

# **THE CATORS OF BECKENHAM AND WOODBASTWICK**

Describes the rise of the family of Quaker John Cator from Ross on Wye to financial success in London and acceptance into the world of the landed gentry (1638-2002)

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## About The Author

Patricia Ridler was born at Blackheath in 1929, the youngest in a family of three. Educated at the Beckenham County School for Girls and Imperial College, London, she is a scientist, not an historian. She married Michael James Manning, merchant navy engineer, in 1951 and they had three boys and a girl. Teaching fitted in with raising a family and so she taught Mathematics and Science, especially Biology at her old school.

Retirement gave Pat the chance to write and she established Jenna Publishing in memory of her dog Jenna to put her first two books into print. Research into the fascinating Cator family provided an ideal topic for this her third book.

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Thoughts on Beckenham's Rivers

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THE CATORS OF BECKENHAM  
AND WOODBASTWICK

By

Pat Manning

*Front cover pictures: Cator arms in school window,  
John Cator in oils by Sir Joshua Reynolds 1777,  
Woodbastwick Hall 1888-1971.*

*Rear cover picture: Portico of Beckenham Place*

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William	14.4.1785	11.5.1866	1.Penelope Ann Farnaby 2.Mary Nettleship(nee Parkin)	78 to 88, 115,116,118, 156,159,160

<b>FORENAMES</b>	<b>BIRTH</b>	<b>DEATH</b>	<b>SPOUSE(S)</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
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# **PART I**

## **THE BEGINNING**

### **INTRODUCTION WHY THE CATORS?**

The flying bombs fell in July 1944. The first destroyed the shops near the junction of Albemarle Rd and Beckenham High St on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The second was worse, falling on 27<sup>th</sup> July on numbers 7&8 Church Rd. The parish church of St George's barely one hundred yards away took the brunt of the blast. Up to a third of the gravestones on the North side of the church were shattered but not those of the Cators. They remain there today as two large table tombs standing among the yew trees. They bear row upon row of family names, twentyfour in all, with relationships, ages and dates of death.

Now I am not a Cator but I was born at Blackheath Park on the Cator Estate and lived for the next thirtyseven years on the Beckenham estate of the Cators. Their principle was to buy up land for leasing for the construction of superior housing. Their nineteenth century planning is still reflected in the layout of Blackheath and Beckenham. However I knew nothing of this until I started recording the monumental inscriptions of St George's church as one of the team of North West Kent Family History Society. I had no idea that from 1773 to 1806, John Cator of Beckenham Place had been the Lord of Beckenham Manor.

In Burke's "Landed Gentry" the Cator pedigree covers several pages of small type. They were closely knit and made increasingly favourable marriages among the gentry, particularly in Ireland. Names acquired by marriage were used for roads on the estates including the Albemarle Rd (from Admiral Sir Albemarle Bertie) where the first flying bomb landed. The Bromley Record of October 1<sup>st</sup> 1885 has an article of the marriage of the Rev Lord Victor Seymour with Miss Cator, daughter of Mr Albemarle Cator of Woodbastwick, Norfolk at St Paul's Knightsbridge that was attended by Earls and Lords and Ladies too numerous to list.

Perhaps the most notable of such occasions was the marriage of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, when Elizabeth Cator was one of her eight bridesmaids.

Tracing John Cator, Lord of the Manor backwards, I found that he had been a timber merchant at Bankside in London's Southwark. This was the constituency of Henry Thrale M.P. in the 1770s.

The Thrales entertained Dr Samuel Johnson at both their houses; one was in Deadman's Place, Bankside, now Park St and the other at Streatham Place where Dr Johnson visited for about twenty years and had his own room. Since Henry Thrale owned the Anchor Public house on Bankside by the River Thames, it would be a good guess that the timber merchant, John Cator, met Dr Johnson and the Thrales there.

At first Mrs Thrale did not like John Cator and described him as an insulting enemy. In Streatham's Society she marked John nought out of ten for most of society's graces like morality, wit and manner although she gave him three for his voice and thirteen out of twenty for his general knowledge!

John was the Son of the timber business of John Cator & Son. John Cator Snr (1703-1764) had moved from ROSS, HEREFORD to London around the time of his marriage in 1728 to Mary Brough at the Quaker Meeting House, Society of Friends, Savoy, London although this marriage also appears in the Ross records.

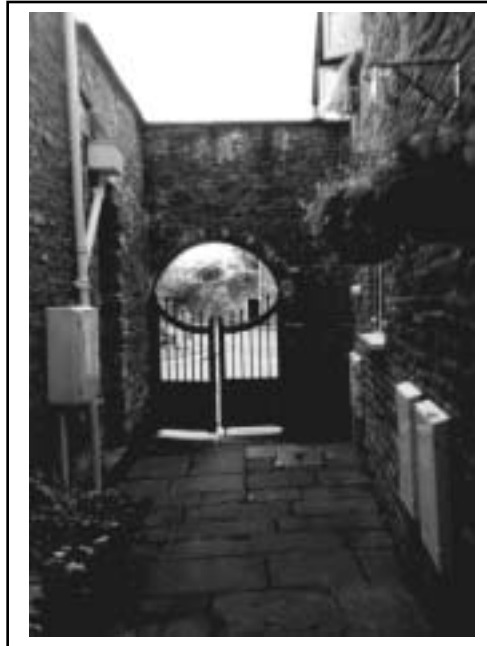
John senior was the son of Jonah Cator, glover of Ross and the grandson of John and Elizabeth Cator. They are said in the Burke's pedigree to have been staunch Quakers and I found their births, marriages and deaths in the Quaker records for both Ross and London held at the SoG in London on microfiche. As you will see there is plenty of evidence of the Cator family's prominence in the Friends of Ross.

I should be very interested to receive any information about the Ross Cators and Quakers. The family line can be traced directly to members alive today who own the village of Woodbastwick. The Lord of the Manor John Cator's nephew, John Barwell Cator, bought this nearly 200 years ago. He was the son of John's rich merchant brother, Joseph. In spite of making a fortune John Cator had no surviving children of his own to whom he could pass all his wealth.



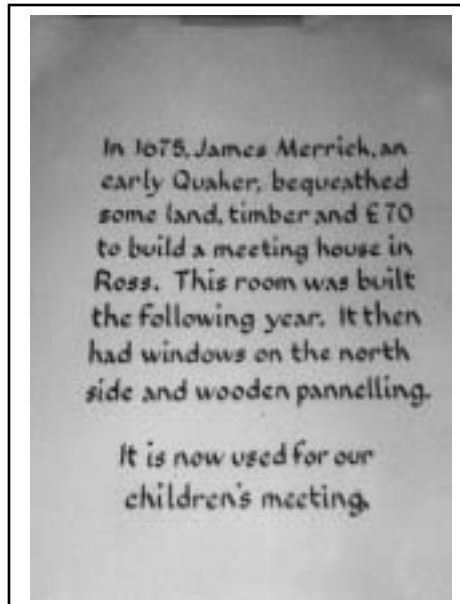


*The main room of the Meeting house with Jim Murray,  
the clerk of the Meeting*



*View looking out from the Ross Meeting House*

## Ch 1 CATORS FROM ROSS, HEREFORDSHIRE



*Commemorative panel at Ross to James Merrick*

The Beckenham and Woodbastwick Cators can be traced back to Ross on Wye through many sources. Their pedigree in Burke's Landed Gentry states that they descended from John Cator, Quaker of Ross, Herefordshire.

Quakerism arose in the East Midlands in the late 1640s and register books were kept of births, marriages and deaths at the Quaker meetings from the late 1650s with some adults recording their own dates of birth from further back. All the registers were surrendered to the Registrar-General in 1840 but not before the Society of Friends had compiled digests from them. The Society of Genealogists holds the entire set of registers on a microfilm<sup>1</sup>, which contains the records of Ross, Herefordshire. The registers are in calendar order but grouped alphabetically by the surname initial.

The writing is meticulous but inevitably it has faded and there are gaps in the records.

The Ross Quakers were a prominent well-organised group of men and women with strong beliefs. They would not attend the parish church, pay tithes or bury their dead in the churchyard. They believed all men equal in the sight of God and they spurned the conventions of the day. Many of them were substantial middle class tradesmen, largely responsible for the running of the town. William Sparry, glover and auctioneer and William Fisher, a shoemaker who also ran the pig market, were middlemen between the stallholders of the Market House and the Lord of the Manor

The Friends' MeetingHouse at Ross dates from 1676. Under the terms of the will of the Ross tanner, James Merrick, money and timber were provided for its construction. It was built close to a small house that has been used ever since by tenants who care for the upkeep of the MeetingHouse. An acre of land at the back was eventually used as the Quaker burial ground but not before 1823. In the early days, the Friends held their meetings a short distance away facing the Old Market Hall in New St at James Merrick's house. The Quakers used land off New St bequeathed by Thomas Brown in 1663 as their original burial ground. It is likely that John Cater would have been buried there on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1704 having died the previous day and also his wife, Elizabeth Cater on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> month 1709

Two marriages from 1686 apply to the Beckenham Cators as follows:

Jonah Cator of Ross, glover, son of John Cator from Ross, married Sarah Brown daughter of Thomas Brown on 23.3.1686;

Mary Cator of Ross, dau of John Cator from Ross married Joseph Player son of William and Mary Player from Thornbury on 16.9.1686. These marriages can be seen on film RG6.1001 at the Family Record Centre, London in the "Monthly Meeting of Ross" At Mary Cater's marriage there were 25 Quakers including William, James and Mary Player and John, Sara and Margaret Cater.

Jonah Cater, spelt thus, is mentioned in a conveyance document dated 1707.

He acquired land in Ross from his wife, Sarah Brown (later sold by John Barwell Cator in 1825\*) Nine children born at Ross to Jonah and Sarah include John born 21.3.1703.

The Ross births and deaths seem to indicate that Jonah and Sarah lost four of their children, Jonah, Jonah, Mary and Rachael in infancy leaving Sarah 1690, Mary 1694, Elizabeth 1697, John 1703 and Rebekah 1710. Both the parents, Jonah and Sarah, had died by 1735, since the death of Sarah, *widow* of Jonah, was 25.8.1735.

To go back further in Ross we need to find the John Cator who was Jonah's father. The international genealogical index (IGI) has Jonah baptised to John and Elizabeth at Ross 9.12.1661.

Quaker records also have Mary 1657, Sarah 1659, John 1662, Sarah 1664, Henry 1666 and John 1668 as children of John and Elizabeth. Further back on the IGI is a birth of an earlier John about 1638 at Ross and his marriage to Elizabeth.

Volume I of "A Collection of the Sufferings of the people called Quakers" by Joseph Besse dated 1753 and published by Luke Hinde of London, has relevant entries for John and his wife Elizabeth of Ross, also his sister Elizabeth. The name was spelt CATER but the name has many variants such as Cater, Catter, Cather, Kater, Katur and Caater.

In chapter 18 for Herefordshire on pages 258-261, there are records from 1656-1683 of the abuse suffered by the Herefordshire Quakers such as horn blowing to break up meetings, excommunication, fines, confiscation of goods, punishment in the stocks, imprisonment under foul conditions, attacks and beatings by noisy rabble with dogs, sticks, stones and excrement.

John Cater is first mentioned in 1662 when fourteen Quakers including his wife and his sister, Thomas Brown and James, Thomas and John Merrick were excommunicated for absence from church. In 1670 cattle and goods worth £29 8s 6d were taken from nine Quakers including John Cater and Thomas Merrick. In 1676, goods to the value of £22 19s 10d were taken from William Fisher, James Merrick, John Cater, Thomas Merrick, William Sparry and Henry Powell, all of Ross and again in 1679 the same people lost goods to the value of £14 15s 6d.

Then in 1683 about the 6<sup>th</sup> July, three JPs turned the Quakers out of their Meeting House at Ross, locked it up and took away the key, fining five of them including John Cater, a total of £6 9s 8d

This abuse eventually ceased due to the passing of the Act of Tolerance in 1689 but until then John Cater's name occurs with James Merrick who was the known leader of the Ross Quakers.

These statements can be seen in a book at the British Library, shelfmark G.20264 and are said to come from original records and other authentick (sic) accounts.

So where do we go to find the origin of this John Cater? One possible lead is from William Cater of Uffington who was allowed arms from the Visitation of Berkshire in 1566.<sup>2</sup>

He can be traced back to John Cater of Letcombe Regis who married Margaret Awdlett of Woburn Bucks. They had three children, William the heir, Margery, died 27.6.1562 who married William Hyde and Anne who married William Button.

William married Dorothe Hooe (Howe) from Abingdon and their three children were all born at Uffington. William, born about 1530 married Alyce Morris (Mores) 2.10.1558 at Gt Coxwell and there was also Thomas born about 1526 and Dorothe about 1528. Children of William were Francis born about 1561, Anne and Marye. Catters from Uffington occur in the Domesday Book.

The interest in this line lies in the fact that the brothers John and Joseph Cator used the William Cater arms to produce their own designs in about 1780, including that on the pediment of Beckenham Place. Their brother William also had arms engraved on silver plate such as a chased coffeepot held at Woodbastwick. \* This may be no more than the widespread abuse of heraldry that was common in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was aided by the publication of works like Joseph Edmondson's "Complete Heraldry" of 1780 in which is listed the arms of Cater recorded at the Visitation of Berkshire in 1566.

To find the name further back, there is John le Catur, Mayor of Reading, 1363.<sup>3</sup>

In the Colney chapel in St Mary's church which was founded in the reign of Edward III, Mass was to be said every day for William Cator and his wife and for their souls after death (dated 1371).<sup>4</sup>

Nevertheless there is no doubt that our Beckenham Catours had Quaker roots before they patronised the parish church of St George.

The book by Walter Rye "Norfolk Families" suggests that when the Beckenham Catours moved to Norfolk they were taking up their old roots.

The will of John Cator, Quaker from Banbury, Oxfordshire, gives another county where the family took up residence. John Cator was Jonah's brother, their sisters being Mary and Sarah. By the time the will was written in 1704, it seems that of Jonah's children only Mary, Sarah and John had survived.

Sister Mary had married Joseph Player and had two daughters, Ann and Mary Player. Sister Sarah had married William Hawkins and they had five children, Elizabeth, William, Sarah, John and George Hawkins.

John the testator had married Mary Tritton, named as his executor, and they had two baby sons, Samuel and John. Probate was in 1706. (PROB 11/489/168)

Thomas Cator, cordwainer, received the freedom of the City of Norwich in 1407 and a Thomas Cator was buried in St George Tombland in 1737 aged 57. However the Ross Catours clearly go back to the 1600s in Herefordshire and Thomas was not a family name at this time. To solve the family origin may prove to be impossible but it is an enjoyable exercise to guess!

<sup>1</sup>87577, reel 15, labelled 3377

<sup>2</sup> Visitation of Berkshire (at SoG) BK/G67, p. 5

<sup>3</sup>Victoria County History for Berks, vol 3, p 347.

<sup>4</sup> Ditto, vol 3, p 377.

\* This symbol is used throughout to denote information given in the notes of Jack (John) Cator, the eldest son of Albemarle Cator junior.

The arms adopted by John Cator and his brother Joseph The pile was red for John and blue for Joseph who had the motto in French



## Ch 2 JOHN CATOR 1703-1763 TIMBER MERCHANT

John was born at Ross on Wye in Herefordshire where he owned lands and tenements. These are described in the private Act taken out by the family in 1825 as three small cottages in the town of Ross, a small barn and three inclosures of meadowland, on lease to Mr Jon<sup>n</sup> Rudge. They are probably those from his mother Sarah Brown.

John married Mary Brough on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1728, a marriage recorded both at Ross, Herefordshire and at the MeetingHouse Society of Friends, Savoy, London. The Quaker marriages have him as John Carter of Lambeth Surrey, son of Jonah and Sarah Cator, late of Ross, Hereford, now London. There are also three sons of John and Mary Cator all named Josiah and all buried at Long Lane, Southwark The first died of a fever in 1736 aged 11 months, the second died in 1737 aged 10 months and the third died in 1740 aged 17 months.<sup>1</sup>

By 1748, he had established the business of John Cator & Sons, timber merchants at MOULDSTRAND, Bankside in Southwark, London. In 1751, he was churchwarden of the Southwark church. By about 1762 he had retired to Bromley, Kent but when he wrote his will he declared that he was still in perfect health although he had passed over his business to his eldest son, John, in whom he had complete confidence.<sup>2</sup>

What made John retire to Bromley? In an old book by Thomas Miller, written about 100 years later, a summer ramble is described from Anerley to Beckenham. "Having had a glass of ale and a crust of bread and cheese at the Woodman, we will strike down the hill and peep at Annerley station. We shall have woods on either side. There runs a rabbit! That was a pheasant, which sprung up before us! There's woodbine for you, you might gather an armful. What a variety of beautiful flowers are spread at our feet!

This is a place where the inhabitants of London come in hundreds on a Sunday to breathe the fresh air, for once in Croydon railway carriages they are wafted here in a few minutes. Ten years ago it was wild woodland.



Where the Croydon and Brighton railway now bears its brown iron track there stood an old canal. You could walk along the banks between the woods and see the shadows of the trees and the deep blue skies reflected in the water and behold hundreds of beautiful flowers bending over and looking into the bright mirror which threw back their images.

At the end of those cottages is a real green lane. It leads nowhere except into the fields. Excepting in the hay season or to carry in a load of manure, not a wheel crushes down the grass with which the almost untrodden lane is carpeted. It is full of elbows and goes winding here and there like the brook whose course it follows. This is the entrance to Beckenham. What a splendid old manor house with its high crumbling wall, overgrown with moss and lichen! Read the monuments in Beckenham church and you will find that many a distinguished man ended his days in this ancient village."

John had three other sons, Joseph, William and Samuel and two daughters, Mary and Ann. Joseph was in Jamaica in 1762 when William and Samuel were still under age. Samuel had started an apprenticeship in the timber trade under his brother John on Lady Day 1760 and his father John hoped that after seven years his two sons would go into partnership. Ann was also still under age in 1762 but sadly she died at the age of seventeen on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1766 as is recorded on her brother John's tomb in Beckenham. Her burial was also recorded at the Bromley parish church of St Peter and St Paul on 1.8.1766 but this was in error from the sexton's books although it suggests that the family worshipped at the Bromley church.

William was born 18 January 1753. He became a writer and then a factor (mercantile agent overseas) in the service of the East India Company in Bengal. Details are in accession J/1/8/36 at the India Office of the British Library that states "This is to certify the birth of William Cator son of John Cator was registered in the books of Horsley Down Meeting, London, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of the first month called January 1753" and is dated October 26<sup>th</sup> 1770. There is reference to a William Cator as Cornet ensign 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt August 2 1769, who resigned April 3 1772, Madras in the book of Officers in the Indian Army by Dodwell and Miles.

William married Sarah Morse 4.11.1780 in Calcutta when he was a factor. This was only a month before the marriage of his brother Joseph to Diana Bertie. The family painting of the Morse and Cator group by Zoffany is likely to be of William and Sarah.

Robert Morse was one of the Sheriffs listed in "The Sheriffs of Fort William" The first was in 1774 and Robert Morse was Sheriff in 1784. He was Sarah's brother.

An old map dated 1794 shows not only the estate of the Beckenham Manor that had been bought by John Cator junior but also land in Bromley. Edw Peach Esquire owned Lodge Farm off the main road out of Bromley towards Southend but two areas of pasture were attributed to John Cator, one very close to the parish church. This may have been to where John Cator senior retired.<sup>3</sup> Again there is the question of why he chose to retire to Bromley.

Perhaps it is to John Brown, butcher of Bromley to whom we owe the Cator estate. His daughter, Mary Brown married the writer John Hawksworth in 1744. From that time, they occupied Thornhill Mansion next to the Bell in Bromley where Mary ran a school for young ladies. They entertained Dr Samuel Johnson, as they were only a ten-mile coach ride from London. When Dr Samuel's wife, Tetty, died at 17, Gough Square, John Hawksworth arranged Tetty's funeral at the Bromley Parish Church since Dr Johnson was too upset to organise it himself.<sup>5</sup> It may have been John Cator senior's friendship with Dr Johnson that brought him to Bromley.

Mary was named as one of the trustees of her father's will with her brother John and her father's cousin, Michael Collinson.

John senior evidently had brothers and sisters because he names four nephews in his will. Three appear to be his sisters' children; John Ridout, Jonah Hoskins and Thomas (name not clear). The fourth was Joseph Cator. It is possible that Joseph was a glover in London with his wife, Maria. His children are recorded in the burials of the London Quaker Digest Registers. There was Sarah, who died of a fever at 8 months in 1767 and her 17-year-old brother, Joseph, who died in December 1785. They were both buried at the Quaker burial ground at Whitechapel.

John's wife, Mary, his sole executrix, outlived her husband by more than twenty years.

She is remembered on the tomb in Beckenham with her daughter, Ann, and granddaughters, Maria 3 and Mary 8, both of whom predeceased her.

Ann's obituary makes sad reading but confirms the family's residence in Bromley. "July 17<sup>th</sup> 1766 Miss Ann Cator, youngest daughter of the late John Cator, Senior Esquire of Bromley in Kent." She was a young lady equally amiable in her person, sentiments and disposition.

She bore a lingering disease of more than two years continuance with a placid resignation that would have done honour to any character and she died with an humble heart of an happy immortality, which the goodness of her heart and the blameless simplicity of her life at once justified and inspired.<sup>4</sup>

Yet again the burial of Mary Cator aged 79 is recorded in the burials of the Bromley parish church on 30.7.1787 although this is a month before the date of death on the Beckenham memorial.

John himself was buried neither at the Bromley nor the Beckenham churchyards and I have not found his name in the Quaker registers for Ross or London or the Southwark churches.

In addition to being a family man, John had a healthy respect for his Maker to whom he commends his soul. The witnesses to his will were two Bromley brothers, Richd Staples, farmer and Thomas Staples, tallow chandler. Thus although John did not appear resident in *Beckenham*, the Cators had begun their association with the Bromley area.

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Microfilm 3366 of the Quaker London registers at the SoG According to the book "London Friends Meetings" by Beck and Ball, The burial ground in Long Lane, Bermondsey was bought for £120 in 1697 and was extensively used until it was closed in 1854. Further information comes from "6 Weeks Meeting 1671-1971" which states that by 1875, the Long Lane cemetery was laid out as a garden and leased to the Metropolitan Gardens Association by 1895. It was soon converted to an asphalted playground for children.

“The London Burial Grounds” by Mrs Basil Holmes states that although the Quakers kept careful accounts of the burials, they did not wear mourning and avoided expense and ostentatious tombstones. No tombstones at all were used at Long Lane although simple stones came in use elsewhere from 1850.

<sup>2</sup>London directories from the London Metropolitan Archives: John Cator & Sons 1752; John Cator Junior 1763; John Cator, timber merchant 1768 and from 1779 John Cator Esquire of Adelphi.

