⁶¹ Oral evidence from Kathleen Mary Few née Bedward.

¹⁶² 1891 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG12 594 folio 86; birth Indexes of the General Registrar. Oral evidence from Scott Towler.

¹⁶³ Marriage Indexes of the General Registrar; oral evidence from Kathleen Mary Few née Bedward.

¹⁶⁴ Birth Indexes of the General Registrar; oral evidence from Kathleen Mary Few née Bedward; 1911 census for 31 Milton Road, Croydon, Surrey RG14 3298 sn18.

¹⁶⁵ 1911 census for 31 Milton Road, Croydon, Surrey RG14 3298 sn18.

¹⁶⁶ Index to Washington, Seattle Passenger Lists 1890-1957 via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁶⁷ Oral evidence from Kathleen Mary Few née Bedward and Scott Towler.

¹⁶⁸ Birth certificate of Miriam Ethel Mead 1885 from the General Register Office.

as a general servant.¹⁶⁹ Miriam Ethel married **Allen Bedward** on the 20th of August 1911 at St. Mark's Church, South Norwood, Surrey. She gave her address as the family home at 25 Cambridge Road and did not list an occupation. The witnesses were her father, John Edward Mead, described as a carpenter and joiner and Frederick George Bedward.¹⁷⁰ Miriam's story continues under Bedward.¹⁷¹

John Edward and Annie's next daughter was Annie Elizabeth who was born in Norwood on the 12th of February 1887¹⁷² and baptised with her younger brother, John William, at Holy Trinity, Penge on the 11th of November 1888.¹⁷³ On the 19th of February 1895, Annie transferred from St. Mark's School in South Norwood to South Norward Primary School, where she remained for a year.¹⁷⁴ After this, Annie disappears from the records. She is not with the family in 1901 or 1911¹⁷⁵ but a photograph in family possession, labelled 'sister Annie', suggests that she survived to adulthood.¹⁷⁶

The eldest son was John William, known as Jack. He was born in Norwood in 1888 and became a baker.¹⁷⁷ In 1924, Jack married Elizabeth Jane Rebecca Jones in Croydon and they had three children. He was followed by Arthur Edwin who was born in 1890, also in Norwood, and died a year later.¹⁷⁸ By 1891, the family were living at 25 Cambridge Road, Anerley, Surrey, which became the long-term family home. John Edward was described as a carpenter and joiner.¹⁷⁹

Two more daughters completed the family. Florence Mabel was born in 1892 and Winifred Daisy, known as Daisy, in 1894.¹⁸⁰ Florence has not been traced after 1911. Winifred Daisy married Harold Emanuel Bregazzi in 1923 in Croydon registration district; they are not believed to have had any children.¹⁸¹

¹⁶⁹ 1911 census for 18 Westfield Road, Beckenham, Kent RG14 3666 sn 162.

¹⁷⁰ Marriage certificate of Allan BEDWARD and Miriam Ethel MEAD 1911 from the local Register Office.

¹⁷¹ See Bedward paper.

¹⁷² 1891 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG12 594 folio 86.

Admissions Registers of South Norward Primary School via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁷³ Index to baptism register of Holy Trinity, Penge, Kent via www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁷⁴ Admissions Registers of South Norward Primary School via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁷⁵ 1901 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG13 648 folio 20. 1911 census for 25 Cambridge Road, Anerley, Kent RG14 3378 sn 26.

¹⁷⁶ Photograph in family possession.

¹⁷⁷ 1891 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG12 594 folio 86; Birth Indexes of the General Registrar; Oral evidence from Kathleen Mary Few née Bedward; 1911 census for 104 Beulah Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey RG 14 3393 sn 148.

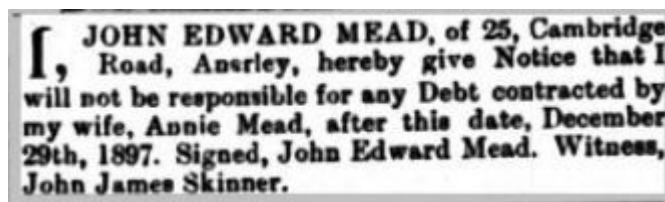
¹⁷⁸ 1891 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG12 594 folio 86; Birth and Death Indexes of the General Registrar.

¹⁷⁹ 1891 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG12 594 folio 86.

¹⁸⁰ Birth Indexes of the General Registrar; Oral evidence from Kathleen Mary Few née Bedward; 1901 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG13 648 folio 20.

¹⁸¹ Birth and Marriage Indexes of the General Registrar; Oral evidence from Kathleen Mary Few née Bedward; 1901 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG13 648 folio 20.

In January 1898 a rather strange announcement appeared in the local paper, in which John Edward declared that he would not be responsible for his wife's debts.¹⁸² This does seem unusual as they do not appear to have been estranged.¹⁸³



On the 13th of December 1900, 'Annie' Mead died in the family home at Cambridge Road of cancer of the womb and exhaustion.¹⁸⁴ The 1901 census finds John Edward at home with four of his children, Miriam, John, Florence and Winifred.¹⁸⁵

Ten years later, John Edward was still living at 25 Cambridge Road, together with Florence who was acting as housekeeper and Daisy who worked in a sweet shop.¹⁸⁶ In 1924 John Edward remarried to Emma Flower née Flack, formerly Jones. She was the mother of his son John William's wife Elizabeth Jones. John Edward and his son both married about the same time and it is not known which marriage took place first.

John Edward Mead died on the 23rd of December 1933 of senile myocardial degeneration at 76 Eridge Road, Croydon, Surrey, although his usual address was given as 25 Cambridge Road.¹⁸⁷

Emma Mead died on the 24th of December 1944 at 39 Woodcroft Road, Croydon, although her usual address was given as 38 Cambridge Road. Perhaps bombing had caused her to move from number 25. The address 10 Balfour Road is also mentioned in Emma's will. Probate was granted on the 29th of January 1945 to her son Thomas Walter Jones. The estate was valued at £148 17s 6d. Linen, household items and small sums of money were left to her children and grandchildren.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸² *Croydon Guardian and Surrey County Gazette* 22 December 1900 p. 1 col. a.

¹⁸³ Death certificate of 'Annie' MEAD 190 from the General Register Office.

¹⁸⁴ Death certificate of 'Annie' MEAD 190 from the General Register Office.

¹⁸⁵ 1901 census for 25 Cambridge Road, South Norwood, Croydon, Surrey RG13 648 folio 20.

¹⁸⁶ 1911 census for 25 Cambridge Road, Anerley, Kent RG14 3378 sn 26.

¹⁸⁷ Death certificate of John Edward Mead 1933 from the General Register Office.

¹⁸⁸ Indexes of the Principal Probate Registry. The will of Emma Mead 1941 from the Principal Probate Registry.