The rates books from the Southwark Local Studies Library have John Cator in Willow St, Bankside from 1748 until John Cator Junior took over in 1763 with the rateable value increasing from 5 times the basic to 6 times in 1757 and 12 times ten years later. By 1769 John Cator Junior had a house on the site and included more land in 1770 raising the rate to 14 times, although this dropped back to 12 times until 1794 when he sold the property to Messrs Belchier and Burney. The wharf and dock called Mouldstrand later became Queen’s wharf. John had appended the title Esquire to his name by 1782 as fitted the Lord of the Manor of Beckenham. The will of John Cator is PCC Prob 11/896/85 Mar 1764 from the FRC, London

<sup>3</sup>The 1794 map from Baxter’s Itinerary of Bromley

<sup>4</sup>Burch “Bibliography of Bromley” reference to Gentleman’s Magazine vol XXXVI, 1766, p 390/1

<sup>5</sup>John Hawksworth, Eighteenth century Man of Letters by John Lawrence Abbott



### Early London Cators

The Directories on microfilm at the LMA provide an interesting insight into the incidence of the Cator family South of the Thames. There are the Kent directories and the London directories of Lowndes and Bailey. All the references are at first for CATER and between 1677 and 1745 there is only one, ROBERT KENDAL CATER, alderman and merchant from Poultry, Cheapside.

JOHN CATER & SON appear on Bankside, Southwark in 1752 with JOHN CATER of Fleet St and SIMON CATER of Newgate St. The Kent directory of 1753 has the addition of timber merchants for the Southwark John and tobacconists for the other two. JOHN CATOR Wine merchant, Old Swan Lane, Thames St is in the 1755 Kent directory and by 1758 his address is All Hallows Lane, Thames St.

1761 is the first occasion when the Southwark timber merchants are spelt CATOR but in the 1763 "Young Merchant and Tradesman's Sure Guide the name is back to CATER! ANN CATER has taken over the tobacconists at Newgate St. The year 1763 also marks the time when the timber business is in the name of JOHN CATOR junior.

In 1768 a WILLIAM CATER enters the directories as a bookseller at 274, High Holborn and by 1774 Simon Cater sells snuff and there is a JOHN CATER as a hat maker at 154, Bishopsgate. From 1778, the Bishopsgate hatter is Joseph CATOR at number 58 and there is no further record of the timber business at Bankside.

In 1779, JOHN ALEXANDER CATER is a hatter at 55, Pall Mall, JOSEPH CATOR is the hatmaker at 58, Bishopsgate, JOHN CATER is the merchant of 19, Pavement, Moorfield and WILLIAM CATER is the bookseller at 274, High Holbom.

In 1782, there is JOHN CASTER, merchant at John St, Adelphi and the JOHN CATER of 19, Pavement has moved to 1, Sambrook Ct. Basinghall St.

By 1783, HENRY CATER, attorney is added to the list and 1784, THOMAS CATER, apothecary which by 1786 is CATER & SON, apothecaries of 44, Bread St.

From 1786 onwards there is no John until around 1802 but in 1787 CATOR & SON are brewers on Old St. This becomes WILLIAM CATOR & Co, brewers in 1789.

By 1790, Joseph, the hatmaker of 58, Bishopsgate is joined by JOHN CATER, haberdasher at the same address.

It seems likely to me that Joseph Cator the hatmaker was the nephew whom John Cator senior named in his will. The John Cator, wine merchant of 19, Pavement and later of Sambrook Ct, was probably John junior, the timber merchant himself! In view of the house at the Adelphi willed to John Barwell Cator in the 1806 will of John Cator, probably John Caster was another mis-spelling of the name Cator.

The Company of William Cator, brewers, of Old St was sold to Combe and Co Ltd in 1799 according to accession 789 of the Westminster Libraries Archive Centre. This tallies with the date of the death of William Cator, brother of John, who was killed in 1800/01 by French Privateers on board ship off Calcutta. This date is fixed by a letter in the archives, 549, written 16.6.1801 referring to William's death and a receipt, 521, signed by William Cator 30.12.1799. William's will dated May 1800 is referred to later.

There is no doubt that the William Cator of the porter brewery was the brother of John and Joseph Cator with brother in law Robert Morse because they are all mentioned together in document 517 of Acc 789, dated 7.8.1799, in the Westminster Archives. By this time the business owned 31 licensed houses like the Marquis of Granby Alehouse St Giles St but William Cator wanted to relinquish his part. He wanted to return to Bengal to replenish his fortune after some financial losses. The business of Combe & Co Ltd eventually became Watney Mann Ltd in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The present Cators believe John Cator 1728-1806 to be the pioneer of the family fortunes as a financier based in Adelphi, Strand, not just as a former timber merchant. \* This is supported by the entries in these directories. The Survey of London XVIII has John Cator at no 5 John St from 1776-1782, p 136, and moved into no 7 Adelphi Terrace in 1782, where he died 21.2.1806, p 107.

## TRAVELLING BY SEA IN 1800

How long do you think a journey by sea round the Cape of Good Hope to India took in 1800? Six weeks? Three months? Six months? The last is nearer the truth and troubles arose in the long journeys not only because of disagreements among the passengers and perils at sea but also when wars among nations caused problems for the merchant ships.

The huge fleet of East Indiamen trading between Britain and the East had grown up after the Battle of Plassey 23.6.1757 in West Bengal. The British became the most powerful Europeans in India but at the same time their merchant ships became targets for foreign raiders. Privateers licensed by the French government patrolled the Bay of Bengal on the lookout for merchant shipping particularly British.

William Cator's will written in May 1800 while on voyage to India seemed prophetic in that he foretold the danger which was to result in his death at the hands of French privateers near the end of the voyage. He writes: I William Cator being in sound mind and health of body and considering the uncertainty of life make this my last will and testament this thirteenth day of May 1800 being on board the Kent East Indiaman on the passage to Bengal.

The Will (Prob 11/1379) was proved on the 14.8.1802 as follows: Administration of the goods, chattels and credits of William Cator formerly of Bemers St in the County of Middlesex but late a passenger on board the East India merchant ship, the Kent, at sea deceased was granted to Richard Johnson the lawful attorney of Sarah Cator the relict of the said deceased. (See "The Memoirs of William Hickey," chapter 6, for a description of the fight on board)

With such long voyages inevitably babies were born on the way. This happened at least twice to the Cators. Diana Cator was born while her parents, Peter and Martha Cator were underway in 1825. Audrey Emily Theodora Cator was born in a storm in the Bay of Biscay on her father Charles Frederick Cator's ship in 1885. Both survived!



### **Ch 3 JOHN CATOR (1728-1806) FOUNDER OF THE CATOR ESTATES**

John, eldest son of John Cator and Mary Brough, was held in high esteem by his father who trusted him both to care for the family like a father once he was gone and to maintain a thriving timber business.<sup>1</sup> It seems as though John junior not only fulfilled his father's hopes but in addition expanded the family's estates. The Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone holds five Abstracts to titles of land that were purchased by John Cator junior between 1757 and 1795. These are summarised at the end of the references.

John married Mary, daughter of the eminent botanist, Peter Collinson (1694-1768), credited with the introduction of the conifer from America to Britain. Peter's parents were members of the Society of Friends and they lived on the borders of Lake Windermere. Peter married Mary Bushell in 1724 and their daughter, Mary, was born in 1726.

Among John's friends were two well known ladies, Mrs Thrale (Madame Piozzi) and Fanny Burney (afterwards Madame d'Arblay), the authoress of "Evelina".<sup>2</sup> A first edition of her book was sold many years later by Henry John Cator for £300.

Henry Thrale was MP for Southwark and he owned the Anchor public house on Bankside and the brewery, which later became Barclay Perkins.<sup>3</sup>

Southwark was ideally placed for the ale trade being near the river for both the source of water and import of malt from abroad. The brewery of James Child absorbed the others in the neighbourhood and his daughter married the manager Edmund Halsey. Edmund's nephew, Ralph Thrale, became the manager in turn and built up the business such that his son Henry was educated at Oxford.

At the age of thirty Henry took over the brewery and lived the life of a handsome man-about-town. He married Hester Salisbury, daughter of a well-to-do Welsh squire but it was an arranged marriage and never very successful. She had twelve children but only four of them, all girls, outlived her.

She had received a classical education and greatly enjoyed the company of Dr Samuel Johnson, a frequent visitor especially to their Streatham house.

It seems likely that John Cator made their acquaintance while he was managing his father's timber business on Bankside. The A-Z of Georgian London c1750 shows a timber yard and wharf in Willow Street, Bankside, close to Park St. although the family fortune probably owed more to John's success in finance on the North bank from the 1770s rather than just timber. \*

Dr Johnson said of him in one of his letters "Cator has a rough, manly, independent understanding and does not spoil it by complaisance. He never speaks merely to please and seldom is mistaken in things, which he has any right to know. There is much good in his character and much usefulness in his knowledge." Mrs Thrale was not so impressed by John Cator<sup>4</sup> as previously described but after Henry died in 1781, John acted for Mrs Thrale and became the guardian of her children in 1784.\*

John was one of five executors of Henry's will, Hester herself, John Cator, Dr Johnson, Jerry Crutchley and Henry Smith. Jerry was probably Henry Thrale's natural son and Henry was his second cousin. They sold the brewery to the London banker, David Barclay for £135,000 through the influence of Mr Perkins, who was promised the Thrales house in Southwark if he brought about the sale.<sup>5</sup> From that time on, Hester's opinion of John Cator changed. He became her financial advisor, helped her with her problem daughters and he supported her marriage to Piozzi. He had been described by Henry Thrale as a man of great experience in business and of approved worth and integrity.<sup>7</sup>

Son of a Lichfield bookseller, Dr Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) left for London in 1737 with David Garrick (1717-1779), one of his former pupils, later actor and playwright. Dr Johnson had spurts of activity impelled by debt as essayist and critic but he greatly enjoyed meeting with the cream of the literary world in London's chop and coffeehouses. These supplied places where those of every shade of political opinion could meet.

Nothing like today's newspapers existed and the coffeehouses became the chief meeting places for discussion of current events.

To Dr Johnson goes the kudos of the invention of "The Club". The "Cheshire Cheese" in Fleet St became the home of various clubs with that of Dr Johnson taking precedence<sup>6</sup>. There he would meet Sir Joshua Reynolds, James Boswell, his biographer, Edmund Burke the great political thinker, Guiseppe Baretti teacher and writer, Dick Steel, Beauclerk, Goldsmith, Hawkins, Langton, Topham and many others, who possibly included John Cator. "Dolly's Chopshop" in Queen's Head Passage was another favourite haunt frequented by William Hogarth and Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Shortly before his death in 1784, Dr Johnson formed the Essex Club at the Essex Head, Strand, which was kept by an old servant of the Thrales, Samuel Greaves. This was close to his last residence 8, Bolt Court and also to 17, Gough Square<sup>7</sup> where he wrote the "Dictionary" in the 1750s. After Henry Thrale's death, Dr Johnson found solace in other summer retreats to which he was ever welcome including John Cator's seat at Beckenham in Kent saying "one of the finest places at which I was ever a guest and where I find more and more a hospitable welcome"

When John Cator junior had become the Lord of the Manor of Beckenham in 1773 he also rebuilt the house Beckenham Place on Stumps Hill, possibly designed by Sir Robert Taylor.

"Beckenham Place is an elegant mansion standing on an eminence and commands a beautiful though not extensive prospect." Hasted thus describes the mansion in vol II edition 2 page 565. Later the park was said, "to comprise some of the best land for building that does not fall in hand before Ladyday 1881. This will reserve some of the best sites until the lower parts are taken for building"

John Cator acquired land at Beckenham Place in 1773 from the trustees of another timbermerchant, Frederick, Viscount Bolingbroke, but an earlier Kent map of 1769 (Andrews, Dury & Herbert) shows his name on the land there. Hasted records that there had been a house there before but John Cator rebuilt on the site "with much taste and elegance."

Later in 1787, the portico was added from Wricklemarsh House at Blackheath, being demolished by John Cator.

In the opinion today of a local architect, Robert Fish, the original house would have been of brick. John Cator modified it for his needs and the delicate ceilings date from that time. Similar ceilings were designed in the Adelphi.

When the front was brought from Wricklemarsh Mr Fish believes that all the outside was covered with stone from the Blackheath house, covering up the bricks and giving a uniform appearance to the whole house, much as it is today.

The portico of the house and Adam fireplaces were brought from Wricklemarsh Park, Blackheath, the seat of Sir Gregory Page Turner who had suffered losses through speculation. Cator bought the property in 1783/4 for £22,500. (Bonwitt's History of the Paragon). The story goes that John bought the roof and was able to dictate terms to the purchasers of the floors below!

In the 1860's, when occupied by Sir John Kirkland Beckenham Place was "a commodious and elegant mansion brick built and slated with necessary stabling and other offices with a southern aspect in a handsomely timbered park with two entrance lodges. Sporting is over the Beckenham estate"

However, John paid rates for a property in Southwark in 1769 and was based at 5, John St, Adelphi in 1779 according to rate books. From 1774 he was also at Stumps Hill.<sup>8</sup> Land was steadily acquired in Beckenham. Copers Cope Farm was bought first followed by Foxgrove Farm from the Burrells of Kelsey and Kent House Farm.

John Cator represented Wallingford, Berkshire in 1774 and was Sheriff for Kent in 1781. His election as MP for Ipswich was less successful as he was unseated for bribery in 1784.<sup>9</sup> This was a source of great distress to him.

John and Mary had only one child, Maria, who died when only three years old. When he came to write his will on 14.5.1805<sup>1</sup> he was anxious to care for his siblings as had been requested by his father and also to conserve the lands that he had inherited and extended in his lifetime.



*One of the Beckenham Place ceilings from photos by Len Johnson*

No one person was left in charge of his estates and there were strict instructions in the will to avoid cutting down timber, defacing or destroying the land. He also wished that the property should remain in the family and be passed from father to son.

Subject to limitations and conditions, Beckenham Place, all Manors and hereditaments in Kent, Surrey, Essex, Middx, Hereford and elsewhere including an Addington estate were left in trust to George Sparkes and Henry Sparkes, sons of John's deceased sister, Mary Sparkes. Sarah Cator, the widow of his late brother William was left an annuity of £60 pa for life.

£20 pa annuities went to Bridget Cator, widow of Kingston, Jamaica and Elizabeth Scott of Rodborough, Glos. Susannah Scott, Elizabeth's daughter received dividends from bank annuities, similarly niece Harriot Heapy and great-niece Mary Ann Sparkes.

Ann Frances Baynes, wife of Lt Col Baynes and daughter of John's late brother William received £2000.

By 1825, the Cators found the estates impossible to administer because the Sparkes brothers had died intestate and their heirs were all minors.

They were children of George Sparkes and Alice Wiple (married 9.7.1808): George, Samuel Peach, John Bertie Cator and Amelius Peach. John's brother Joseph and all Joseph's surviving six sons and two daughters had an interest in the estate through John's will.

They submitted a private Act dated 27.6.1825 to King George IV to enable the descent to go down through Joseph's eldest son, John Barwell Cator.<sup>10</sup>

Joseph had been the executor of the will and had been left £1000, leasehold estates in Kent and Surrey and the testator's house in the Adelphi, should his son John Barwell predecease him. John Barwell had been left the Adelphi for his lifetime also pictures, books, linen, plate, china, furniture and household goods together with heirlooms from Beckenham Place. John Barwell received all the coaches, horses, cows, oxen, sheep, waggons, feed, stock etc and the rents for life.

The power of leasing any part of Blackheath Park for 70 year leases was also given to John Barwell. All the other nephews and nieces, children of Joseph received £1000 each and are mentioned at length in the will.

The result was that John Barwell Cator became the heir through which the estate descended but control rested in the hands of other Cators especially John Barwell's brother, Peter.

The East face of John's large chest tomb in the churchyard of St George's, Beckenham shows that he was the Lord of the Manor. The South face is inscribed with those said to be in the vault.

This includes John's mother but not his father but probably he was still a Quaker and was buried elsewhere.

"Sacred to the memory/ of those whose remains have been deposited in the vault beneath and/ who departed this life on the days undermentioned.

JOHN CATOR, late of Beckenham Place, 21<sup>st</sup> February 1806 aged 76 years/ MARY his wife 13<sup>th</sup> August 1804 aged 71 years/ MARIA their only child April 1766 aged 3 years/ MARY his mother 28 August 1787 aged 78 years/ ANN his sister 27<sup>th</sup> July 1766 aged 17 years/ MARY daughter of his brother SAMUEL August 1793 aged 8 years.”

#### References

<sup>1</sup>The will of John Cator 1728-1806, PCC PRO 11/1439/199 from the FRC, London.

<sup>2</sup>“The story of Bankside”, no 8 of the Neighbourhood Histories, produced by the London Borough of Southwark.

<sup>5</sup>Old Bankside by Grace Golden pp 53-67 from the Southwark Local Studies Library.

<sup>4</sup>“Thraliana” by Hester Lynch Piozzi (Thrale) This is an intimate record of her life from 1776-1809 and includes a tabular character sketch of the Society of Streatham based on different qualities of the men of her acquaintance; Johnson, Murphy, Dr Burney, David Garrick, Seward, Boswell, Bodens, Henry Thrale, Burke, Sir John Lade, Baretti, Dr Beattie, James Harris, Langton and John Cator.

<sup>5</sup> Dr Johnson’s Mrs Thrale, p41-43, 61-63, 219-224 contain other references to John Cator.

<sup>6</sup>“Old Taverns” by E. Callow 1899, also contains pictures of the Cheshire Cheese with Dr Johnson’s chair, p 191. The chair is at the Cheshire Cheese today.

<sup>7</sup> The curator at 17, Gough Square

<sup>8</sup> Letters from John Cator to Charles Jenkinson, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Liverpool of Addiscombe

<sup>9</sup>Robert Borrowman’s book “Beckenham Past and Present” from the Bromley Central Library.

<sup>10</sup>The Private Act of 1825 obtained from the RO of the House of Lords, London.

#### Titles of Land Transfers

The first was the property of Francis Valentine whose ownership was demonstrated by the inclusion of a family tree.

John Cator paid £1000 on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1757 for a messuage, outbuildings, yard, garden and several pieces of land at Southend, Lewisham.

The second involved an exchange of Lees Court, Kent with certain lands in Lewisham for which John Cator paid over £550 for equality 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> November 1788.

Number three was the title to a cottage in two tenements with several pieces of land in Lewisham received in exchange from Francis Motley Austin Esq of Court Lodge, Lamberhurst on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> May 1785 with Cator paying £600 by way of equality of the property.

Number four consisted of land at Southend purchased from John Forster Esq of Lincoln's Inn for £1750 on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1795 detailed as Flowers Garden, 3r 1p, Tree Crafts, 4a 1r 31p and Sand Pitt field 3a 1r 22p.

The fifth abstract concerns land purchased from the widow Jane Weatherall of Deptford by John Cator of Stumps Hill for £850. It is described as "All that one close of pasture and arable called Broomfield 7 acres and one close of pasture or arable. Called Two Acres adjoining Morrices Wood, also 2 acres of meadow lying in Rookey Meadow adjoining East lands, also Bullocks Meadow 2 acres and a pasture called Three Acres." Proof of ownership was provided by the inclusion of the will dated 11.2.1735 of Robert Friend gardener of Deptford who was Jane Weatherall's father.

*The Thrales' house at Streatham*





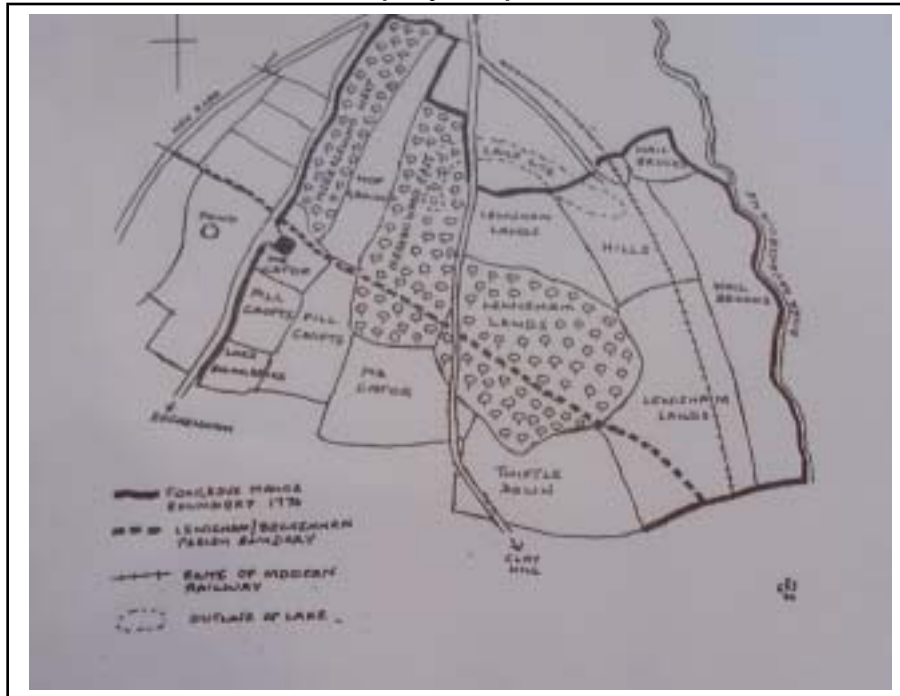
*Dr Samuel Johnson's House in Gough Square*



*The Cheshire Cheese*



*This 1776 map of Beckenham Place shows its occupation by John Cator. The building is shown by a square, which is the shape of his house prior to the installation of the portico from Wricklemarsh.*



*Dr Samuel Johnson's wife, Tetty*



## **Ch 4 BECKENHAM PLACE**

When John Cator took up residence in Beckenham Place is not entirely clear but he certainly entertained Dr Samuel Johnson there with Mrs Hester Thrale, wife of his brewer friend, Henry Thrale. This would have been before 1781 when Henry died followed by Dr Johnson's death in 1784. A letter dated 1774, headed Bankside, invited the First Earl of Liverpool, Chas Jenkinson, to dine at Stumps Hill.

When John Cator died in 1806, his nephew John Barwell Cator, eldest son of John's brother Joseph, inherited Beckenham Place. It became one of his residences and he is referred to as John Cator of Beckenham Place in legal documents such as his father's will. His daughter Emily Ann Cator died there at the tender age of three years in 1815. In 1818 on 25<sup>th</sup> March, the College of Arms authorised to John Cator of Beckenham and Woodbastwick the Cator Arms, an *earlier* form of which can still be seen over the pediment at the front. In 1821, his son, William Thornhill was born there. This is recorded on a plaque at Woodbastwick church in memory of William, his first wife and younger son. Also Beckenham Place is John's home in the pages of the Act of 1825 that secured the change of trustees from the Sparkes to the Cators and in various lease documents in the Bromley archives.

The West Kent Poll Books give some indication of the occupation of Beckenham Place. In 1835, 1837, 1847 and 1852, John Cator names it as his residence although Launcelot Holland was also there in 1835. The 1841 and 1851 census have the banker William Peters in occupation with his wife, Marianne, and three children in 1841 but only himself and his 15 year old son, Henry in 1851. In 1857, John Abrams names it as his residence while John Cator is in Castle Kelly, Ireland. This suggests that John Cator was the owner of Beckenham Place until his death in 1858 but probably lived mostly elsewhere. Perhaps the final word must be left with the notes of his great grandson John Cator. He states that John Barwell Cator moved finally to Woodbastwick in 1849 on the marriage of his daughter, two years after the death of his wife in Weisbaden in 1847.

Subsequently, the property was leased out to a succession of tenants.

In 1861 according to the census the occupier was Robert Henry Page a broker from Camberwell with his wife Rebecca, three small children and a widowed aunt of sixty two, Mary Cockcroft. One of the more noted tenants was Sir John Kirkland. He is reported to have occupied the house in the 1860s and early 70s until Sir John died there in 1871. His imposing memorial near the path in area F in St George's churchyard has an inscription to his wife as follows: "Dame Louisa wife of Sir John Kirkland of Queen Wood in this county died at Beckenham Place 11.5.1870." According to the census of 1871, he was a retired Major General in the Army. His son William, a Cambridge undergraduate was there with an aunt, Mary Vesey, aged 65. Both the latter were born in Canada. There were 8 servants in the household to keep Beckenham Place running.

It seems as though the house was unoccupied at the time of the 1881 census. Two families are recorded at Beckenham Place but both heads were young gardeners with their families. The entries occur at the end of the section mixed with other out of place records as though they were an afterthought! By the 1891 census, the family of Edwin Covell, meat salesman, lived in the manor with two sons following the same trade, a daughter, a niece and a cousin, all with the name Covell.

*Rooms on the first floor above the lounge.*

*They are reached by means of a spiral staircase off the lounge*



By 1901/2, the property was leased out to organisations like the private Boys' School, Craven College that had been some 70 years in Highgate. The boys were there only from about 1902 to 1905 when they transferred to Elmer Lodge at Elmers End. An inventory of landlord's fixtures for Beckenham Place was made in 9.6.1906. This inventory accompanied the lease for use by the Norwood Sanatorium from the twenty-sixth September 1905 to 1934 for treatment of wealthy alcoholics and drug addicts!<sup>2</sup>

*The lounge at Beckenham Place used as a sanatorium*



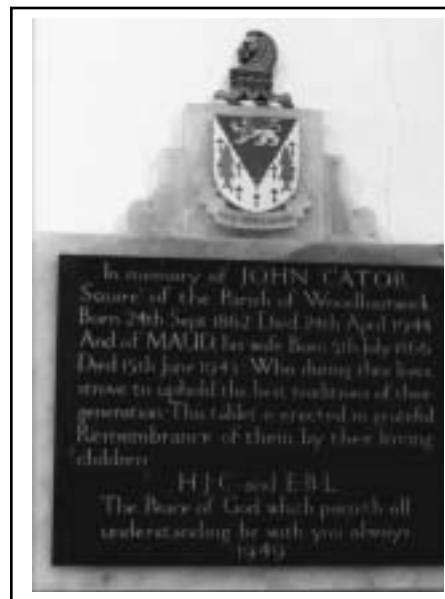
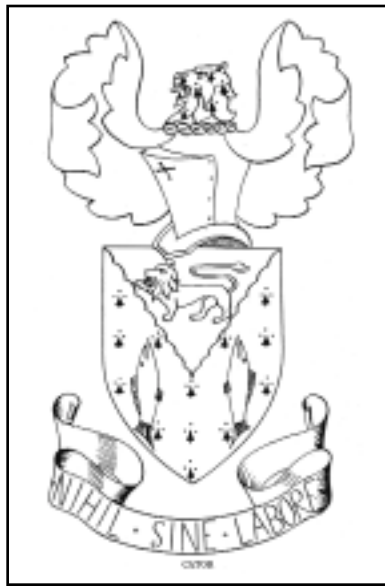
By 1927, the Park and its buildings were acquired by the London County Council for public use. At some time three of its marble Adam mantelpieces, originally from Wricklemarsh, were moved to Norfolk together with one from the Clockhouse. Two of the four were installed in the Old Hall, the present residence of the late John Cator's widow and are still there.\* Today Beckenham Place, a Grade II listed building awaits a benefactor to conserve its place in local history. The ceilings have the delicate tracery and colours of the Georgian period and the Adam brothers. They were repainted about twenty years ago when rooms were used to house the Mander & Mitchenson collection of performing arts, now amalgamated with the Trinity School of Music at Greenwich.

*The arms of Sir Ralph Cator from a plaque in St George's church above and the earlier Cator arms with no fish on the shield, from the pediment of Beckenham Place, below.*



*The Cator arms according to David Christie but the fish should both face dexter and there should be two bars on the crest.(above left)*

*The arms as shown correctly on the plaque to John and Maud Cator at St Fabian & St Sebastian(below right)*



## Ch 5 THE CATOR ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS

This consists of the shield surmounted by the helm bearing a crest resting on a wreath. The protective drapery flowing from the helm is the mantling. The helm is a closed visored helm of steel facing sideways. This shows that the John Cator who was granted the arms on the twentyfifth March 1818 was an Esquire or Gentleman. The crest consists of a lion's head erased i.e.roughly torn off to leave jagged edges with the wreath to conceal its join to the helm. The lion's head is decorated with black ermine tails on gold, a condition described as erminois. The essential part of the achievement is the shield bearing the coat of arms. The lower part shows spots of ermine on silver with two blue fishes swimming upward (hauriant), facing Dexter. The silver lion rests on a red pile (gules = red) with the line of demarcation from the base engrailed, meaning scalloped.

The lion is passant which means it is walking looking forward with three paws on the ground and its right paw raised as its tail curls over its back. The mantling is red lined with silver and has scalloped edges.

The red colour of the shield and mantling is best seen in the achievement of arms of Sir Ralph Cator. This is on the South wall of the South chapel of St George's church, Beckenham. With respect to his knighthood, the helm faces forward (affronty) with the visor raised. This is the mark of a Knight or Baronet. The red of the raised visor appears barred, indicating increased hazards.

The overall design of the original arms is well displayed by the memorial to Henry John Cator OBE MC (1897-1965) in the church at Woodbastwick. He served in the Royal Scots Greys in both world wars including the airborne forces in WWII. He and his sister had used a simpler form of the arms in 1949 on a plaque in memory of their parents John and Maud Cator. There is no mantling or helm but the wreath between the shield and the crest can be seen to be two twisted tinctures of red and silver. The lion's head is collared with a bargemelle (2 narrow bars close together).



The arms are significantly different on the pediment of Beckenham Place where they rest on a sheaf of palm leaves and there are no fish on the shield. The design may have been assumed from that allowed to William Cater of Uffington, Berkshire at the Visitation of Heralds in 1566.<sup>3</sup>

At a guess it seems as though the design was chosen to represent the qualities of a sportsman keen on hunting and fishing which certainly applied to John Barwell Cator (1781-1858) The motto NIHIL SINE LABORE is more suited to the tireless efforts of the founder of the Cator fortune, John Barwell's uncle John Cator. One time Southwark timber merchant, he was latterly Lord of the Manor of Beckenham, an MP, well respected in society, a businessman and perhaps a moneylender.

The Cator lion was incorporated into the Beckenham arms of 1931. A report in the Times 11.5.1935 stated that John Cator (John Barwell Cator's great grandson) donated all the robes of office for the Mayor, Deputy and Town Clerk.

Accession 989 in the archives of the Local Studies of Bromley library contains many interesting documents relating to the Cator estate in Beckenham. There is an agreement between John Barwell Cator of Beckenham Place and Michael Mathew, the farmer who leased Copers Cope Farm for barley, oats, clover and cattle on the understanding that he did not destroy game, rabbits and wild fowl or exploit the timber. John Cator was to be admitted at any time for the purpose of sport. There is a map of the farm with all the field names.<sup>4</sup>

Box 12 has a map of John Barwell Cator's entire estate in 1833 (the key to the fieldnames is in Box 13) and a further map of 1853 detailing the fishing and hunting rights of Beckenham Place.

Box 13 has a similar plan from 1868 for Albemarle Cator's estate with a report by Robert Driver in a book dated 14.1.1869 detailing the occupancy of the Beckenham estates.

It became apparent that the purpose of these surveys was to insure the settled estates to find considerable sums of money for the future of Albemarle's surviving 11 children, especially his eight lovely daughters. Beckenham Place played less and less a part in the affairs of the Cator family.

However it would be sad to see the property lost forever since it was the seat of the original conservationist, John Cator.

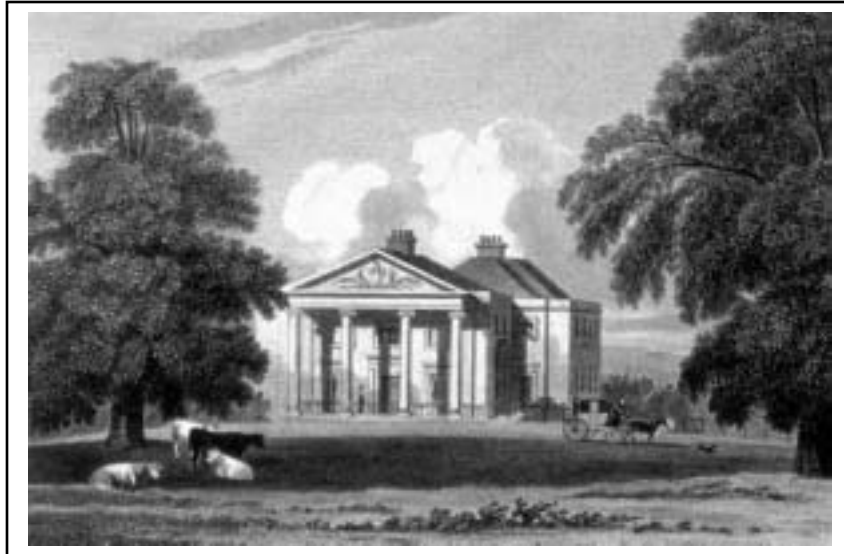
<sup>1</sup> Acc 989, box 12, Fishing and hunting rights in Beckenham Place 24.6.1881 and box 13, Declaration of the acreage and leases of the Beckenham Estate, 12.9.1881.

<sup>2</sup> The brochure of the Norwood Sanatorium from Bromley Local Studies library.

<sup>3</sup> Discovering Heraldry by Jacqueline Fearn from Shire Publications, Bucks, A dictionary of Heraldry by Charles Norton Elvin and Fairbairns Crests of the families of GB and Ireland The College of Arms, Queen Victoria St. London and Joseph Edmondson's "Complete Heraldry" 1780.

<sup>4</sup> Box 3 of Acc 989

*Beckenham Place*



## Ch 6 JOSEPH CATOR, (1733-1818) FAMILY MAN

The first reference to Joseph comes from his father's will, written in 1762, when Joseph was in Jamaica. When in 1780 he married Diana Bertie (c1757-1829), he was in Calcutta, where his posts included Commissary to the troops in the garrison, Secretary to Richard Barwell and Member of the Calcutta Revenue Committee. Diamonds and pearls that he brought back to England when he retired were still in the hands of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Cators.\* Diana was one of several sisters of Admiral Sir Albemarle Bertie. Jane Bertie (1750-1796) married a Bradford, Mary Bertie(1757-1805) married Philip Delafield and Susannah married Captain David Arthur.



It was aboard Captain Arthur's ship, Sea Horse, that Diana had made her way to India in about 1779<sup>1</sup>. Their brother Albemarle (1755-1824) married Emma, daughter of James Modyford from Devon.. According to Albemarle's will, he had no surviving sons but two daughters, Emma and Louisa.

He had many commands including the frigates Crocodile and Latona, the Edger, Thunderer, Renown, Windsor and Malta. He became a rear admiral in 1804, a vice-admiral in 1808 and admiral in 1814, being made KCB on 2.1.1815. His name Albemarle has been used by the Cator family ever since.

Joseph and Diana had seven sons and two daughters although it is commonly reported that there were only six sons, even in their uncle John's will. This is because their second son, Albemarle died at the age of 12. His birth and baptism are recorded in the records of St George's church, Beckenham as follows: "Albemarle, son of Joseph Cator and Diana his wife of Beckenham was born at Beckenham the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 1782 and baptised the 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 1783. Albemarle Bertie, Duncan Davidson and Mary Cator, widow, were sponsors." His death in 1795 is recorded on the Joseph Cator tomb in the Beckenham churchyard.



Their eldest son's record reads as follows: Born 18.10.1781, John Barwell son of Joseph Cator and Diana his wife lately of Calcutta, Bengall (sic), now of Beckenham was baptised Nov 15 day at Beckenham. Joseph had spent much of his life in India and the name Barwell was that Joseph's friend Richard Barwell of the East India Company. Their eldest daughter, Diana Maria, baptised on 26.2.1784 had four named sponsors, Wm Cator of Darca in Bengal, Duncan Davidson of London, Mary Cator of Beckenham Place and her aunt, Mary Delafield, of London.

Joseph spent the last thirty years of his life living in Beckenham at the Clockhouse and in spite of his late marriage his family increased with the births of William 1785, Charles 1786, Bertie Cornelius 1787, Thomas 1790, Elizabeth 1792 and Peter 1796.

The memoir of Joseph Brasbridge, silversmith, published in 1824 called "The Fruits of Experience" refers favourably to Joseph Cator and his sons. "Mr Joseph Cator passed the last thirty years of his life at Beckenham and died at the age of 84 leaving numerous progeny. Six of his sons were customers of mine and the finest men I ever saw. They bear an exact resemblance to the description parson Jones gave of his firstborn in a letter to the India Directors being all of them equal to the sample. I hope these gentlemen will pardon the liberty I take in thus introducing their names in connection with that of their father for whose memory I retain all the respect which his own worth and his invariable kindness to me for many years were calculated to inspire."

The parents of these men were both reported as being short but their sons and indeed the present Cators favour tallness.

The tomb of Joseph Cator is one of the largest in the churchyard and represents a comprehensive survey of his family. The inscriptions are as follows.

East face Underneath this tombstone/ renewed and reinscribed AD 1870/ is the vault/ of/ JOSEPH CATOR Esq/ late of this parish/ deceased AD 1818.

South face centre STTM/ Of those whose remains have been deposited in the vault beneath and/ who departed this life on the days mentioned/ JOSEPH CATOR of this parish d.14 January 1818 aged 84/ his widow DIANA d.14 May 1829 – 72/ JOHN his eldest son d.20 August 1858 -76/ ALBEMARLE second son d.26 November 1795 – 12/ BERTIE CORNELIUS his fifth son, an Admiral d.23 July 1864 – 76/ THOMAS his 6<sup>th</sup> son, rector of Kirk Smeaton and vicar of Womersley, Yorkshire d.24 August 1864 – 74/ DIANA his eldest daughter d.5 April 1817 – 33/ also ELIZABETH 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter d.10 Jun 1815 – 23/ ELIZABETH LOUISA wife of said JOHN d.11 FEBRUARY 1847 – 59 / And their daughter EMILY ANN d. April 1815 – 3/ SOPHIA wife of BERTIE CORNELIUS d.15 November 1862 – 74/ also 2 sisters of DIANA wife of JOSEPH CATOR, JANE BRADFORD widow d.24 August 1796 – 46/ MARY DELAFIELD widow d.11 March 1808 – 51

South face left PETER CATOR 7<sup>th</sup> son of said/ JOSEPH CATOR died 1 May 1873 aged 77 years/ MARTHA wife of said PETER CATOR/ died 9 June 1872 aged 73/ DIANA youngest daughter of said PETER CATOR died 3 October 1888 aged 63/ CHARLES OLIVER FREDERICK CATOR son of the previously named Rev THOMAS CATOR/ died 10 December 1876 aged 40 years/ The Lady LOUISA FRANCES daughter of JOHN , 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Scarborough, wife of the Rev THOMAS CATOR, died 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1885 age 90.

West face Sacred/ also TTMO/ BERTIE CORNELIUS CATOR/ Lieut RN/ eldest son of BERTIE CORNELIUS/ and SOPHIA his wife/ mentioned on the South side of this / tombstone departed this life/ 26 August 1842/ while on service in the China Seas/ aged 25/ He was buried on Golden Island/ near Nankin in China.

The will of Joseph's brother, John, had left Joseph managing stocks, funds and leasehold estates, investing monies arising in securities. He had himself invested £35,000 in a great sweep of land at Penge so that the Cator estate in Beckenham spread from Shortlands to the Crystal Palace. When Joseph died in 1818, his will seems to indicate that he had already distributed his property among his sons for whom he had high regard.

His eldest son, John Barwell was not his main heir since he stated “my eldest son was amply provided for under the will of my late brother John Cator Esquire.” These Cators displayed strong family connections, doubtless responsible for their long-lived success.

References:

<sup>1</sup> see the edited memoirs of William Hickey

The will of Joseph Cator PCC Prob 11/1602/113 from the FRC, written 6.8.1817, proved 13.3.1818 after Joseph’s death 14.1.1818.

\* Notes made by Jack (John) Cator, eldest son of Albemarle Cator Jn (1836-1906)

### WILLIAM HICKEY (1749-c1830)

The edited memoirs of William Hickey appeared in print on several occasions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They give a portrait of English Society in the reign of George III at home and overseas. As such they paint an accurate picture of the lives of John, William and Joseph Cator, sons of the Quaker, John (1703-1764).

One of the edited editions, by Roger Hudson 1998, is entitled “Memoirs of a Georgian Rake,” and seems to be a true description. He shared in the frolics of the London mob in the brothels, taverns and night cellars round Covent Garden. The memoirs were written during a melancholic period of his life from 1808 when he had returned from India and was living with his two unmarried sisters, Sarah and Ann, in Beaconsfield. In manuscript form it covers 742 pages.

The son of a self-made man, Joseph Hickey, William was a spoiled and dissipated son. The great love of his life was Charlotte Barry who died early in their lives only one year after going to India in 1782 when William was just 32. He never recovered from her loss.

There follow excerpts from Alfred Spencer’s edition in four volumes published by Hurst and Blackett 1913, shelfmark, BL 010856.b33, British Library.

After an affectionate adieu to my sisters and brother, Mr Howorth and I (William Hickey) stepped into a post-chaise and, at four o'clock in the afternoon, arrived at the George Inn at Portsmouth where we found Captain Arthur, his wife and two of her sisters, the Miss Berties, who were going out to India in the *Sea-horse* in search of husbands. Mrs Arthur was a fine showy woman, dressed in the highest style of fashion, the sisters rather plain in features but well accomplished.

Captain Sutton of the Duke of Portland suggested the probability of getting a berth in the *Sea-horse*.

He requested I would meet him the following morning at the Jerusalem coffeehouse where both he and Captain Arthur would be at noon. Captain Arthur lamented his ship's being so crowded he could not give me a cabin to myself but to be with three other gentlemen. His purser told me I must send one hundred guineas for a seat at the Captain's table (double what I paid in 1768)

Underway on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1777 exactly at noon, the three Indiamen, Duke of Portland, York and *Sea-horse* left Portsmouth on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1777. Our party of 22 sat down to an excellent dinner and included the two Miss Berties and Mr Robert Morse, barrister of the Supreme Court.

The Miss Berties cabin was on the starboard side of the great cabin with a private staircase from thence by which they ascended to the roundhouse, thus entirely avoiding the steerage.

After keeping "Saturday night" three times convivially we drank too much the fourth time and the Captain stopped them. I exerted myself to restore harmony but Captain Arthur continued sulky and sullen and the two Miss Berties taking their cue from him became shy and reserved. Under the flimsy pretext of having colds, they refused to sing, retiring to their own private apartment as soon as the cloth was removed from the table.

Querulously we continued until drawing near the Cape of Good Hope. On 13<sup>th</sup> July, Captain Sutton of the Duke of Portland said he intended putting in.

He hoped that the *Sea-horse* would do the same. We made land on 15<sup>th</sup> July.



When we set sail again, we nearly grounded off Aracan in 3 fathoms of water but miraculously escaped, eventually reaching the island of Sangor on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1777.

Mr Morse and I had agreed to housekeep together and Robert Pott said he had an excellent apartment ready for my use. Pott drove me to his residence, a noble mansion belonging to Richard Barwell who had lent it to his younger brother Daniel and three friends, being Pott, *Mr Cator* and Mr Gosling. Mr Morse called to say it would be bad policy for us to live together. When we acted for different sides in court as counsel and attorney it would rouse suspicion. Nevertheless, our friendship continued unabated during our residence in Bengal.

*(The Mr Cator above was either Joseph or William Cator. Of course Joseph married Diana, one of the Bertie sisters from the Sea-horse and William married one of Robert Morse's sisters as described below)*

My friend Morse carried me to see two sisters of his who had come out to him while I was in England. They both married admirably well soon after their arrival, one to Mr Middleton, (*Nathaniel Middleton, Junior Merchant and Anne Frances Morse, Calcutta, 26.10.1780, N1/34/239, India Office, BL*) and the other the wife of *Mr Cator*, a man of large independent fortune. Mr Morse through the influence of these two brothers-in-law in the year 1781 obtained the situation of paymaster to troops sent from Bengal to Coromandel, temporarily relinquishing his position as lawyer.

On his return unemployed, he was promised the position of Sheriff the next year. (*Nathaniel Middleton and Robert Morse of St George's, Hanover Square, are both part of the brewery agreement Acc 789, 517, Westminster Archives of William Cator in 1799*)

Mr Cator, late in life, having some unsuccessful speculations was induced to return to Bengal in the hopes of once more increasing his substance. He was killed on board the Kent Indiaman in an action with a French privateer close to the Balasore Roads.

The Kent, outward bound, fell in with M. Surcouff, then cruising a frigate of 24 guns under false English ensign.

His purpose was to annoy the British merchant service and to meet with East Indiamen.

The Kent was aware of the strange sail and prepared with all hands at Quarters, guns run out and matches lighted. The Kent fired a shot and the Frenchman hauled down the English ensign and hoisted a French one.

After an engagement lasting an hour, the Frenchman threw his main topsail back and dropped astern. An old experienced carpenter said they were coming up from behind to board, which is what the Frenchmen did.

Surcouff himself was in the dress of a common seaman. The male passengers, armed with cutlasses, stood on the poop and were overcome by scores of intoxicated Frenchmen.

The Commander of the Kent with eleven of her crew were all killed as was likewise Mr Cator. His wife, one of the sisters of my *Sea-horse* shipmate, Mr Robert Morse, and daughter, being unfortunately on board witnessed the untimely death of husband and father.

Surcouff sent the surviving passengers to Bengal in a country merchantman, which he captured 14 days after taking the Kent. He behaved with utmost liberality to the ladies.

## **Ch 7 GEORGE SPARKES (1811-1878)**

George was the great grandson of John Cator Snr, the Southwark timber merchant. His grandmother was John's daughter, Mary, who had married a George Sparkes.

They had three sons, George, Henry and John and it was the brothers George and Henry who were trustees to the Cator manors and hereditaments through the will of Mary's brother John in 1806. Henry died in July 1818. George married Ann Alice Wiple in 1808 and George born 1811 was the first of their four sons, George, Samuel Peach, John Bertie Cator and Amelius Peach. There were also two daughters, Emma and Sophia.<sup>1</sup> George the father died intestate in 1824 and the Cators took out a private Act in 1825 so that they could take over the running of the family properties.

George Jr. spent his early life in the Madras Civil Service, no doubt associated with Peter Cator, Joseph's youngest son, but by 1846 he had returned to Bromley where he had published "An Easy Introduction to Chemistry." In the 1851 census for Bromley he was described as the Director of the Reversionary Society and he lived off the High St. Details of the conveyance in 1856 of a house and wheelwright's shop and garden at 17, High St are in the Bromley Archives. This was in the old numbering and was next to today's library.

He died on 30.1.1878 in the 67<sup>th</sup> year of his age and was buried in the churchyard at Bromley in area I which was behind the church away from Church Rd. The church and graveyard were severely damaged during WWII and few memorials remain. A commemorative fountain was erected on the Chelsea embankment with the following inscription:<sup>2</sup>

In Affectionate Remembrance of the late  
GEORGE SPARKES  
Of Bromley in Kent formerly judge at Madras  
In the East India Company's Civil Service.  
A great and good man  
Gifted with every refined feeling  
And much esteemed by all who knew him.  
Died 30 January 1878  
In his 68<sup>th</sup> year.  
Erected by his widow.

His widow Emily presented the Bromley Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul with the ornamental oak case for the organ in 1894. Emily remarried to John Dowling and died aged 81, 23.3.1900 leaving a long will proved 19.5.1900.

The will of George Sparkes left £3,000 and all his goods to Emily but his sisters in Italy, Emma and Sophia, contested it because there was a considerable holding of stocks and shares.

His sisters were Sophia Sparkes from near Lake Como and Emma D'Avro from Posilippo near Naples. They were awarded a one quarter share each of the proceeds from the stocks and shares.<sup>1</sup>

The Bromley Record of 1900 describes the house Neelgherries that was left to the town of Bromley.

Emily had desired its conversion into a museum but it was used to accommodate the public library. By 1906, the Neelgherries Gardens was opened as a public pleasure ground laid out by Mr J. Stenning under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. Today we still benefit from Emily's gift to Bromley a hundred years ago.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Box 980, Bromley Local Studies

<sup>2</sup> Bromleage

## **Ch 8 RICHARD BARWELL (1741-1804)**

Richard, an Anglo Indian and Nabob (one of the *nouveaux-riches*) was a writer of the East India Company, Calcutta in 1756 and after holding a succession of lucrative appointments he was appointed member of the Supreme Council in Bengal.

This was under Warren Hastings, governor-general, to whom he was ever loyal. Hastings described him "He possesses much experience, a solid judgement, much greater fertility of resources than I have and his manners are easy and pleasant." Perhaps a more accurate description came from one of the opposition, Philip Francis, as follows "He is rapacious without industry and ambitious without exertion. He will do whatever can be done by bribery and intrigue." Barwell and Francis played whist and after one sitting Francis won £20,000 but Barwell was incredibly rich.<sup>1</sup>

Richard's parents were William Barwell and Elizabeth Peirie, William's 3rd wife whom he married in 1739. William (1705-1769) was the Governor at Ft William in 1748/9 and subsequently a director of the East India Company. He had married three times in quick succession first to Elizabeth Eyre in 1730 and then to Ann Atkinson in 1732 after Elizabeth's premature death. William had three children in Calcutta by his second wife, Ann, a boy Edward in 1734/5, Mary in 1733 and Amy in 1736.

Amy died in 1737/8 and shortly afterwards so did her mother, Ann. Also by his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, William had brothers for Richard; William 1740, John 1743 and Roger 1747.

Richard married Elizabeth Jane Sanderson, the reigning beauty in Calcutta, on 13.9.1776 and they had two sons before she died in Calcutta giving birth to the second son, Edward James.

Her burial was 9.11.1778 and little Edward was baptised 8.2.1779. Richard Barwell Jr had been baptised the year before on the 13.1.1778. There is said to be a portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds of Barwell seated in his library with one of the two sons of Elizabeth.

Richard married again, this time to Catharine Coffin in England in 1785 as he had retired in 1780. They had four more sons, Edward Richard 1786-1846, Charles Richard 1788-1836, Arthur Champion 1789-1858 and Frederick Bensley born in 1790. The first two had sons in their turn.<sup>2</sup>

Richard retired to Sussex with a very large fortune, which he used to buy and enlarge Stanstead House to accommodate his eastern treasures. Capability Brown planned the gardens. Richard became M.P. for St Ives in 1784 followed by Winchelsea in 1790 and 1796. He resigned in December 1796 and died on 2 September 1804. His PCC will included his wife Catherine Barwell, John Butler and Edward Dann? as executors.

A Richard Barwell appeared in Chislehurst, Kent, living at a country house in 45 acres called "Homewood". In 1786, this Richard presented the church of St Nicholas with a new clock in return for diverting a public right of way.

It moved from just past his kitchen garden to Hoblands wood into the Sidcup Rd. The alteration was known as the "Clock Path". The property was sold to a Mr James Jones in 1796.

Shortly after this in March 1800, Richard Barwell the younger of Stansted, Sussex wrote his will. He left sums of money to his uncles, James and Thomas Smith Barwell and also to William Cator Esq. William would have been the brother of John Cator, Lord of the Manor of Beckenham. The will was proved 28.5.1800 by Richard Barwell the father of the testator.

It seems likely that the testator was the son born to Richard Barwell and his first wife Elizabeth in Calcutta in 1778. According to the IGI, Thomas Smith Barwell was born about 1761 and married Elizabeth Ann Unwin at Marylebone. There was also a marriage of a James Barwell, born about 1750, to Anne in London. Both Thomas Smith and James could have been sons of William.

It seems likely that the wealthy Richard Barwell was the father of the younger Richard with paternal uncles, James and Thomas Smith Barwell, friends of William Cator. Joseph Cator would also have known Richard Barwell senior and named his eldest son John Barwell, born 1781, in his honour.

It also seems possible that Richard the elder was resident for a time in Chislehurst at Homewood, perhaps while Stanstead House was being remodelled.

<sup>1</sup> The East India Co. by Brian Gardner

<sup>2</sup> The Genealogists' Magazine Vol 6 1932/33

#### The sons of Richard+ and Catherine Barwell

Edward Richard born 20.11.1786 at Westbourne, Sussex was baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup> October the following year. The Bengal Civil Service employed him and with his wife Sophia he had three children who all predeceased their parents. Their only daughter and elder son are buried in the North Park St burial ground in Calcutta.

Augusta Charlotte born 8.11.1817 died on 18.10.1836 aged 18 years 11 months and 10 days. Edward D'Oyly Barwell Esq, barrister, died 9.11.1840, aged 30 years 7 months and 17 days.

Their remaining son, Henry Montague Barwell, Lt in the 59<sup>th</sup> Regiment, BNI, is buried at Shajeharpore. He died 8.8.1837 in his 26<sup>th</sup> year. His memorial reads "This tablet is erected by his afflicted parents as a frail monument of his worth and their affection." The grave of Edward D'Oyly also contains the infant son, Edward Henry Colquhoun Barwell, of Edward D'Oyly and his wife Anna-Maria Louisa. The baby died 27.4.1840-aged 1 year and 3 days.

Charles Richard born 10.5.1788 at Westbourne was baptised on 21<sup>st</sup> July in the same year. The memorial in the North Park St burial ground, Calcutta to his first wife reads as follows. "Sacred to the beloved memory of Anna Maria Barwell daughter of Thomas Henschman Esq, wife of Charles Richard Barwell Judge and Magistrate of the suburbs of Calcutta by whom this memorial of her has been erected in testimony of the devoted attachment and affection that united him to the beloved partner whose loss the visitation of providence condemns him to suffer and deplore. Obit 14 March 1822."

He was described as widower of Allipore when he married Ellen Fulcher 2.7.1825 by whom he had four sons. Charles Arthur Barwell was a General Bengal S C and served in India from 1843 to 1880.

Edward William, 1829-1857, was Lt 13<sup>th</sup> BNI from 1843 and was killed during the mutiny at Hissar. Frederick Page Barwell who died aged 2 years 2 months and 10 days on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1836 is described on his father's memorial as the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of C.R.Barwell and his wife Ellen. William Blunt Barwell 1836-1916 was Capt Bengal Army from 1855-1872. Shortly after his birth, his father died 12.12.1836 aged 48 years 2 months 2 days.

The memorial reads "Sacred to the memory of Charles Richard Barwell Esq, Judge of the Sudder Dewannee and Nizamut Adawlut who after an honorable and distinguished career of 32 years in the service of the Honorable east India Company departed this life on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1836 universally and deeply lamented."

William Blunt Barwell's son Arthur Ross 1866-1898, Capt I A, served in India for ten years from 1888 but was shot by his bearer at Peshawar Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 1898.

Arthur Champion born 19.6.1789 at Westbourne and baptised 4<sup>th</sup> the August in the same year married Elizabeth Martin in Chittagong 9.3.1829.

He served in the B.C.S. from 1807 to 1851 and retired to Somerset where there is a memorial at the Bathwick cemetery, Smallcombe.

Richard mentions his "dear wife Catherine Barwell" in his PCC will of 1804 PROB/11/1415/669



## **PART II**

### **THE HEIRS**

#### **Ch 9 JOHN BARWELL CATOR (1781-1858)** **ABSENTEE LANDLORD**

“Born, John Barwell Cator son of Joseph Cator and Diana his wife, lately of Calcutta Bengall now of Beckenham, baptised Nov 15 day at Beckenham” is how the entry in the baptism register for St George’s church, Beckenham reads. From the Oxford alumni we find this eldest son of Joseph matriculated from Christ’s College 2.5.1800, aged 18. Then in 1806 he married Elizabeth Louisa Mahon in his 25<sup>th</sup> year having been well set up by the will of his uncle, John Cator, his father’s brother.

He was left the testator’s house in the Adelphi with all the pictures, books, linen, plate, china, furniture and household goods and the same from Beckenham Place, including the heirlooms. Coaches, horses, cows, oxen, sheep waggons, feed were included, with the rents for life. He also received the power of providing leases for periods not exceeding 70 years for building on any part of Blackheath Park. No wonder his father Joseph thought his eldest son “amply provided for” when he wrote his will in 1818.

John did not appear to use the name Barwell. His namesake was probably Richard Barwell, son of William Barwell whose family although originally from Leicestershire had long been connected with the East.

When Barwell retired to Sussex in 1780, he was said to have one of the largest fortunes ever accumulated. Perhaps this was one of the reasons why he was asked to be one of the sponsors of Joseph Cator’s eldest son, born 1781.<sup>1</sup>

John Barwell was credited by Robert Borrowman as being a less stable personality than his Quaker forebears. He is described as a reckless, extravagant eccentric whose financial mismanagement caused the sale of the Crystal Palace acreage.<sup>2</sup>

The wills of his uncle and father do not entirely bear this out. The family property was shared among all six surviving sons as well as numerous other members of the family.

However in notes made by John Barwell's great grandson, John Cator, the following comment is made: "Peter (Cator) practised for some years at Madras, India, until recalled home to help his eldest brother John who was in financial difficulties owing to personal extravagance. He took over management of the estates a portion of which was sold in 1825".<sup>4</sup>

In March 1818, it was decided at a vestry meeting to build two schoolrooms to establish a National School to improve the education of Beckenham's children.

John Cator gave Pound Field opposite the Manor House for the site of the proposed school. He provided the oak fence to the rear and also the garden.

It had been a sand pit and unemployed parishioners were set to work levelling the ground, removing the pound elsewhere and constructing the garden. In 1824, the "Emma Bertie" letter indicates that John and his family were spending time in Worthing.

John Barwell was responsible for the purchase in 1807 of the 1200 acres of agricultural land of the Manor of Woodbastwick in Norfolk, increasing the acreage in the 1820s. The previous occupier had been Sir Roger Kerrison who had purchased the Elizabethan manor house from the Rt Hon Harbord, Lord Suffield, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1819, the 16<sup>th</sup> century house, Woodbastwick Hall, was damaged by fire. John Cator employed George Smith the architect to rebuild the house. In the index to the 1821 census of Beckenham John Cator Esq is shown at Beckenham Place and certainly his son, William Thornhill Cator was born there in 1821.

According to the present family, John did not finally leave Beckenham Place until 1849\*. This was after the marriage of his daughter in 1847 two years after his wife's death in Weisbaden, Germany. However John Barwell is reputed to have been a great sportsman spending most of his time in either Ireland or Norfolk.

Thus he became the absentee landlord of Beckenham and Blackheath and by the end of the decade there was a tenant, Alexander Inglis at Beckenham Place.

Nearly 200 years later, the land is still owned by the Cators and has maintained the special features of a working Broadland estate where 20 men now work 5,000 acres.

With its population reduced from 400 or so prewar to about 100 today, the village developed by John Barwell Cator still belongs to the Cator family with only four private properties. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful of the Broadland villages always an entrant and twice the winner of the "Best Kept Village" award.

*One of the two almshouses facing the village green at Woodbastwick. It bears the inscription "At evening time it shall be light"*



John Barwell's will was simple compared with those of his predecessors because his uncle's will had already committed the family property.

John and Elizabeth had five children, two sons and three daughters of whom one, Emily Ann, died in infancy. Of Albemarle, the heir, more later but his brother, William Thornhill (1821-1879) married twice and had two sons, the younger dying at 6 months, and four daughters.

John Barwell's surviving daughters both married, Elizabeth Diana to Daniel Henry Kelly of Castle Kelly, Galway and Anne Charlotte to Col Francis Barry Drew, 2.9.1848, Ireland. Sadly Anne only survived another four years or so because she died on board a steam vessel between Hyderabad and Kurrachee Scinde in India on 14.12.1852.<sup>5</sup>

### References

<sup>1</sup>The East India Co. by Brian Gardner

<sup>2</sup>Beckenham Past and Present by Robert Borrowman

<sup>3</sup>Blackheath by Neil Rhind

<sup>4</sup>Notes obtained from Peter John Cator from Condicote, Glos written by Albemarle Jr's son John Cator. \*

<sup>5</sup>The will of Ann Charlotte Drew proved at the PR by Col F B Drew CB 21.11.1859.

## **Ch 10 WILLIAM THORNHILL CATOR** **(1821-1879)**

William Thornhill Cator was the younger of John Barwell's two sons. He married Frances Julia daughter of Robert Sayer of Sibton Park, Suffolk on 18.7.1850 and they had two sons and two daughters. Francis John Sayer was born 7.6.1851 followed by Elizabeth Louisa and Frances Anne but William's wife died 27.10.1855 when she had her second son, Julius.

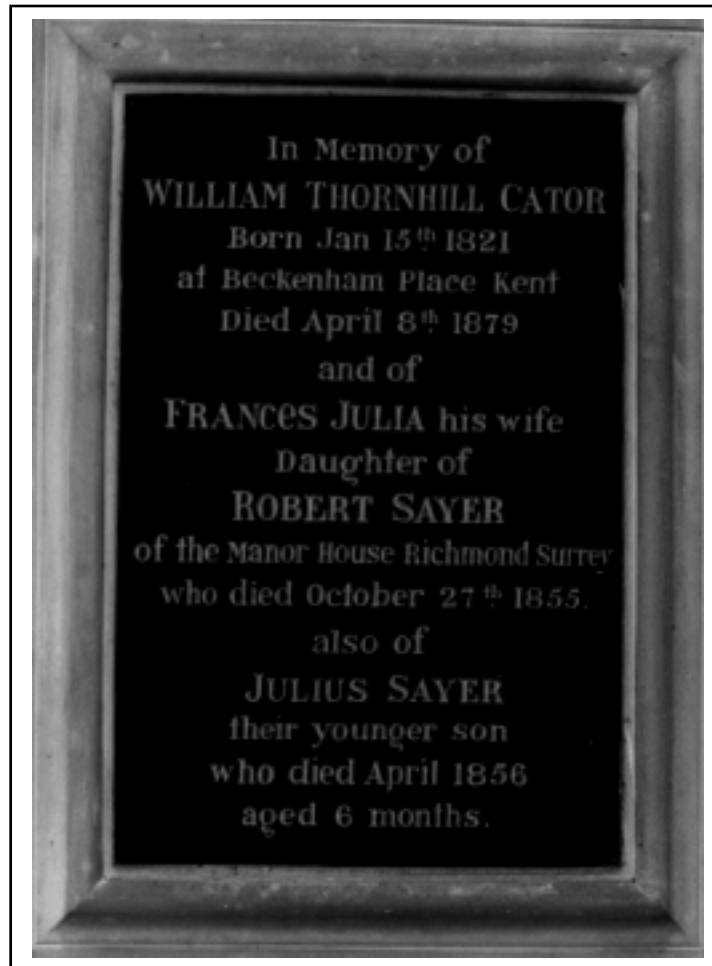
As the plaque shows, he died six months later. The plaque which is in the church at Woodbastwick also gives a different location for Frances Julia's father, Robert, i.e. of the Manor House, Richmond, Surrey. The surviving son Francis on 1.10.1879 married Eliza Alice, widow of Allen Clements and only daughter of James Selby.

His two sisters remained unmarried and both lived until the 20<sup>th</sup> century; Elizabeth Louisa died 18.10.1910 and Frances Anne 20.7.1928.

William Thornhill married again, this time on 22.4.1858 to Ellinor Heath, daughter of William Heath Jary of Burlingham, Norfolk. They had two daughters, Ellinor Thornhill, who died in the same year as her father, and Mary Thornhill.

It is possible that the name Thornhill came from the house, Thornhill Mansion, next to The Bell in Bromley High St occupied by John Hawkswell, the writer, and his wife Mary towards the end of the eighteenth century.

*The plaque in memory of William Thornhill Cator*



## **Ch 11 ALBEMARLE CATOR (1813-1868)**

### **JOHN BARWELL'S HEIR**

Albemarle was the eldest son of John Barwell Cator born 7.4.1813. He married his cousin, Elizabeth Margaret, eldest daughter of John Henry Blakeney of Galway. Elizabeth's mother, Charlotte, and Albemarle's mother, Elizabeth Louisa, were daughters of Sir Ross Mahon, Bt of Castlegar, Co Galway. Albemarle died relatively young at fiftyfive only ten years after the death of his father, John Barwell, but he lived his life to the full. Jack Cator was only six when his grandfather died but he remembers the imperious businessman in his tall hat, driving the horses at "Drag". At first, after his marriage on leaving Oxford at twentyone, Albemarle lived in Ireland, hunting with the Kildare Hunt and fishing in the rivers with great heavy rods. A daring leap on horseback at a canal lock caused it to be called "Cator's Leap". \*

Albemarle had seven sons, John, Albemarle, William, Bertie Albemarle, Edward, Robert and Henry William.

According to the 1851 census at Blofield Hall, Woodbastwick, (HO/107/1819/201) they also had three daughters, Charlotte thirteen, born in Dublin, Elizabeth Margaret nine, born in Kildare and Mary five, born at Woodbastwick. Their mother Elizabeth's younger sister, Sarah, from Abbot Dangan, Ireland, was with them at the time of the census. The family had twelve servants including a governess, but the two older boys, John and Albemarle, were not at home.

John was a captain in the 10<sup>th</sup> foot regiment (North Lincs). After coming through the Indian Mutiny he became engaged to Gertrude Harris. (John's brother, Albemarle junior, married Gertrude's sister, Mary) He died, unmarried, at Hayne in Devon, having had an arm amputated due to injuries incurred at the Crimea 23.2.1859 leaving his brother Albemarle as the heir. Of Albemarle, more later.

William, son number three, born at Moorfield Kildare in Ireland 26.8.1839, was educated at Bromsgrove and St John's. He visited Samuel Butler, the author of Erewhon, in New Zealand where he was sheep farming. \*

On his return by about 1870 he was ordained into a curacy at Great Yarmouth. Between 1873 and 1885 he was Rector of Beckenham.

He married Isabel Ann, eldest daughter of Lt Gen James Orde, 7.8.1873 but she died on 27.5.1874, a week after the birth of their son, Christian on the 21<sup>st</sup> May.

William immersed himself in his duties and used most of his income from the Rectory on charitable work.

In the 1881 census when Christian would have been seven, his widowed father was living in Beckenham with just two servants. (RG11/0849/5) Christian was staying with his father's unmarried sister, Charlotte, at the Christchurch Rd Nurses Institute in Christchurch, Hampshire. (RG11/1194/6) At first William was unpopular at the Parish church because he tried to change the services but he established centres at Birkbeck and Churchfields and was regarded as a sensitive, caring man. He was never satisfied with his work and resigned in 1885 in favour of his former curate, the Rev Henry Amott, whom he thought well qualified to supervise the rebuilding of the church.

When William left in 1885, he was presented with an address and a cheque for £300 subscribed spontaneously by about three hundred and eighty parishioners who were all listed in an issue of the local paper.

The address praised his work asking him to accept the cheque "as a token of our sincere regret at losing you as our rector and as a mark of the esteem and affection in which you are held." His new parish was St Barnabas and he worked under Dr Linklater for fifteen years at Stroud Green, North London and then moved to Stratton Strawless, Norfolk where he died 6.6.1902.

His son, Christian, was at one time a lieutenant in the Oxford Light Infantry then the vicar at Holy Redeemer, Clerkenwell. He was much less rugged than his father but highly regarded by the family. He died unmarried on 3.3.1941 at Marley, Brede, Sussex after a period of poor health. He left over £5,000 to his friend, a poultry farmer.



Of Albemarle and Elizabeth's other boys, Bertie Albemarle died young at sixteen years. In the church at Woodbastwick there is a stained glass window commemorating the lives of John and Bertie Albemarle, both of whom died in 1859. (Kelly 1905, Norfolk, Woodbastwick).

Edward (Eddy) had several children by his first cousin, Annie Elizabeth Mary. She was the daughter of the MP for Hull Charles Morgan Norwood and her mother was a Blakeney. Robert married Evelyn Susan Estcourt, 4.6.1872, and they had several children.<sup>1</sup> Eddy and Robert invested unsuccessfully in a brewery business in Wiltshire but they lost all their money.\*

Henry William converted to Catholicism and was a Superior of the London Oratory from 1907. (The Catholic Who's Who and Year book 1910)

According to the 1861 census, Albemarle at 48 was living the life of a country gentleman at Woodbastwick with his wife Elizabeth. Their son and heir, Albemarle junior, was twentyfive and was staying with them at The Hall with his wife, Mary, and their two children, Louisa Eleanor aged one year and Elizabeth, only five months. This was not the Hall shown on the front cover but the first building down by the dyke, which today is only represented by the outbuildings. Another young couple was Cousin Bertie Peter Cator and his wife Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Aretas Akers from Malling Abbey, Kent. Bertie Peter was the son of Peter Cator, Albemarle's uncle, of the Hall, Beckenham.

Only three other children were at home, Mary fifteen, Robert eleven and Henry three but Albemarle's nephew, Frank aged nine, was there. He was Francis Tetrode Cator, the son of Albemarle senior's brother, William Albemarle Bertie, and his wife, Aurelia.

Until the 1860s, the present Beckenham High St was called Turnpike Rd and leading off was White Cross Rd named after a large field of the Manor of Foxgrove. White Cross Rd was renamed Albemarle Rd which thus became one of several roads that commemorated the Cators.

Albemarle Rd was in the news on 2.7.1944 when a flying bomb fell near its junction with the High St.

It demolished the group of small shops including the post office, the greengrocers and a haberdashery store, Rawlings, killing a family of three with the son, Patrick aged fifteen. A second flying bomb, falling on 27.7.44 on houses in Church Rd occupied by the local firemen, destroyed up to a third of the churchyard memorials with three more victims.<sup>2</sup> Albemarle's wife also had her name preserved in Blakeney Rd, a short distance away from the junction.

Albemarle Snr, died at the South Kensington Hotel, Queen's Gate, Kensington on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1868. His son Albemarle was the sole executor of the will, proved at the Principal Registry on the 26<sup>th</sup> June leaving £20,000.

*The damage caused by the second flying bomb on 27.7.1944*



<sup>1</sup> See the chapter on Robert's grandson, Peter John Cator.

<sup>2</sup> Civilian casualties of Beckenham compiled by the Imperial War Museum

## CH 12 ALBEMARLE of TREWSBURY

*The inscription over the main door at Trewsbury House, Coates  
Pax intrantibus Salus exrantibus*



Albemarle Cator junior was born on April 6<sup>th</sup> 1836. He married Mary Molesworth Cordelia (Minnie) daughter of Christopher Arthur Mohun-Harris and their first children, Louisa Eleanor who died when young and Elizabeth were born at Woodbastwick. The eldest son, John, was born while they were living close by at the Norfolk village of Colkirk but child number four, Mary, was born far away in Marazion, Cornwall.<sup>1</sup>

Certainly by the time of the 1871 census, (RG10/2647/129), Albemarle junior had acquired the mansion of Trewsbury. Pigot's Trade Directory of 1868 has him already in the house. Albemarle was well qualified, a BA and DD from Cambridge and for many years, while he lived at Trewsbury House, Coates, Gloucestershire, he was a JP and magistrate.

Coates is 4 miles south-west of Cirencester but the group of Trewsbury houses is outside the village and approached by a straight drive from the Coates road.

The residence of Albemarle Cator was described as a modern mansion on the site of an ancient encampment. The source of the Thames is regarded as being in Trewsbury Mead, a field adjacent to Trewsbury House. The Conservators of the Thames in 1974 placed a stone marker encircled by smaller stones to mark the spring. A branch of the Thames and Severn canal passes near to the grounds of Trewsbury House and was the means by which heavy goods such as coal were delivered. Following a visit by George III in July 1788, it became known as King's Reach. The engineer Robert Whitworth restored it in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The house had its own chapel and crypt commissioned by Albemarle and Minnie so that the family did not generally use the local church of St Michael, which is about one mile away NW. (Kelly's directories 1863,1894)

There were 18 bedrooms and a schoolroom on the first floor. The governess from Herne Bay, Katherine Hildyard, had five children in her care. They ranged from Elizabeth ten and John eight through Mary seven and Gertrude five to little Beatrice aged three. Edith at seven months was in the charge of the two nurses. The other servants were the housekeeper, butler, lady's maid, footman, two housemaids and a kitchenmaid. Albemarle's sister in law, Gertrude Harris, was a visitor at the time.

She had been engaged to marry Albemarle's brother John before he died in 1859 from war injuries.

The 1881 census declared nine of his children born at Coates over the preceding fifteen years, another six girls followed by a second son, Albemarle, who died aged two months in 1869. Grace and Christopher were born after Albemarle Bertie Edward but Grace died from scarlet fever when only four. Even then the family consisted of eight girls and three boys. Albemarle ran a large household in 1881 with a private governess and eleven servants.

Albemarle and his wife Mary were held in high regard by all that knew them. As the Lord of the Manor of Woodbastwick he was a generous and considerate landowner.

He was unstinting in his efforts to help his fellow men and was regarded as a rich man. Bateman's Acreocracy of England stated that Mr Cator's 1,085 acres in Kent brought £28,016 pa. In the Saturday Review of the Times, September 1876, Albemarle suggested that Mr Bateman's figures could not be trusted!

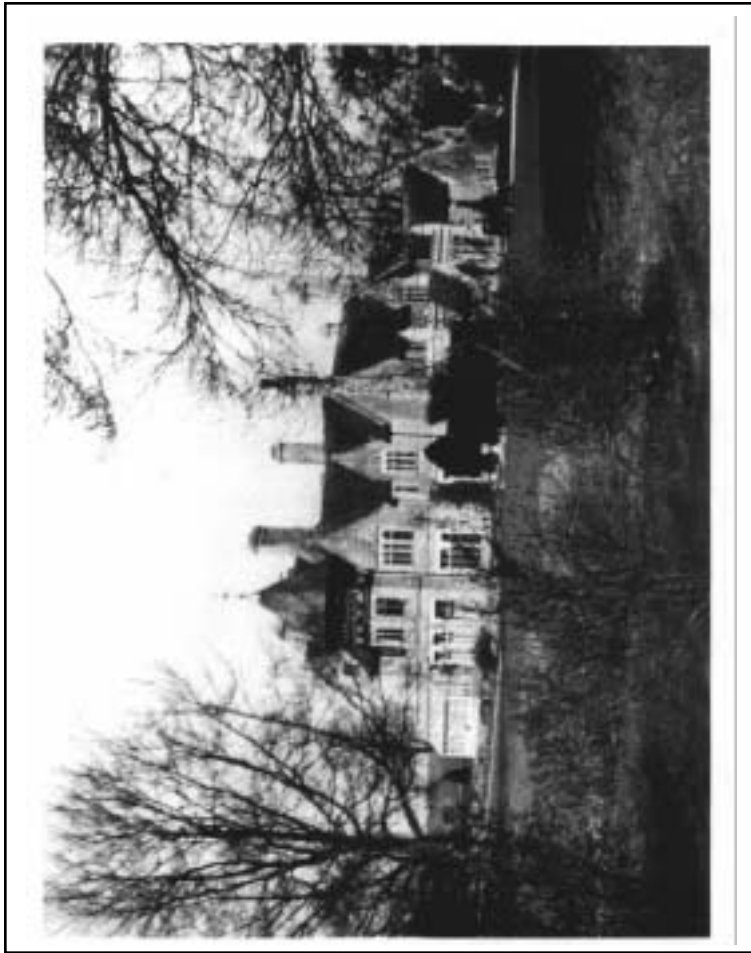
By 1891 the family had left Trewsbury and a retired shipowner, Lt Robert Birmingham RN, occupied the house. The usual army of 11 servants cared for his wife Winifred and their six children ranging from three to sixteen. In Kelly's Norfolk directory Albemarle Cator BA, DL, JP was described as of Woodbastwick Hall, Beckenham Place, Trewsbury and of 83, Eaton Square, London!

The house remains at Trewsbury to this day but in April 2000 it suffered a disastrous fire. It is a grade II listed building and is being slowly reconstructed.<sup>2</sup> The motto can be read over the door bearing the date 1876 when the house had been extended. Pax intrantibus Salus exrantibus translates as "Peace to those entering and salvation to those leaving." In February 2001 the woodland areas were extensively covered with snowdrops and winter aconite growing between the mature beech trees along the drive to the house. The coach house is approached along an avenue of horse chestnuts and the original archway through which the carriages passed can still be seen.

*Albemarle and Mimie Cator*



*Trewsbury House in the time of Albemarle and Mary Cordelia when there were 18 bedrooms and a chapel*



Members of the Cator family thought the house to be a monstrosity but it would have been a wonderful country home for an idyllic childhood. It is clear that Albemarle at least spent a lot of his time elsewhere although the family says it was his favourite abode.

At his own expense in 1878/79 he restored the dilapidated Woodbastwick church of St Fabian and St Sebastian to the plans of Sir Gilbert Scott, RA, at a cost of £5000. He provided the funds for the living of the church, £350 pa in 1875 and he was the lay rector.

In 1905, just before his death, he and his son John had the organ installed near the font at the West End of the church. Among the several stained glass windows is the East window to Albemarle's two brothers who both died in 1859, John, an army Captain aged 24 and Bertie Albemarle aged 16. There are many memorials both inside and outside and also reference to the Cator vault in the churchyard.

When Woodbastwick Hall was burnt down in December 1882, Albemarle commissioned its rebuilding to the design of the architect, Mr Ewan Christian. It was completed in 1889, a redbrick mansion on a slightly different site with views over the river Bure and several broads. There were 52 rooms and 365 windows.

After WWII it was used as an Agricultural Training College and the Cator family lived in their house until 1971 when it was demolished.

The National School was built in the village at Albemarle's expense for 45 children and it also survived until the 1970s when the number of children on the roll had dropped to six. Mrs Cator was equally considerate and was responsible for the building of almshouses dedicated to St Christopher and a memorial well on the village green.<sup>3</sup>

Beckenham was not forgotten. The Beckenham Journal of May 1879 reported a much-appreciated gift of 5 acres of land to be used for allotments and grazing in the field called "Reddons" opposite the Old Parish Lane in Penge. The ground was drained with a new bridge over the stream and a hundred lime trees were planted to line the new access road.

A grand bazaar held at Beckenham Place was reported at length in the July 1<sup>st</sup> 1881 edition of the Beckenham Journal.

It was held to defray the debt on the building fund of St James's church and the Working Men's Club, Elmers End. HRH Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck in the presence of many Lords and Ladies, performed the opening ceremony. These included Sir John Farnaby Lennard, Bart and his wife and of course Mr and Mrs Albemarle Cator and the Reverend William Cator. £750 was made over the two days of the bazaar, enough to pay off the church debt and to contribute towards the other.

Albemarle donated £4000 to the rebuilding of St George's church.

He spent the last years of his life in seclusion at Happisburg, Norfolk. His wife had three houses built there, St Mary's, St John's and St Anne's. St Mary's was called a "butterfly" house because the centre branched out into two wings at either end. Albemarle was more rested at Happisburg and the house stayed in the family until it was sold by Kit's father, Peter Harry Cator in 1969. For a time it was a country club but now it has been returned to residential use in the hands of the computer king, Mr Ashton.

Albemarle's death certificate stated that although he died from apoplexy (a stroke) he had suffered from locomotor ataxia for 20 years, also from dementia and spastic weakness of the limbs.<sup>4</sup> Today the disease may have been treatable but at least from 1897 he was described as insane. The family believes that the cause was porphyria, the genetic disease suffered by George III. A committee represented him when it was necessary to draw up an agreement, for example that dated 14.5.1897 relating to the SouthEastern Railway stations and level crossings at New Beckenham and Clockhouse.<sup>5</sup>

Albemarle's funeral is described in the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1906 edition of the Beckenham Journal. The mourners,<sup>6</sup> with the exception of his widow who waited in the church, followed the cross bearer, choir and clergy and the wheeled bier. After the ceremony the coffin was placed in a grave lined with moss and primroses. It was a short way beyond the east end of the Woodbastwick church.



In Beckenham the whole peal and half-muffled peal was rung by the bell ringers of St George's seventy one times, denoting the age of Mr Cator. In the paper's obituary it was stated that "It is certain that Beckenham owes much to the Cator Estate for past prosperity. It was the Cator family that was largely responsible for making Beckenham a high-class residential district of considerable popularity. The death of Mr Albemarle Cator has removed one who was of considerable interest to Beckenham and the wish was expressed that Mr John Cator (his heir) might come to live in Beckenham"

The executors of his will proved London, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, were his widow, Mary and Thomas Henry Burroughs. He left £55,197-4s-10d.

Years after Albemarle's death, his youngest son, Christopher Arthur Mohun Cator met with a fatal accident at Landguard Manor, Shanklin, IOW. He had gone out alone with his gun and was found later terribly injured. This was reported in the Times of 7.12.1923. He was on a visit from Vancouver where he was in business.

Albemarle's widow, known as Minnie in the family, returned to Trewsbury after her husband's death and it became her dower house with her unmarried children until she died in 1929. A pedigree shows that she was 12<sup>th</sup> in descent from Edward I and 19<sup>th</sup> in descent from Philip III, King of France! The Harris seat at Hayne was sold nearly two hundred years ago when Christopher Harris died leaving only daughters. The entailed estates passed to his cousin, William Arundel. However the Harris arms survived on the arms at the front of the house at Trewsbury, three crescents within bordure argent.

<sup>1</sup>1871 census

<sup>2</sup>DoE Buildings of Special Architectural Interest: detached country house, dated 1876 on gabled porch, coursed rock face masonry with freestone dressings on offset plinth, tile roof, tall stone stacks. Gothic style. Squarish block with rear extension, 2 storeys. Entrance front has single story wing across most of the front with patterned embattled parapet, stepped buttresses with turrets, projecting gabled porch with pointed archway and row of trefoil headed fenestration.

Coat of arms on gable to the right.

Scattered fenestration, mostly stone mullion and transoms with arched lights or trefoil heads. South front has 2 gables, larger to the left with canted 2-storey bay. String course between floors.

In Aug 2001, Rod Head, the architect was able to show that the oldest bedroom contained joists in the ceiling which dated to the late 1700's, thus showing that Albemarle took over the house but did not originally commission its construction. There are deeds dated 1791 at the Glos RO, D182/III/97.

<sup>3</sup>Woodbastwick church booklet

<sup>4</sup>Death certificate of Albemarle Cator and [www.xrefer.com/entry/124935](http://www.xrefer.com/entry/124935)

<sup>5</sup>South Eastern Railway Act 1897 in confirmation of the Cator Agreement concerning the roads, bridges, stations and Sunday traffic in the New Beckenham area.

<sup>6</sup>Mr & Mrs John Cator (son and daughter in law)

Mr Henry Cator (grandson)

Lady Victor Seymour (daughter Elizabeth)

Mrs Charles Fellowes (daughter Mary)

Captain Albemarle Bertie and Mrs Cator (son and daughter in law)

Mr Christopher Cator (son)

Mr and Mrs G Talbot (son in law and daughter Gertrude)

Sir Henry Lennard (son in law and husband of Beatrice)

Miss Edith Cator (daughter)

Miss Diana Cator (daughter)

Miss Christobel Cator (daughter) [She married John Tabor of Gracechurch St, London, 1906. The Norfolk Record office holds a marriage settlement BRA 2511.]

Mrs Georgina Hawley (daughter)

Mr Conway Seymour (grandson)

The Rev. Father Henry William Cator (brother)

Mr Robert Cator (brother)

A long array of servants, estate hands and villagers

*The Cator Harris arms near the front entrance at Trewsbury*



During WW2, Trewsbury was occupied by the RAF and by Italian prisoners of war. Then it was purchased with 30 acres of land for about £8,000 by Major Trevor Price who had nothing to do with Price's candles in spite of the rumours! It was a much larger house than today and Major Price had both the chapel and the ballroom on the south side demolished. There were at least two flats which could be occupied separately but the cottage in the stable block was derelict. In the wood sloping down to the canal, there was a childrens' playhouse and an icehouse. There was a magnificent double row of elms down the drive which succumbed to Dutch elm disease.

In about 1960, Major Price sold the house for around £19,000 to a Mr Gold and it passed through various owners who gradually sold off the land. Other houses were built in the vicinity and stable conversions were carried out.

By 1990 it was owned by Mr & Mrs Willmet who have taken a great interest in the history of the house and bought back much of its land.

## Ch 13 THE STORY OF THE SILVER PLATE

In June 1911, an entire banqueting service of Elizabethan silver, twentytwo pieces, was on view at Christie's. Its condition was exceptionally fine and bore London hallmarks between 1581 and 1601. It was said to have been made from silver taken from the Spanish Armada! The story in the Harris family is that when the tyranny of invasion was past and the Armada scattered, Spanish silver was brought home as loot. The spoils permitted the making of additional pieces to extend their 1581 silver service to fifteen dishes and seven plates. They were hallmarked for 1599, 1600 and 1601 and carried the maker's mark, 3 trefoils, an SL monogram and a TE monogram.

Later the rim of each was engraved with the coat of arms of Sir Christopher Harris. The plate passed in about 1645 to his great nephew, an officer in the King's forces at Plymouth. To save it from the parliamentary troops, he hid it in a cave at Yealmpton near Dartmoor, packed carefully in a chest. There it lay until discovery in about 1827 by three employees of a Mr Splat of Brixham. They found it when enlarging the cave to store potatoes and it was declared treasure trove. However the family was able to show the Harris arms engraved on each piece and the claims of both Mr Splat and the British Museum were abandoned. Mary Molesworth Cordelia Cator of Trewsbury, Cirencester was the third daughter of Christopher Arthur Mohun-Harris and a descendant of the original Sir Christopher Harris to whom the silver plate had been presented. The silver service belonged to her! All except the smallest dish, which she gave to her eldest son, John, was put into the sale for the benefit of her daughters.

Most Elizabethan silver was melted down during the civil war. Although single pieces come up for sale from time to time, it was believed that no complete service existed anywhere, especially in so fine condition. The dishes are absolutely plain without chasing or embossing of any kind.

Reference: Times, June 12 1911, p4e.

## **Ch 14 DAUGHTERS AND SONS**

Albemarle and Mary Cator had ten daughters, born as follows: Louisa Ele(a)nor who died young in 1863, Elizabeth Margaret, Mary Wingfield 1864, Gertrude Harriet 1866, Beatrice Charlotte Emily 1868, Edith Louisa 1871, Georgina Marguerite 1870, Mabel Diana Frances 1872, Christabel Nona Penelope 1874 and Grace Granville Dieya 1878 who died in January 1883.<sup>1</sup>

Elizabeth Margaret's marriage to the Rev. Lord Victor Seymour at St Paul's, Knightsbridge on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1885 must truly have been one for the family album. Her magnificent white satin dress covered with Chantilly lace had a long embroidered train.

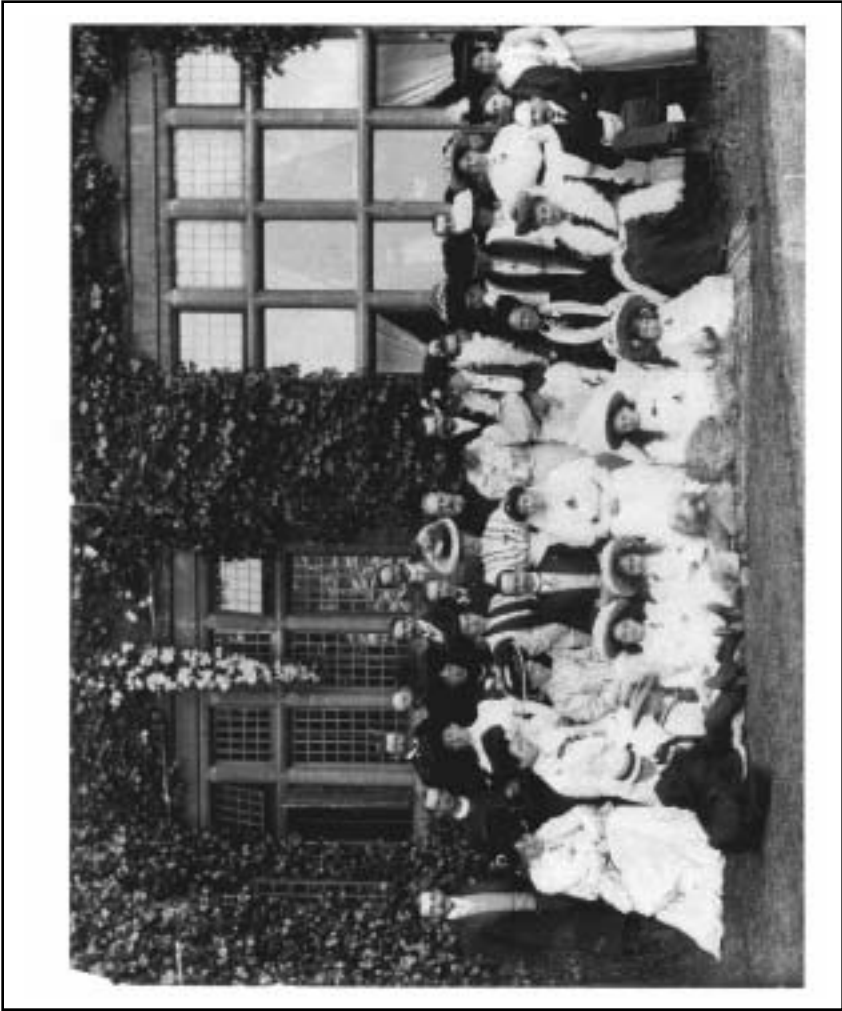
Her two young brothers carried it, Albemarle Bertie Edward aged eight and Christopher Arthur Mohan aged four.

Of her ten bridesmaids, seven were her sisters, all wearing cream, lace-trimmed dresses with sashes matched to high white pointed hats.<sup>2</sup>

Gertrude Harriet was present at the death of her father on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1906 and is entered on his death certificate. She had married on 3.6.1887 George John Talbot, eldest son of John Gilbert Talbot and grandson of the Hon John Chetwynd. There is a Talbot grave in the churchyard of St George's church Beckenham in area H on the left of the path when facing east towards St George's Rd. The inscription reads thus: "In Memory of the Hon Richard Gilbert Talbot son of James the Lord Talbot de Malahide died 10<sup>th</sup> August 1878 aged sixtyfive." The Rt Hon Sir George Talbot, barrister at law in the Inner Temple in 1887 and later Judge of the High Court of Justice was Knight of Falconhurst, Edenbridge, Kent and 6, Ormonde Gate, London. He died in 1938 leaving £107,400-3s-8d, his executors being Thomas George Talbot and John Frederick Eustace Stephenson, barristers at law.

Four more of the sisters married. Mary Wingfield's husband was Charles Arthur Fellowes J.P. of Shotesham Park, Norfolk, m. 25.4.1895. Beatrice married Sir Henry Arthur Hallam Farnaby Lennard of Wickham Court, West Wickham<sup>3</sup>, Kent the year before on 12.4.1894.

*The guests at Christabel Cator's wedding*



*In Christabel Cator's wedding photograph*, the children at the front left to right are Henry John Cator, Charles Fellowes, Jane Wilberforce and Anne Marno. The child extreme right is Elizabeth Bowes Lyons. The adults behind them from right to left are John Cator, Maude Cator, Minnie Cator, Beatrice Lennard, Christabel Tabor, the bride, John Tabor, Edith Cator and Ina Baker-Baker. Christopher Cator is standing extreme left in the row behind, next to Christian Cator, Gertrude Talbot, Violet Cator and Diana Cator. Immediately behind Diana at the back is the other son of Albemarle and Minnie, General Alby Cator, brother to John and Christopher.

Georgina married twice, firstly to Major Francis Hawley of the Royal Scot's Greys on 17.6.1899. When she was widowed in 1900 she remarried in 1909 to John Francis Baker J.P. of Elemore Hall, Durham; lastly Christabel's husband was Lt Col John Clement Tabor J.P. of Trewsbury, Cirencester whom she married on 7.6.1906. What superior marriages did the timber merchant John Cator's great great granddaughters achieve!

<sup>1</sup> See Burke's Landed Gentry for the Cator pedigree

<sup>2</sup> Report in the Beckenham Journal Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 1885

<sup>3</sup> Notes by John Cator, great grandson of John Barwell Cator

Major General ALBEMARLE BERTIE EDWARD

CATOR, CB

Albemarle Bertie Edward was one of three sons of Albemarle Cator and Mary Molesworth Cordelia who survived childhood although only the eldest, John, lived to a good old age.

Both Albemarle and his younger brother, Christopher, served in the South African War and they were in the Scots Guards in WWI, where Christopher gained the MC. Perhaps Albemarle who received a longer list of honours overshadowed Christopher. In 1923, Christopher was the victim of the fatal shooting accident on the IOW at Languard Manor, possibly by his own hand.

Albemarle Bertie Edward Cator (1877-1932) entered the army in 1897 in time for the South African War of 1899. Albemarle, known to his friends as "Alby", was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Queen's medal with six clasps and the King's medal with two clasps for his service between 1899 and 1902.

From 1908 to 1911 he instructed as many as one thousand five hundred officers and N.C.O.s of the Territorials at the London District School of Instruction, Chelsea, with tact and courtesy that endeared him to all.

In WWI he received the DSO in 1914 and the brevet of Lt Col and Cmdr Legion of Honour. A friend wrote as follows in his obituary." When Ludendorff's offensive of March 21, 1918 burst upon the Fifth Army front, Cator was commanding the right division of the British Army in touch with the French.

He refused his flank and held on without retirement for ten days until ordered to the Amiens area. The darker the hour, the more brightly shone the flame of his indomitable spirit. He was above all a human being.

This was a fact which those who served under him were not slow to grasp. His leadership rested on sure foundations of mutual respect and confidence."

In the Times of Saturday January 1st 1921, Colonel Albemarle Bertie Edward Cator was among those listed for the CB (Military Division). He was commanding the Scots Guards at the time, followed by the 10th Brigade from 1923 to 1935.



This included service in India as GOC of Lucknow from 1927 to 1931. At the time of his death he was GOC of the London District.

On his return from the S African War, he had married Violet Everleen Sutton, on 1.9.1903 and they had one son, Peter Harry, born 20.4.1908. After the 1914-1918 war, the marriage was dissolved and both remarried. Violet became Mrs Arkwright.

Albemarle married Eleanor Gertrude Atherley, the widow of Arthur Atherley from Landguard Manor, Shanklin IOW and daughter of J F Lumsden from Aberdeenshire on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1920.

Eleanor had daughters as was shown by an announcement in The Times 29.6.1923 of a dance she had given for her daughters after a dinner party the night before.

Peter Harry's marriage two years after his father's death, to Kythe Susan Blofeld in 1934 was by contrast long lasting and they share a plaque to their memory in the churchyard of the church at Woodbastwick. Peter Harry (1908-1979) married Kythe Susan Blofield (1909-1994) at St John's, Hoveton.

As reported in The Times 11.10.1934 the wedding was striking with the bride in gold brocade, the two pages in pale gold suits and the three bridesmaids in pale flame taffeta.

Albemarle's end came probably as he would have wished. He was a keen all-round sportsman especially riding to horse and hounds. His house, Trewsbury at Coates near Cirencester originated as a hunting lodge. It was while he was out hunting there that Albemarle had a heart attack and fell from his horse during the run from Ravenscroft Covert towards Braydon Hall He died at the nearby village of Minety and taken home to rest at Trewsbury.

The name Albemarle was passed on to his grandson Simon Albemarle John b 1937. There were two more grandchildren, Christopher Harry born 1942 and Susan Elizabeth born 1935 but sadly Albemarle did not see any of them.

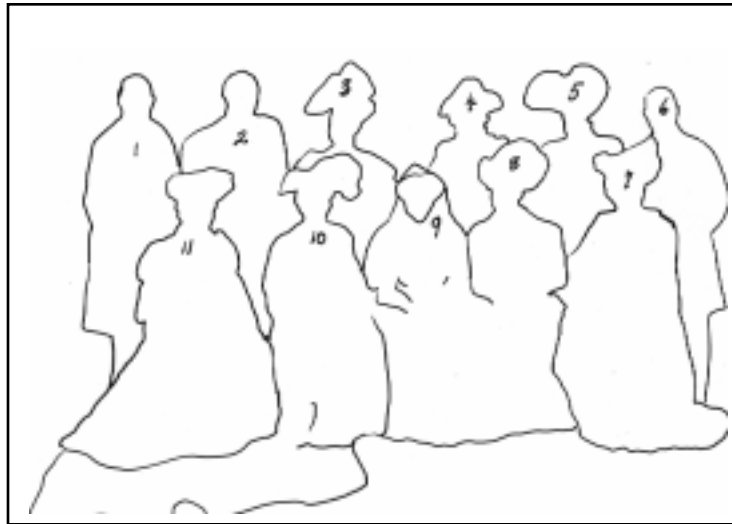
General Albemarle's funeral was an impressive affair for Londoners. The first part of the funeral service was held at the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks and then the gun carriage left in procession for the Hyde Park Barracks.

The massed bands of the Brigade of Guards accompanied the service and those attending in the large congregation were listed in the Times of Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 1932. A memorial service was held at the Guards Chapel, Caterham before the burial of Major General Cator at Coates with a lone piper of the Scots Guards leading the coffin to the graveside.

*The names of Albemarle's children as arranged in the Trewsbury photograph on the next page*

- 1 Christopher Arthur Mohun Cator (Kit)
- 2 John Cator (Jack)
- 3 Elizabeth Seymour (Libby)
- 4 Gertrude Talbot (Gerty)
- 5 Mary Fellowes
- 6 General Albemarle Cator (Alby)
- 7 Georgina Baker-Baker (Ina)
- 8 Diana Cator (Di)
- 9 Christabel Tabor (Chrissie)
- 10 Edith Cator (Edie)
- 11 Beatrice Farnaby Lennard (Bea)

*Albemarle's family at the wedding of Christabel*



## **PART III**

### **THE BROTHERS**

#### **Ch 15 WILLIAM CATOR, KCB, (1785-1866)**

William was the third of Joseph and Diana's sons, born at Beckenham 14.4.1785 and educated at Westminster and Woolwich. By the age of 18, he was second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery and served in the Peninsular War with distinction. Wellington mentioned him in dispatches on several occasions. Between military engagements in Spain, he hunted with his own hounds until they were transferred to Gibraltar. There the hounds formed the foundation of the well-known Calpe Hunt. He established another pack of hounds at Ringmer, Sussex, while commanding a troop of Horse Artillery. A full Colonel in 1846, he was made Director General of the Artillery in 1852. On the outbreak of the Crimean War, Lord Raglan appointed him Brigadier General but William's health began to fail and he was invalided home. After being made a KCB in 1865, he died at Eaton Place, London in 1866.

He married twice; his first wife was Penelope Anne, only daughter of Sir John Farnaby, Bt, on 30.3.1815 by whom he had two sons and four daughters.

The elder son born on 27.9.1816 at Ringmer, Sussex was John Farnaby and the younger was William Albemarle Bertie born 9.10.1820 at Carshalton. The girls were Maria Diana, Penelope Mary who died unmarried in 1830, Margarita Eliza and Frances Jane.

Margarita married William Courtenay Morland of Court Lodge, Lamberhurst, Kent and she died in 1897. Frances married Major Bertie Mathew Roberts 1.7.1852 and she died 15 years later on 21.9.1867. Penelope died in 1833 and William remarried to a widow, Mrs Nettleship.

John Farnaby Cator was educated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich from where in 1835 he received his commission in the Royal Artillery.

After service in the Ionian Islands, Spain and Canada he returned to England in 1852 and retired on half pay. He raised the Kent Artillery Militia and acted as its Lieutenant-Colonel Commander for many years.

There followed nearly 50 years of service in local government for which he became highly respected.

He became Chairman of the West Kent Quarter Sessions, County Alderman, Chairman of the Kent County Council, the Bromley Board of Guardians and the West Wickham Parish Council, a senior JP for Kent and presided over the Bromley and Beckenham Joint Hospital Board. In 1861, he assumed by Royal Licence the surname of Lennard, which came from his mother's family and he obtained his baronetcy in 1880. Sir John married three times. He married Laura, daughter of Edward Golding, in 1847 and they had two daughters, Penelope Ann Laura and Laura, before she died in 1850.

His second wife was Julia Maria Frances, daughter of Henry Hallam, the historian. They had twin daughters, Julia Hallam and Eleanor Eliza, another daughter, Eleanor and a son, Henry Arthur Hallam. When their mother, Julia, died suddenly on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 1888 aged 68, she was buried beside one of the twins. Eleanor Eliza had died in infancy in 1854. His third wife, Isabella (1833-1918) whom he married in 1890, was a daughter of Mr James Brand of Bedford Hill House, Surrey. The prayerbook of Penelope Ann Laura Lennard is in the Nancy Tonkin collection. It was a present to her by her aunt and Godmother, M Cator, on 6 August 1863.

His funeral on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> December 1899 was reported in the January 1900 Bromley Record. The centre of the church was filled with Sir John's former colleagues and the gallery with villagers. Four clergy took the service and the bearers were tenants of the estate. The polished oak coffin bore a brass plate inscribed Colonel Sir John Farnaby Lennard, Bart and a simple bunch of lilies of the valley. He was laid to rest at the peaceful churchyard adjoining Wickham Court. The family mourners are listed at the end.

Sir John's brother, William Albemarle Bertie became the Rector of Carshalton MA Oxford.

He married the widow, Aurelia, of Henry Craven on 4.5.1852. Henry Craven had died suddenly in 1845 at Wickham Hall.

His 29-year-old widow stayed on at Wickham Hall with her two children, John and Elizabeth. She was the daughter of Pieter van Tetrode of Harlingen, Holland. When she married the Rev. William Cator, they rented out Wickham Hall and lived at Carshalton.

William and Aurelia had a son Francis Tetrode born 30.5.1853.

#### Family mourners for Sir John Famaby Lennard

Mr John Cator

Sir Harry Lennard, the new baronet who led the widow.

Sir Harry's wife, Lady Beatrice Lennard, formerly Beatrice Charlotte Emily Cator of Woodbastwick Hall, daughter of Albemarle Cator. She had married Sir Henry Arthur Hallam (Harry) on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1894.

Sir John's unmarried daughter, Miss Julie Lennard who directed the choir. She was the honorary organist and choir mistress at the village church.

Mrs Penelope Packe and Master William (daughter from the first marriage, husband William Packe, banker, and grandson)

Mrs Laura Hoare (daughter from first marriage who had married William Hoare 2.5.1878)

Mrs Eleanor Edwards, Master and Miss Edwards (daughter from second marriage and grandchildren). Sir John's daughter, Eleanor had married Henry Herbert Edwards, Capt Welsh Fusiliers 17.7.1884 Mr & Mrs W T Brand, Mr A Brand, Mr Wilfred Brand and Mr George Brand (relatives of the widow).

The new baronet's small daughter, Mary Grace Hallam, baptised West Wickham in 1895 was not mentioned in the list of mourners. There were two other daughters but only one son, Stephen. According to his obituary in the Daily Telegraph, 28.4.1980, he died aged 80 in Vancouver, Canada leaving no heir to the baronetcy. Stephen Lennard had left to live in Vancouver in 1925. He returned briefly in 1928 when his father died but he became a Canadian businessman and President of SH Lennard and Co, investment dealers of Vancouver.

He served with the Scots Guards in WWI and with the BEF in WW2. He served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Army and in Persia, Iraq and India, retiring as Lt Col. He married Mary Isabel Latimer in Vancouver in 1928.

After her death in 1970, he married Margaret Jean, widow of Group Captain William Cumming.

Sir Stephen's ancestral home at Wickham Court, where the Lennard family had been resident for 350 years, became a residential hotel in 1931 and subsequently a teachers' training college.

#### References

Burke's Landed Gentry.

Bromley Record 1888, p310 and Jan 1900.

Document BRA 2511/at the Norfolk Record office of the monetary marriage settlement between Henry Farnaby Lennard of Wickham Court and Beatrice Cator.

"Vanished West Wickham" by Joyce Walker, p99-100.

Church records of St John's.



*Wickham Court, West Wickham*



## **Ch 16 THE WEST WICKHAM CONNECTION**

The church of St John the Baptist at West Wickham is built unobtrusively into the hillside looking eastwards across the valley towards Addington. Parts of the present church date from the middle 1400's. Sir Henry Heydon and his son, Henry, purchased the land and built a Manor house, Wickham Court, and repaired the church. The Lady Chapel, which has always been connected with the owners of Wickham Court, survived the renovations of 1844 and contains many of their memorials.

In the deluge years, 2000/1, the West Wickham bourne appeared, flooding the fields of Sparrows Den and the gleam of the water could be seen from the steep slope of the graveyard. At the top of the slope, a cluster of four memorials to the names Cator, Famaby, Hallam and Lennard crystallises the West Wickham connection, for the Cator was Maria Diana Cator(1819-1892) daughter of the late General Sir William Cator.



Five of William Cator's brothers and his two sisters were buried in their parents' tomb in the churchyard of St George's, the parish church of Beckenham but William and Charles are not there.

However if you go into the Lady Chapel of the West Wickham church there is a memorial on the North Wall to General Sir William Cator KCB, Commandant of B Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery, died May 11<sup>th</sup> 1866, aged 81 years.

The plaque is also Sacred to the memory of William's wife, Penelope Anne, only daughter of Sir John Farnaby Bt of Wickham Court and two of their children. Penelope Mary Cator was only 12 when she died at Boulogne sur mere 28.3.1830 and Charles Fitzroy Cator even younger when he died and was buried near Dublin 7.8.1834 aged 3 years. Later, his body was reinterred in the vault of Sir Charles Farnaby at West Wickham.

William's father in law, Sir John Farnaby, had four sons as well as his daughter Penelope but by 1833 all the children had died except for the eldest, the Rev, Sir Charles Francis Farnaby whose grave lies on the hillside next to Mary Diana Cator. One boy, William Thomas died at Midhurst, Sussex at the age of 16 in 1809. Another, John Samuel, died at St John's, Cambridge in 1813 when 23. The third was a lieutenant in the Bengal Artillery. He was killed storming Fort Cornelius in the island of Java in 1811 when only 19.

The large marble wall plaque on the North wall of the Lady chapel was raised to their memory by the only surviving child and brother, the Rev. Sir Charles Francis, AD 1834.

This same plaque shows that Sir John Farnaby's wife was Mary, only child and heiress of Samuel Lennard, formerly of Wickham Court. The eldest son of William and Mary's only daughter Penelope, John Farnaby Cator, adopted the name Lennard in 1861 instead of Cator and became Sir John Farnaby Lennard of Wickham Court. This was by the terms of his grandfather's will.

The other two graves on the hillside are to John Farnaby himself with two of his three wives and the other to his twin daughters who were children of his second wife, Julia Maria Frances. She was the daughter of the historian, Henry Hallam.

A brass plate on the windowsill of the North wall of the Lady Chapel is in memory of the family of Henry Arthur Hallam Farnaby (Harry) Lennard, grandson of Sir William through his son John Farnaby's second marriage, this time to Julia Maria Frances Hallam (1820-1888). Harry had married his 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed, Beatrice Charlotte Emily Cator. There are four children remembered on the plaque, Stephen Arthur, Mary Grace, Barbara Julia and Elizabeth Penelope all bearing also the names Hallam Lennard.

Close by on the left hand wall is the plaque to Sir William's son, now Colonel Sir John Farnaby Lennard who died 21 December 1899 aged 83 years and his three wives, Laura who died in 1850 aged 33 years, Julia (above) and Isabella who died in 1918 aged 84 years.

Henry Arthur's half sister, Penelope Ann Laura, the child of John Farnaby's first wife, Laura Golding, married the banker William Packe in 1875. There are memorials in the Lady Chapel to the Packe family. Christopher John Packe, son of William and Laura, was killed in action in the Matapo Hills, South Africa in 1896, aged 19. William Vere Packe DSO (1881-1947) and Mary Julia Packe (1892-1977) have a brass plaque on the sill of the North wall.

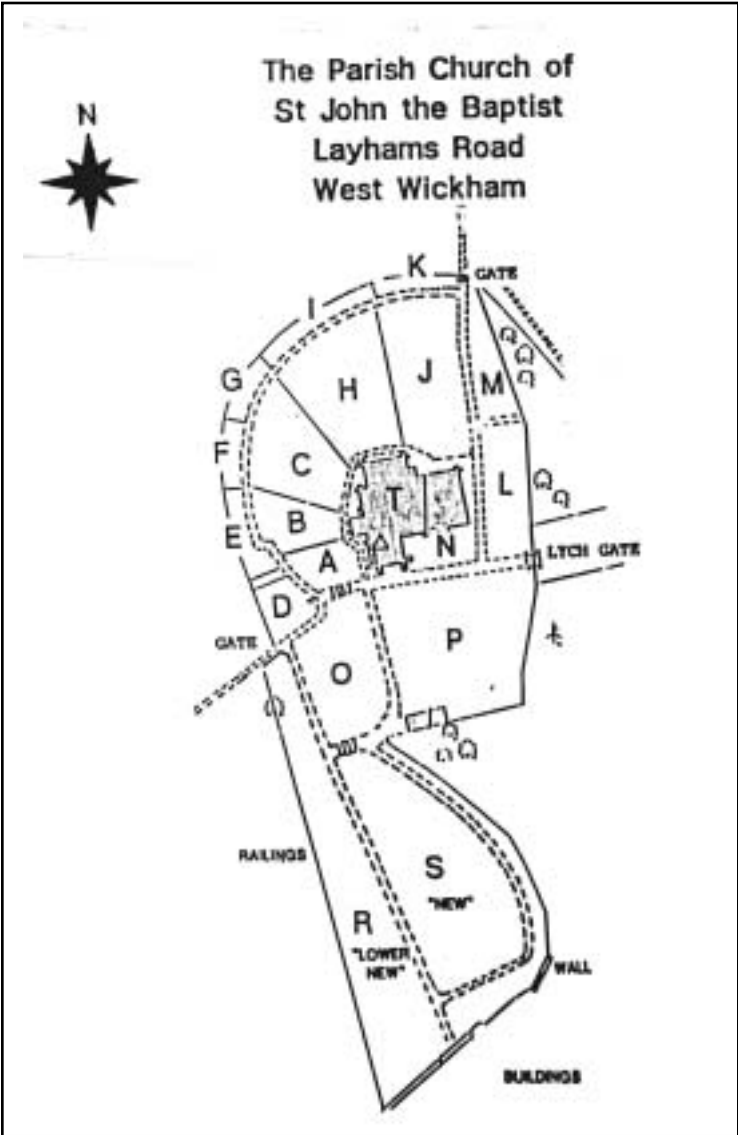
Further down the slope in the same area of the churchyard is the grave of Sir William Cator's grandson, William Bertie Roberts. One of William and Penelope's daughters, Frances Jane Cator, had married Major Bertie Mathew Roberts in 1852.

Their son William Bertie (1856-1899) served in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. When William Bertie was born, his father was Captain of the Militia in Prestwick, Manchester. In the same grave are Harry Bertie Roberts, priest for 40 years and Rector of the parish of West Wickham and William Bertie's wife, Camille Anna Olympia. They both died in 1924.

Another Roberts grave in the churchyard is to Sylvia Anna Bertie Roberts who died 14<sup>th</sup> January 1907 aged 15 years.

Two windows in the North aisle of the church commemorate William Bertie's parents. The first is to the two Cator sisters, Maria Diana Cator, died 1892 and Frances Jane Lennard Roberts, died 1867 and the second is to Bertie Mathew Roberts who entered into rest October 27<sup>th</sup> 1894.







*This is the headstone of the grave of the twin daughters, Eleanor and Julia who died 70 years apart. It is on the NE side of the church where the graveyard steeply looks over the valley*

*The West Wickham bourne seen from the Roberts' graves, 2001*



## **Ch 17 JOHN JULIUS ANGERSTEIN (1735-1823), Lloyd's underwriter**

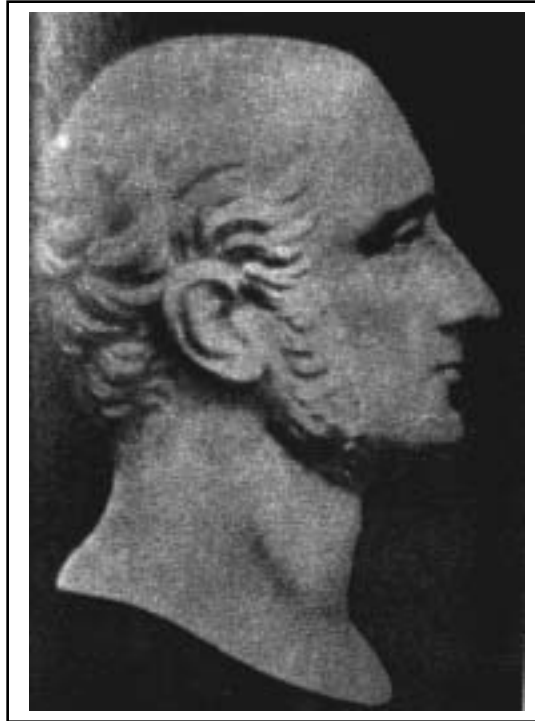
John Julius was born in St Petersburg, perhaps one of the many illegitimate children of Catherine the Great this time with Andrew Poulett Thomson, a Londoner.

At the age of 15 he emigrated to England and became a successful underwriter for the New Lloyd's Coffee House. He was a close friend of William Pitt the younger and a distinguished patron of the Arts. After his death, his art collection formed the nucleus of the National Gallery when it was bought for £57,000.

Although he had a sumptuous house at 100, Pall Mall, he and his family lived at Blackheath from 1774. His villa, Woodlands, had a view to the Thames over open fields. It remained in the family after his death until 1870 and today it is the Greenwich Local History Library in Mycena Rd. He married Anne Muilman and they had two children, Juliana and John. John married Amelia Lock and of their seven children, it is the last, William born at Woodlands in 1811, who is of interest to the Cators.

In 1842, William Angerstein married Mary Anne, daughter of Edward and Mary Nettleship and they had seven children too. When Edward died, his wife Mary Nettleship (nee Parkin) had remarried. Her husband this time was Sir William Cator, widowed when his wife Penelope Anne Farnaby died in 1833. So Mary became Dame Mary and after Sir William's death in 1866 she went to live in Clifton Lodge, Croydon Rd, Penge. There she was a boarder in the care of a surgeon. Her daughter Mary Ann Angerstein was named as her sole next of kin when papers of administration were taken out in April 1871. See Cator wills.

The reasons that caused the Angersteins to move out of the centre of London with its mud, smoke, rats and disease were those behind John Cator's venture into the housing market. Trade was booming and as a timber importer, John Cator had the finances to tempt the City Fathers out of London to his Blackheath estate.



*The Rev. Charles Cator, born 1786*

### **Ch 18 CHARLES CATOR (1786-1872) with WIDESPREAD DESCENDANTS**

According to the St George's, Beckenham records, Charles was born 30th September 1786 the fourth son of Joseph Cator and Diana. There were four sponsors at his Beckenham baptism; Duncan Davidson, John Thomson of Barkshire, Lincs, Mary Cator widow of Bromley and his aunt, Jane Bradford, also a widow. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford where he gained his BA in 1810. He was Rector of Carshalton, Kirksmeaton and Beckenham but he left the local work largely to the curates and in 1835 he exchanged the living of Beckenham for that of Stokesley, Yorkshire.

Borrowman reports him as a very handsome but also very extravagant man and this was also the recorded opinion of the rest of the family!<sup>1</sup>

He married twice: 2.5.1809 his first wife by whom he had six children was Philadelphia (d. 20.8.1840), daughter of George Osbaldeston of Yorkshire. She was the sister of a man known as "Old Squire" of Hutton Bushell, Yorkshire. As an undergraduate at Brasenose, Osbaldeston hunted a pack of hounds and later the Quorn at Pytchley. His knowledge of hounds was unrivalled. He was physically very strong and once for a bet of 100 guineas undertook a ride of 200 miles in 10 consecutive hours.

Using relays of horses at every four miles and riding at 26 miles an hour he covered the distance with 1 hour 18 minutes to spare. He also fought one of the last duels in a fight that showed great courage by both parties. Lord George Bentinck, short sighted and no pistol shot, stood up against Osbaldeston who fired into the air without aiming even though he was reckoned one of the finest shots in England. Philadelphia's cousin was Richard, Bishop of London. He invited Charles Cator to preach at St Paul's cathedral and the sermon was published<sup>2</sup>

There was another less favourable occasion when Charles appeared in the Times. Some boys who were playing "hockey" in front of the house annoyed him. He borrowed a stick from the boy's mother and used it on the boy and his brother until the stick broke. Charles's defence was that the mother had asked him to beat her sons but he was fined £5 because he was said to have been in a "great passion".<sup>3</sup>

In April 1849, Charles married again. His second wife was the daughter of a Mr Sainsbury. He died at Stokesley on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1872.

His four sons were Charles, born 3.8.1812 who died unmarried in 1848, George Albemarle born 4.6.1817 and John Bertie born 3.2.1820, both of whom married and had families and lastly Frederick Sawbridge Wright born 3.2.1822 of the Madras CS who died unmarried 3.2.1854.



His daughters were Philadelphia Sophia born 4.6.1811, who also remained unmarried and proved her father's will (he left less than £450) and Mary Elizabeth born 18.8.1814 who married the Rev. Charles James Sterling. She died leaving children 14.7.1874.

George Albemarle Cator married Mary Susan Townsend daughter of the Rev George from Durham and their family was made up of four boys and five girls. George Charles born 13.8.1841 lived in Natal where he had issue.

Frederick Townsend born 9.3.1843 moved to Melbourne where he had a family and James Benny Townsend born 3.6.1845, also had children. The other boy, Albemarle Bertie died young and the five girls were Elizabeth Mary Philadelphia, Emily Jane, who married Thomas Nye at St Albans in 1871, Susan, Amy Sophia and Mary Louisa.

John Bertie Cator became a sea Captain in the RN. He married Louisa daughter of James Hamilton of Fintragh House, Co Donegal on 24.11.1849 and shortly afterwards in 1850 embarked on HMS Intrepid on the expedition to the Arctic in search of John Franklin who was seeking the Northwest passage.<sup>4</sup> They had two daughters and five sons. Four of the boys emigrated to Texas, USA. They were:-

Arthur John Locke born 2.9.1850 who died in a shooting accident 28.11.1906, leaving his wife Jennie Ludlow and four children.

James Hamilton born 4.9.1852 married Edith Fullerton from Hull and left a son and two daughters when he died 4.10.1927.<sup>5</sup>

Leslie Steward born 5.1.1860 married Bessie Donaldson, leaving one son and three daughters when he died 16.8.1928.

Bertie Osbaldeston born 5.1.1861 married Vina Mahlmann in 1900 but still had time to have five sons and one daughter before he died 23.8.1921.

Charles Frederick born 5.5.1854 became a Captain in the Merchant service. He married Emily Elizabeth Swain and left a large family of whom more later.

One of the two girls, Clara Louisa, emigrated to Quaker City, Ohio, USA. Her husband was William Clayton McCrea whom she married on Christmas Day 1887.

They both lived long lives because William died in 1949 and Clara was 96 when she died the next year 22.2.1950.

The other girl was Marion Bertie, known as Minnie. She married a retired merchant navy sea captain on 24.9.1883, Capt Arthur Richmond Mills from Chepstow, Mon.

Louisa Hamilton Cator, who did not die until 28.12.1895, must have been a lonely lady after her husband died in 1887 with only Minnie of all her children living in England. At the time of John Bertie Cator's death they were living at 6, Pryme St in Hull where John Bertie held the post of the Conservator of the river Humber.

He had been raised to the rank of Admiral and Louisa was Lady Louisa Hamilton Cator. He was buried at St Peter's, Askern.

Their son, Charles Frederick, was a captain for the P&O Line and went back and forth from England to India where his family lived. At the time of his death he was a Marine Superintendent for the Indian General Steam Navigation Co. Ltd and he was buried in the family vault at Lower Circular Rd cemetery, Calcutta. His wife eventually emigrated to Melbourne, Australia where she died.

The eldest son of Charles Frederick Cator and Emily Swain was Cedric Rudolf born 1877 but he died later that year when 5 months old. Their second son, Stuart Frederick, born 14.3.1884, served in the S. African war and with the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars and he was unmarried when he was killed at Perrone 21.6.1917 in WWI. The family thought English cannon killed him while he was trying to save a friend and that he was posthumously awarded the VC. Sadly there is no record of this. The medal records say that he was awarded the Victory and British medals, which perhaps to his mother in Calcutta seemed to be the Victoria Cross.

The third son was Hamilton Charles born June 1889. He was drowned in the river Hooghly at Culgong, 12.12.1893 while looking over the side of his father's ship for his model boat.

The fourth son and youngest of the family, Leonce Carlton, born 1895 died at six months.

The parents were luckier with their four girls. The eldest, Audrey Emily Theodora, was born on board a P&O vessel during a storm in the Bay of Biscay on 29.8.1885 but baptised in Calcutta a month later. She married Alfred James Agacy son of Charles Seth Agacy from Armenia 17.4.1907 and had seven children.

There were three boys followed by four girls, two of whom died as infants. The second girl was Ivy Eliza Osbaldeston who had children by Vivian Weatherall whom she married in 1907.

The third girl was Fredricka Swain Bertie born 1887 who emigrated to Sidney, Australia. She married John Peters in 1916 architect and they had children but the marriage was dissolved. The last girl, Dorothy Alberta Albemarle, born 1893 married Kenneth Robertson Baxter in March 1912 but died in India in 1914 from erysipelas when only 21

The "family whispers" in the above account come from a correspondence held by Bromley Local Studies from June Bell Freeman in 1965 and more recently in 1993. She is the granddaughter of Audrey Emily Theodora through Evelyn Margaret Agacy, born 31.1.1914, the fifth of Audrey's children. Evelyn married Thomas Edward Bell of Lockerbie, Dunfriese, Scotland and June was born in 1939. She has two daughters and two sons, one of whom, Russell, visited England from Australia in 1992. The other source is the Burke's Cator pedigree of Landed Gentry.

<sup>1</sup>John Barwell Cator's grandson, John (Jack), wrote these notes given to me by Peter John Cator from Condicote and Kit Cator from Woodbastwick.

<sup>2</sup>The Times 29.10.1839

<sup>3</sup>The Times 23.11.1846, p7

<sup>4</sup> John Franklin's expedition to find the Northwest Passage in 1846 in the ships Terror and Erebus resulted in the deaths of all 135 of the crew after they were trapped in the ice for two winters. Franklin died during the first winter and the surviving members were lost while trying to make their way south overland. Letters by John Bertie Cator to the Admiralty are held by the British Library in the Manuscripts department.

He wrote from Whale Island in June 1850 “My friend Osbourne’s craft beats me sailing having so much canvas when the winds are light but under steam I have the advantage although our machinery is a disgrace to those who put it in. We have had very fine weather since we left. You would have been delighted to have seen the innumerable icebergs. In fact at times it looked as if we were sailing this archipelago of sugar loaves.” He wrote a month later “we need a more powerful screw to cut through the ice like a knife.” (ADD 35306/28, 32)

In the year 2000, a Canadian vessel navigated the Northwest Passage in 9 weeks finding clear water instead of pack ice all through. They found bodies preserved in the ice that suggested the crew had been poisoned by lead solder on the cans of food.

Roald Amundsen first conquered the passage in 1906 in a voyage that lasted three years and in spite of global warming it is still a risky venture today.

<sup>5</sup>James Hamilton Cator is the subject of an article in the Handbook of Texas on line, a project of the University of Texas and the State Historical Association.

The “Big 50” Sharps rifle with which he killed 16,000 buffalo in 3 years is on display at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. It is interesting that during his retirement, James devoted his time to improving his cattle stocks by selective breeding, much as the Woodbastwick Cators were doing in Norfolk, England.

## **Ch 19 GEORGE ALBEMARLE CATOR** **(1817-1899), the reluctant bridegroom**

Charles and Philadelphia's second son, George Albemarle, born Ripon, Yorkshire on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1817 became a wool merchant. He married Mary Susan Townsend<sup>1</sup> 12.2.1839 but this did nothing for his career. Nearly two years later, on 23.12.1840, he was declared bankrupt at the Commissioners Rooms in Leeds.<sup>2</sup>

His first son, George Charles, was born in August 1841 followed by Frederick Townsend in 1843 and James Benny Townsend in 1845. There were five girls and another boy born in 1851, Albemarle Bertie, who died young. George Charles went to Natal, Frederick Townsend to Melbourne and James Benny Townsend became a master mariner. James Benny died in 1897 in Gibraltar at the Colonial Hospital shortly before the death of his father with probate to his solicitor for £2,125.

Their parents had separated many years before although Mary Susan did not die until 17.3.1889. Probate of her will was granted to her daughter Susan Cator and she was declared the wife of George Albemarle.

However in the 1881 census for 177, Sandringham Rd, Hackney,<sup>3</sup> George was a general commission agent, living with his schoolmistress partner (as wife), Emily, 42 and two children, Albemarle, 13 and his sister, Emily, 15, an assistant teacher. It was not until George Albemarle wrote his will in April 1896 that he married Emily in Hackney. Both the marriage and the signing of the will took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> April followed a few months later by their son Albemarle's marriage to Edith Jones, 11.7.1896.<sup>5</sup>

George and Emily died within eighteen months of each other when they were living at Dalston, Middlesex, although Emily was twenty years younger than her husband. George died 16.2.1898 at the age of 80, leaving just £60 to his widow, Emily Augusta. Emily died at 61 on 31.8.1899 leaving £378 to their son, Albemarle, a jeweller's clerk.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cator pedigree from Burke's Landed Gentry

<sup>2</sup>Times 23.12.1840, p 6e.

<sup>3</sup>1881 census RG11/0298/36

<sup>4</sup> Two wills proved London 11.2.1899 and 25.10.1899; also the burial records of Abney Park Cemetery for area FO6, 4808/4810. Another burial for Edith Maud Cator, aged 4 in section HO8, 2815 on 29.7.1879 could have been their daughter.

<sup>5</sup> Marriage certificates for both George Albemarle in April 1896 and Albemarle in July 1896. Emily Augusta was the daughter of Thomas Samuel Bambury, Gentleman. Augustus Theodore and Albert Yate Bambury were witnesses, possibly her brothers. Edith was the daughter of a chocolate manufacturer, Robert Edward Jones. Both marriages took place at St Mark's church, Dalston.

## MARSHALL CATOR the TEXAN

The internet is a good source of stories about the descendants of John Bertie Cator who went to the USA to make their fortunes. The brothers James and Bob (Arthur Locke) Cator had been trained as engineers and draughtsmen but John Bertie could not find them suitable posts in the British Empire. He suggested that they would be better if they farmed the golden lands of Kansas after hearing the reports of the Kansas Land and Immigration Company.

In 1871, James and Bob found themselves in the alien world of Kansas farmers. Being Cators they were more proficient at hunting than farming and they turned their skills to hunting buffalo, thereby contributing to the sad demise of the American Indians. They also killed coyotes and wolves for bounty.

December 1873 found them in the Texas Panhandle. They were caught in severe weather on Christmas Day along North Palo Duro Creek. They waited out the winter in a dugout they constructed against an earthwall from cottonwood pickets and buffalo hides.

They continued trading buffalo hide until 1877 when there were not enough animals left. Resourceful as ever, in 1878 they established a trading Station called Zulu Stockade at North Palo Duro Creek. Bob worked out a freight trail to Dodge City to obtain supplies. Settlers, ranchers and soldiers stopped off there and the first Hansford County post office (as it became) was opened there in December 1880 with Bob as the postmaster.

James returned to England in 1879 to recover from the ague with his news of opportunities in Texas. This influenced the younger members of John Bertie's family to follow their elder brothers to the Zulu Stockade. Bertie Osbaldeston joined them in 1879, quickly becoming *Bert O*, with his sister Clara and Jennie Ludlow who married Bob in 1882. They were the first white women to settle in the Panhandle north of the Canadian River.

Back in Hull, James had met the Edith Land the daughter of his physician Dr John Fullerton Land and he promised to marry her later.

Misfortune in the next few years delayed the marriage until 1887. Edith arrived at Dodge City with her brother, Arthur Land, to find that James had built them a fine stone house. James became the first County Judge of the new county Hansford and Arthur Land the first County Treasurer.

By this time Bob and his wife Jennie had given up ranching and moved to Oregon.

Clara and her husband Clayton McCrea took over the stockade and the fourth Cator brother, Leslie Stewart, joined them with his bride, Bessie Donaldson. From 1898 to 1900, Leslie was the County Judge.

So what happened to Bert O? He operated a lumber and grain firm in Hansford and served as County Sheriff from 1893-95 and 1900-09. He married Vina Mahlmann in 1900 and they had five sons and one daughter.

Marshall Cator was one of the boys, born in a sod house on Palo Duro Creek near Morse in 1902. Today he lives an active life on the ranch he bought in 1926 near Sunray, 20 miles west of his birthplace.

He began riding at the age of 11 and still saddles up to help neighbours move their cattle. He spent his life buying and selling cattle, mostly Herefords and says he has roped a "zillion" for branding! He was too busy managing his cattle operations in seven states and cropping the land to marry but he has generously donated large sums to a family Program Campus. He owes his longevity to "keeping going" and "not sitting down in that rocking chair" Marshall Cator was honoured recently with the Chester memorial Award during the National Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Awards at Oklahoma City.

### References

Internet. Handbook of Texas online: Cator James Hamilton; search engine Google, Marshall Cator.  
Burke's Landed Gentry



## **Ch 20 BERTIE CORNELIUS CATOR,** **ADMIRAL (1787-1864)**

Bertie Cornelius was the fifth son of Joseph and Diana Cator, born 26th September 1787 at Beckenham. His mother, Diana, was the sister of Admiral Sir Albemarle Bertie whose names were repeatedly used by the Cator family from henceforth.

When Bertie Cornelius first entered the Navy in April 1800, it was on his Uncle Albemarle's ship, the Windsor Castle 98. His uncle was then Flag-Captain to Sir Charles Cotton on the Home station. Bertie then joined as midshipman several frigates in turn, the Glory, Malta, Carysport and Hydra.

They were employed in the capture of privateers in the Mediterranean. On December 14<sup>th</sup> 1806, he was promoted to Acting-lieutenant of the brig, Delight, which was employed in conveying despatches between the Archipelago and Egypt, also to England.

There followed various feats of daring. He was instrumental in saving his ship during a tremendous hurricane, joined the Foudroyant off Brest in June 1807 and then took command of the Leopard, Sapphire and Otter sloops. He was particularly distinguished when blockading the Isles of France and Bourbon at the capture of St Rose but while travelling to the Mauritius in charge of the Ranger transport he was captured by two French frigates.

Fortunately he was exchanged in time to take command of the Bombay Anna, a ship of the East India Company. Promotion to Commander in 1814 followed and Post-Rank a few months later. Bertie Cornelius served off Calcutta, in the Baltic and on the coast of America.

He found time to marry in 1816 to Sophia, only child of Michael Atkinson Esq of Mount Mascal, North Cray, Kent. They had two sons. The eldest, Bertie Cornelius Jnr, (1816-1842) Lieut RN died unmarried while on service in the China Seas. He was buried on Nankin Island.

His brother, Albemarle Bertie, married 23.12.1851 Henrietta Knox with whom he had a daughter, Henrietta.

There were also three sisters, Sophia who died unmarried in 1882, Emma Elizabeth Bertie who married Thomas Butler in 1861 and Louisa Jane Frances who married Lt Col George Augustus Graham Vernon in 1842.

The birth brief of Patrick Theobald Tower (Butler), 28<sup>th</sup> Lord Dunboyne, b.1917 deposited at the SoG shows his descent from Emma Elizabeth Bertie Cator.(Vol 10/110)

*(Emma Elizabeth Bertie Cator 1822-1905=Thomas Butler of Princes Gate, London 1814-1893; Laura Butler 1881-1945 = Francis Fitzpatrick Tower 1859-1944; Dora Isolde Butler Tower b.1884 = FitzWalter George Probyn (Butler) 1874-1945; Patrick Theobald Tower (Butler) b. 1917, London.)*

The will of the Admiral's cousin Emma Bertie included a payment of £300 to Bertie Cornelius in 1840, which Emma said was for a debt that her father, Sir Albemarle Bertie had incurred at least 16 years before!

Bertie Cornelius Snr was made a Rear Admiral in 1851, a Vice Admiral in 1856 and was promoted to Admiral on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1862 a few months before his wife died in November of the same year. He died two years later in August 1864.

## **Ch 21 THOMAS CATOR, RECTOR of KIRBY SMEATON and WORMERSLEY**

Thomas (1790-1864) was the sixth son of Joseph and Diana Cator. His wife, whom he married 25.9.1825, was Lady Louisa Frances Lumley daughter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Scarborough. The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl, the Rev. John Lumley, died in a fall from his horse while hunting 21.2.1835. Lady Louisa outlived her husband Thomas by over 20 years since she died aged 90, 7.1.1885.

The Lumley pedigree can be traced back to Robert de Lumley from Lumley on the River Wear, Co Durham in about 1133, presumably kin to Sir Robert de Lumley b c1272 whose mother was Isabel, daughter of Robert the Bruce, King of the Scots.

Thomas was the vicar of Woodbastwick from 1821 to 1836 but he was never resident at the vicarage. After his marriage he settled in Yorkshire where he held the livings of Wormersley and Kirk Smeaton, leaving a curate to take his place at Woodbastwick!

Thomas and Louisa had six sons and four daughters. Their first child, Savile Thomas lived less than a year from 13.7.1826 to 5.5.1827 but John Thomas born 29.3.1829 joined the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers and later married Katherine Sarah Swann 11.10.1860. They had a son, Bertie John Lumley born 16.8.1861 and a daughter, Ursula Frances Gwendoline, who died young in 1866.

The remaining four boys were Thomas William (1829-1900) who married Jane Louisa, daughter of Rear Admiral Charles Sotheby, William Lumley Bertie (1834-1919), Charles Oliver Frederick (1836-1876) and Frederick Henry (b.1838).

Their daughters were Louisa Maria Sophia who died unmarried on 11.4.1886, Maria Harriet Elizabeth who married Col Charles Clitheroe Gore in 1875 and Harriet Anna Charlotte who died an infant in 1833.

When Thomas Snr died on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1864, he left the small sum of under £200.

Probate was granted at Wakefield to the Rev. William Lumley Bertie Cator who was both Rector of Eakring, Notts and Hon Canon of Southwell Cathedral He died unmarried in 1919. Both Charles Oliver Frederick and Frederick Henry married, the latter marrying twice, with children from both of his marriages.

Frederick Henry's first marriage ended in divorce in 1881. He was 25 when he married at Church Hill, near Berkeley in Gloucestershire on December 1<sup>st</sup> 1863. His wife was 7 years younger. They had four children and lived on an allowance from Thomas, his father. They subsequently lived at Eastbridge Crondall near Famham. When the co-respondent for the divorce, Captain Haynes of the 107<sup>th</sup> Regiment, came to Aldershot in 1879, he became acquainted with Mr and Mrs Cator and eventually eloped with Frederick Henry's wife in October 1880.<sup>1</sup>

### CHARLES OLIVER FREDERICK CATOR

Charles Oliver Frederick was the fifth of six sons. He was born to the Rev. Thomas Cator and Lady Louisa Frances Lumley on 21.4.1836.<sup>2</sup> Charles gained his MA at Cambridge and became a barrister at law. He was the only one of his family who came to live in Beckenham where he assisted his Uncle Peter with the administration of the Cator estate. On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1865 he had married Isabella Maria, daughter of Sir George Baker and in May 1867, he took out a 99-year lease from Albemarle Cator for a property "Oakwood" at 35, Southend Rd on Stumps Hill.<sup>3</sup>

He invented a self-registering anemometer and used it to record the strong winds that were experienced in Beckenham from 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1868. He sent a report to the Times of 18.12.1868 detailing his findings, including the felling of an elm that demolished a brick wall in the violent gales of the early morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Did it compare with the gales in Kent of 1987, which reduced the seven oak trees of Sevenoaks, Kent to one? His lowest barometric height was 29.177 ins at midday on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Charles and Isabella had only one child, a son, Charles George Lumley, born 26 January 1872.

Doubtless there would have been more children but Charles died from blood poisoning 10.12.1876 at the Hall, Beckenham. This had been the residence of Peter and Martha Cator who died in 1872 and 1873 respectively. His will proved at the Principal registry by one of his brothers, the Rev. William Lumley Bertie Cator of Eakring, Notts, left £4,000 but it was resworn in 1893 at £12,000. Isabella survived him for a lifetime because she did not die until 1927.

She had been living at 4, Walton St. Kensington but she died at the Manor House, Bexley and left over £17,000 to her son.

Charles George Lumley was educated at Malvern and Trinity College Cambridge, MA in 1895 and on 1.6.1905 he married Adeline Louisa Blois, 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter of Sir John Ralph Blois, 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet.

He served through WWI as Lt in the RNVR and his younger son, Peter Dudley Charles Lumley, served in WWII in the RN.

Isabella had five grandchildren, two boys and three girls to cheer her widowhood. The boys did not marry and so the Cator name died out but the girls each married and had families.

#### References

<sup>1</sup> The Times 20.1.1881, p4c

<sup>2</sup> Burke's Landed Gentry

<sup>3</sup> Accession 989, box 10, Bromley Local Studies Library

## **Ch 22 THE KENT KIDNAPPING**

Agnes was the daughter and only child of Capt Edward Nares RN. She married Frederick Edward Thomas Lumley Cator who was the grandson of Thomas Cator and Lady Louisa Frances Lumley but was left a widow when Frederick died 8.3.1915. Her husband left Agnes £6,626.

It was Frederick and Agnes's daughter, Vera Muriel, born 22.8.1892, whose story appeared in the Times on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1927 under the heading "Kent Kidnapping Charge" in which she was known as Muriel.

Muriel's marriage to Leonard Basil Loder Corfe of Penshurst, Kent, in 1919 had ended in divorce leaving their two children in Leonard's custody. Muriel remarried in August 1927, this time to George Stephenson, an undischarged bankrupt. He was also known as George Smith and George Richardson.

Muriel and George went to live with Muriel's mother, Agnes Sophia. She leased a house at 71, Gloucester Place and Agnes hoped that Leonard Corfe might allow her two grandchildren, Algitha Dorothy and Arthur Edward Nares Cator, to stay there.

Muriel thought that her former husband was neglecting the children and took him to court at Tonbridge where the case was dismissed with costs of 30 guineas to Muriel. Then George Stevenson kidnapped the children and took them to the house at Gloucester Place to try to prove neglect. It was the opinion of a police surgeon that they were neglected and meanwhile they were well cared for by Agnes. But then criminal proceedings against the children's father were dismissed and George had to pay £50 towards the cost of the prosecution!

Two months later, Agnes was forced to apply for an injunction against her daughter and George Stevenson to remove them from her house at 71, Gloucester Rd. George Stevenson was a man of overbearing manner and temper. He had dismissed the servants and made alterations to the premises.

When Agnes tried to take a holiday with some friends, George demanded that she signed a document giving the use of the house to him. Agnes was granted the injunction by the court at which neither George nor her daughter, Muriel, appeared. The letter written by George for Sophia to sign was as follows.

“Dear Muriel and George, In consideration of the work you had done in the house and the fact that you are responsible for the lighting, heating, food and servants with the exception of Mrs Mead and Mrs Hinkston, I wish you to use the house as your home and to have the use of the study and schoolroom, the drawing room floor and the top floor. This is to be your home from now on until the expiration of my tenancy of the house.” He also demanded that Sophia handed over certain securities to him.

#### References

Times 26.11.1927 and 12.1.1928

Will of Frederick Edward Thomas Lumley Cator proved  
London 8.5.1915

Burke's Landed Gentry.

## **Ch 23 PETER CATOR (1796-1873), barrister**

Peter Cator was the youngest child of Joseph and Diana Cator, born 7<sup>th</sup> April 1796. He became a barrister-at-law after his education at Trinity College, Cambridge. He married Martha, daughter of Gilbert Alder of Leytonstone, Essex on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1823 and spent the first part of his working life in Madras as Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Indian Civil Service.

He founded the Peter Cator Madras Prize Fund to encourage Biblical and other studies for lay persons of the British Crown educated exclusively in India.<sup>1</sup> Peter is highly commended by Mr W. Gray of the Church Missionary Society as follows: "Among true friends of India Mr Peter Cator deserves honourable mention. He spent many years in this land and retired some years since to England. There is a peculiar value attached to this scheme of Madras Prizes. They are a protest against the exclusively secular character of the education which the Government is bestowing on the Hindus."

An article published by Stamp News the Australian monthly magazine described a letter written by Emma Bertie from "The Oakery", Beckenham dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 1824.<sup>2</sup> She writes "I suppose you heard that Peter has an offer to go to India with Mr Palmer who is an old friend of John Cator's and is appointed a Judge at Madras.

When he is to set off is uncertain- at one time he was in such a hurry he bought an immense quantity of things, now he hesitates and talks of next year, but as another young man is ready (if Peter is not) to go, I shall not be astonished to hear he and his wife and child are not to lose the opportunity that offers by ships that he will soon sail-Of course it worries my Aunt a little as she must form different plans in what way to dispose herself when they leave her. Bertie Cator's house is still full of workmen of all sorts, I have not been there, but I understand it is the utmost confusion- I have seen her only once. John and his family are at Worthing and I have not been any where which will I hope be a sufficient excuse for the stupidity of this letter- but believe me my dear Sir, Yours Truly, Emma Bertie"



The letter was written to Charles de Coetlogon Esq of Ashford, Staines, Middlesex.

Earlier in the letter, Emma refers to living in Brighton, which she prefers were it not for the expense and her limited finances. She was also waiting for a letter from Louisa Cox from Essex who had possibly visited Charles when he was ill.

It is likely that Emma was writing from the house of the M.P. Thomas Peregrine Courtenay who lived at The Oakery (Clay Hill) in Beckenham. He was certainly living there when his wife died in 1815 followed by his daughter, Anne, in 1818.

Also in 1818 he was one of several locals who subscribed to the opening of Bromley Rd School next to St George's church in Bromley Rd and in 1821 he is recorded in the Beckenham census of May 28th.

Emma was the eldest daughter of Sir Albemarle Bertie. He had died on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1824 aged 70, which probably accounts for the rather dispirited tone of Emma's letter. Louisa Cox<sup>6</sup> was her young sister, Louisa Frances, who is named in Sir Albemarle's will. The men mentioned in her letter were her cousins, Peter, John and Bertie, nephews of her father. Peter did indeed sail to India if one can go by the 1871 census for Beckenham where his younger daughter, Diana, was "born at sea"(RG10/172/142) A report of her death from the Beckenham Journal of 13.10.1888 gives Diana's age as 63 years. This would place her birth in 1825.

Another powerful piece of evidence comes from an indenture between Peter Cator and Capt Bertie Comelius dated 7.4.1825 for the loan of £3,000. It states that "the said Peter Cator being about to proceed to India in a civil service capacity." The debt was fully paid up by 17.1.1835.<sup>8</sup> This probably explains the delay over Peter's departure noticed by Emma Bertie. He did not have the necessary funds!

Her mother, also Emma, deceased by 1813, was the daughter of James Modyford of Maristow in Devon.

Albemarle Bertie, Admiral of the Blue Fleet and Knight of the Bath, was made a baronet in 1812 but he died without surviving sons and so the title became extinct. The Arms were Arg. 3 battering rams ppr within a bordure azure i.e. those of the Bertie dynasty.<sup>3</sup>

Another reference<sup>4</sup> from the diary of Lady West, wife of Sir Edward West, judge in Bombay 1823-1828, reads for 15 June 1825

“We hear that Sir Ralph Palmer is arrived at Madras in 85 days from England and that Sir Charles Grey is appointed Chief Justice at Calcutta. Edward has written to them both to congratulate them” A footnote says Sir R Palmer succeeded Sir Edmond Stanley as Chief Justice of Madras.

When Peter retired to England (by c1840) at the request of the Cator trustees, he entered enthusiastically into local life and actively managed the Cator estates. He was regarded as a shrewd businessman and much respected within and outside the family. The development of Beckenham owes much to Peter's initiative. There are many examples of transactions to be found in the Cator boxes at Bromley library including an agreement made between the South-Eastern Railway Company and Peter Cator dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1856 calling for certain restrictions as to Sunday traffic on the Cator Settled Estates.

In 1865, Charles Oliver Frederick Cator, son of the Rev Thomas and Louisa Cator of Kirk Smeaton, came to live in one of the first villas to be built at Stumps Hill. He helped his Uncle Peter with the estates and was a keen student of meteorology credited with the invention of the leverage anemometer.

Peter lived with his wife, Martha and younger daughter, Diana, at The Hall in Bromley Rd. He was one of the founder members of the Beckenham Cricket Club at Foxgrove Rd. and was in the chair at a dinner at the Three Tuns on 1.5.1866 in celebration. Their first match was between Marrieds and Singles on 19.5.1866. He was interested in the seating plan of St George's church and in 1868 he presented the church with a new east window.

Martha Cator died 9.6.1872 followed less than a year later by Peter 1.5.1873. They were both buried in the Joseph Cator family vault. They left two sons and two daughters. The child referred to in Emma Bertie's letter was their firstborn, a daughter, Martha Elizabeth, born that same year, 9.2.1824 and baptised at Beckenham in the July. Martha Elizabeth married Henry Lancelot Holland 18.4.1844.<sup>8</sup>

Many years later, in March 1885, the Bromley Record describes the wedding of their eldest daughter, Charlotte Mary, at Christ church, Surbiton Hill, to Herbert George Henry Norman from Oakley, Bromley Common.

The ceremony was performed by Charlotte's uncle the Rev. Charles Holland. Her parents were living at Marlow House, Kingston on Thames at the time.

Their elder son was Ralph Peter born on 19 May 1829. He married late, 14.5.1870, Caroline the widow of Adam Stewart Gladstone and daughter of Joseph Walker of Calderstone Hall. According to Burke's Landed Gentry they lived at Langley Farm, *Kings Langley, Herts* but in the 1871 census for Beckenham, Caroline Cator is living at the mansion at Langley Park Farm, Beckenham (RG10/872/67). This is also the case in the marriage settlement indenture of 13.5.1870.<sup>8</sup> Caroline is described as from Lancashire and the wife of a Naval Captain. She had her two daughters Harriet and Mary Gladstone with her and her son Henry Gladstone.

Harriet was 22, born Woolton, Mary was 21 born Liverpool and Henry was 14 born Edinburgh. Ralph and Caroline had no children together and Ralph died 3.7.1903.

By contrast, his brother, Bertie Peter, born 29.2.1836 in Madras<sup>7</sup> married in 1860, died from scarlet fever at Broomfield, Farningham, Kent 30.3.1875 and left a large family. His grave is in the Beckenham churchyard near to the two large Cator tombs. His wife was Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Aretas Akers of Malling Abbey, Kent. The Bertie Almshouses at 31 and 33, Bromley Rd were built in 1890 by the order of Mrs Bertie. The original two houses have been modified into two groundfloor dwellings, "Cobwebs" and "Medway Cottage" with a third flat running across the top. Beckenham Parochial Charities administer them. The plaque reads

AD.VSVM.PAVPERVM.DEI.IN.MEMORIAM.BERTII.ET.  
DIANAE.MDCCCXO

After Bertie Peter's death, the family of 5 sons and 3 daughters were brought up at the Abbey in West Malling. According to the 1881 census, Ralph Bertie Peter Cator was 19 and an undergraduate at Oxford. Edmund Humphrey Style, the youngest son, was 8.

There were three sisters, Mary Dorothy 12, Isobel Mildred 7 and Diana Mary 6. There was another grandson of 20 who was the private secretary but he was not a Cator, Edward E. Green, who was born in Ceylon.

In 1881, Bertie Peter's remaining three sons were Bertie Angelo b.1864, a midshipman in the RN, and Douglas b.1867 and Peter b. 1870, who were away at boarding schools.<sup>5</sup>

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Bromley Local Studies. There are two volumes, L88, which describe at length the conditions for the biennial prizes between 1864 and 1876. The examination answers of the winning candidates are given in their entirety for the year 1866. They include Holy Scriptures, Euclid, Algebra and the Geography of the British Isles. The standard required and attained is remarkable!

<sup>2</sup>This letter is the property of Eunice Shanahan from Queensland, Australia who kindly sent me a copy.

<sup>3</sup>Burke

<sup>4</sup>The diary of Lady West, wife of Sir Edward West, Bombay Judge, can be found in "Bombay in the Days of George IV-Memoirs of Sir Edward West" by F. Dawbrey Drewett

<sup>5</sup> Bertie Angelo was on the ship "Minotaur" RG11/5636/90. Douglas was boarding at Bishopswood Rd School, Homsey, Middx RG11/1379/127. Peter was a boarder at Fair Mile Sandroyd School, Cobham, Surrey, which was run by Louis Wesley, Vicar of Hatchford RG11/0764/53.

<sup>6</sup> Emma Bertie's will proved May 1840 confirms that Louisa was her sister from Harwood House in Essex. The executor of the will was Louisa's husband, Philip Zachariah Cox, named as Emma's brother in law. All her male cousins were mentioned but the main heir was her nephew Lindsey Zachariah Cox.

<sup>7</sup> This was shown by the 1861 census at The Hall, Woodbastwick, where Bertie Peter Cator, solicitor, was a guest of his cousin, Albemarle Sr.

<sup>8</sup> Bromley Local Studies box 979 of Cator Settlements 1823-1876

<sup>9</sup> London P. O. Directories, 1846, Peter Cator, barrister at 5, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn.

## MALLING ABBEY

There has been an abbey on the site in West Malling since at least 1106 but it had been in private hands from the dissolution. One of the secular owners was Aretas Akers who was the third of the family to bear the name.

The first Aretas Akers was born in St Christopher's, West Indies, to Edmond and Sarah Seton about 1734. The name Aretas was that of Sarah's father, Aretas Seton, Governor of the Leeward Islands. There had been a revival of the name Aretas, which was that of the King of Damascus at the time of St Paul. (2 Cor xi, 32). The second Aretas Akers was also born in the West Indies in about 1759. The Akers can be traced back to Christopher Akers in the West Indies about 1620 although originally they were from Akers Hall in Lancashire.<sup>1</sup>

Aretas Akers the third married Isabella Larking of Clare House, Kent on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1821 at the Old Church, St Pancras. He had a 40-acre estate at Tunbridge Wells and from 1840 to 1843 he edited a family magazine called The Belle Vue magazine after the name of their residence. A copy of the magazine can be seen in the archives of the CKS, Maidstone. He bought Malling Abbey in 1849/50 but only lived there for six years because he died in 1855.

The 1851 census shows Aretas as Deputy Lt for Kent and JP for Kent and Surrey. Their daughters Isabella 29, Jane 27, Mary 17 and Dorothy 6 were living with them with one son, George aged 13. Eight servants ran the household. Her son George was Isabella's only surviving named executor in 1891 when he was a Reverend in the Roman Catholic Church. Isabella remained at the Abbey for well over 30 years until her death in 1891. The census of 1861 shows her living there with her daughter, Dorothy and in 1871 she was alone except for seven servants. By 1881 there was a great change. Her daughter Mary Elizabeth married Bertie Peter Cator in 1860 but tragically he died from scarlet fever in 1875 and Mary Elizabeth moved her family in with their grandmother Isabella.

The 1881 census also shows another grandson living with Isabella, Edward Green.

He was the son of Mary Elizabeth's sister, Jane Mary who had married John Philip Green in about 1856. Their brother, the Rev. Aretas Akers (1824-1856) had married Frances Maria Brandram in 1849 but he died when only 32 leaving one son, the fifth Aretas Akers, aged five and two daughters. The boy grew up to inherit property in Scotland from his cousin, James Douglas Stoddart Douglas, when only 24 in 1875 and he added Douglas to his name by royal licence 20.5.1875 under the terms of the Douglas will.

When Isabella died in 1891, her grandson Aretas Akers-Douglas sold the Abbey to Isabella's friend, Miss Charlotte Pearson Boyd for £10,000 in a conveyance dated 23.6.1892.

Miss Boyd founded the English Abbey Restoration Trust in 1875 to provide funds for the purchase and restoration for worship of ancient ecclesiastical buildings. In 1883, Isabella had offered the Gatehouse and chapel for use as an orphanage by her friend Charlotte. It is because of the efforts of Isabella and Charlotte that Benedictine nuns today occupy Malling Abbey.

Aretas Akers-Douglas was born at Market Harborough, Leics, educated at Eton and Oxford and was called to the bar in 1875, an eventful year since he also inherited and married Adeline Mary Smith from Hayes in Kent. He became a prominent Conservative Member of Parliament with exceptional abilities, serving as Chief Whip, Commissioner of Works and Home Secretary from 1902-05. At the coronation of King George V, the ceremonial of which was his responsibility, he was promoted to Viscount Chilston of Boughton Malherbe, Kent and Baron Douglas of Baads. He had two sons and three daughters.<sup>2</sup> When he died in 1926, his son Aretas, born 1876 succeeded him as second viscount. The last Aretas in the line was the second viscount's son, 1905-1940, who died following a motor accident. The title passed on to his brother, Eric Alexander Akers-Douglas.<sup>1</sup>

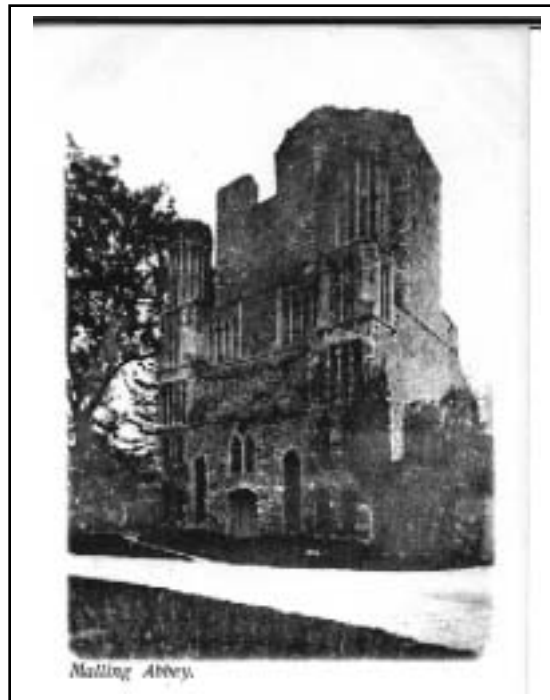
<sup>1</sup> Burke's Peerage and Baronetage

<sup>2</sup> National Biography & The Times 16.1.1926

*St Christophers The Hall, one time home of Peter Cator*



*The ruin of Malling Abbey. The family lived in other parts of the complex as do the nuns today.*



## **Ch 24 THE DRAFT OF EMMA'S LETTER**

The Oakery, Beckenham

30<sup>th</sup> October 1824

My Dear Sir,

I hope you are quite recovered from your late illness. Louisa in her last letter did not tell me but as she would have paid you a visit if you had not been better than when the nurse was at Ashford and she did not think it necessary afterwards (unless she has been this week) I conclude she had favourable accounts.

Here I have been since I left *Brighton* the uncertainty I have been in respecting the Cox's movements has kept me. I think I shall go for the winter to *Southampton* but it is my wish to be with the Cox's if they can leave Harwood in preference. I have not had a letter since last Saturday from Louisa. I should be truly rejoiced to hear they have got a tenant for my sake as well as theirs as I should prefer *Brighton* if they were there to being at another place alone though *Brighton* is much dearer and therefore is objectionable to my limited finances. I should be very glad to be able to determine my fear in that I may go to *Southampton* and then have the vexation to find if I had waited a little while I might have been of Louisa's party. The post is not come in but I am afraid the Cox's have not much chance of leaving Essex if they intend to wait till they have some person to take their place but I expect that scheme will be obliged to be given up if the child does not get better soon. I suppose you have heard that Peter has an offer to go to India with Mr Palmer who is an old friend of John Cator's and is appointed a Judge at *Madras*.

When he is to set off is uncertain at one time he was in such a hurry he bought an immense quantity of things, now he hesitates and talks of next year but as another young man is ready (if Peter is not) to go, I shall not be astonished to hear he and his wife and child are not to lose the opportunity that offers by ships that will soon sail. Of course it worries my aunt a little as she must form different plans in what way to dispose of herself when they leave her.



Bertie Cator's house is still full of workmen of all sorts. I have not been there, but I understand it is in the utmost confusion. I have seen her only once.

John and his family are at *Worthing* and I have not been anywhere which will I hope be a sufficient excuse for the stupidity of this letter but believe me my dear Sir

Yours truly

*Emma Bertie*

THE WILL OF EMMA BERTIE (PROB 11/1927/307)

This is the last will and testament of me Emma Bertie of Artillery Lodge, Kings Rd, Brighton in the county of Sussex spinster I desire all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses to be paid as soon as conveniently may be after my decease. And I give and bequeath to my relation **Captain Bertie Cornelius Cator** the sum of three hundred pounds sterling in satisfaction of a debt sometime due to him from my father Sir Albemarle Bertie. And to each of my three cousins **John Cator William Cator and Charles Cator** the sum of twenty five pounds sterling and to each of my two cousins **Thomas Cator and Peter Cator** the sum of fifteen pounds sterling to be expended by my said cousins respectively in the purchase of some token in remembrance of me. And to **Maria Cator Margaret Cator and Fanny Cator** the three daughters of Colonel Cator the sum of nineteen pounds apiece instead of a watch which it was my intention to have presented to each of them. And to **John Farnaby Cator and William Albemarle Bertie Cator** the sons of Lieutenant Colonel Cator the sum of nineteen pounds apiece. And to my nephew **Lindsey Zachariah Cox** the sum of two hundred pounds sterling. And to my servant Hephzibah Kilner? The sum of forty pounds sterling clear of legacy duty and all my wearing apparel except a black satin cloak and all such articles as are trimmed with lace of edging provided she shall be in my service at the time of my decease or have left me from being incapable through ill health of attending on me and and not have been paid more than the wages due to her.

And I will and direct that my said satin cloak and the before mentioned trimmed articles with the sum of five pounds in money shall be sent to **Mrs Charles Cator** of the Rectory, Stokesley, Yorkshire to be disposed of as she may see fit and subject to charges with the payment of my said debts and funeral and testamentary expenses and the legacies hereinbefore given. I give and bequeath all rest and residue of my property of every description unto my brother in law **Phillip Zachariah Cox** of Harrwood Hall Essex Esquire my cousin Lieutenant **Colonel William Cator** of the Royal Horse Artillery and **Albemarle Cator** the son of **John Cator** of **Beckenham Place** in the county of Kent Esquire as my three trustees their exors admors and assigns. But nevertheless upon the trusts and for the intents and purposes hereinafter declared or expressed concerning the same that is to say upon trust and to the intent that the said Philip Zachariah Cox may from time to time as and when the same shall arrive due have and take the dividends interest and annual proceeds of my said residuary trust property and the stocks funds and securities in or upon which same or any part thereof is or may from time to time be invested for his own use and benefit during his from and immediately after his decease upon trust that the trustee or trustees for the time being of this my will do and shall pay the dividends interest and annual proceeds as and when the same shall arrive due unto my said nephew Lindsey Zachariah Cox for his own use and benefit during his life and from and after the decease of the said Lindsey Zachariah Cox I direct that my said trustees or trustee for the time being shall stand possessed of my said trust property and premises and every part thereof in trust for the child if only one or all the children if more than one of him the said Lindsey Zachariah Cox such children if more than one to take in equal shares as tenants in common his her or their executors admors and assigns and in case any one or more of the said children shall die under the age of 21 years not having been married then as to as well the original share or shares of the said trust property and premises belonging to the child or children respectively who shall so die as aforesaid as also the share or shares which the same child or children respectively as become entitled to under this present trust for the other or others of the same

children and if more than one in equal shares as tenants in common his her or their executors admons and assigns but in case there shall be no child of the said Lindsey Zachariah Cox or child who shall attain the age of twenty one years or be married the whole of my said trust property and premises shall go to and in trust for the daughters of the said William Cator by **Penelope Mary Farnaby** his wife and the daughters of my cousin the **Reverend Charles Cator** of Stokesley aforesaid by **Philadelphia Osbaldeston** his wife agreeably to be divided among them share and share alike provided always and declare that it shall be lawful for my said trustees or trustee for the time being at any time or times after the death of the survivor of the said Philip Zachariah Cox and Lindsey Zachariah Cox and during the minority of any children of the said Lindsey Zachariah Cox to allow for or towards the maintenance and education of each of the said children all or any part of the said dividends interest or other annual proceeds of the then vested or presumptive share of each of the same children in my said trust property and premises and in the discretion of the said trustees or trustee for the time being either to pay and apply in person the sums to be allowed for or towards maintenance and education as aforesaid for those purposes or to pay the same to the guardian or guardians for the time being of the child or children respectively for or towards whose maintenance or education such sums shall be allowed to be by such guardian or guardians at his or their discretion applied in or towards the maintenance and education of such children respectively and that much if any of the said dividends interest or other annual proceeds arising from the share of each of the same children respectively as shall not be allowed for his or her maintenance and education shall from time to time be added to the principal of the share of the child to whom the same shall belong and be improved at interest and accumulated and be subject to all the trusts and provisions herein expressed and contained concerning the same share provided also it shall be lawful for the said trustees or trustee for the time being with the consent in writing of the said Philip Zachariah Cox and Lindsey Zachariah Cox in or towards the education or advancement of the child to whom the same shall presumptively belong notwithstanding the same may not then have become vested

provided also and I further declare that it shall be lawful for the said trustees or trustee for the time being at any time or from time to time with the consent in writing of the said Lindsey Zachariah Cox when he shall attain the age of twenty one years previously thereto as well as after his decease in the discretion of the said trustees or trustee to sell and dispose of any part of my said trust property and premises and to invest the money so arisen from such sale in any of the stocks or funds of the United Kingdom and vary and transpose the same as often as occasion shall require or as it shall be thought fit. And the several stocks funds or securities upon which the produce of all or any part of my said trust property and premises shall from time to time be invested by virtue of this provision shall be subject to all the trusts and provisions of this my will declared and expressed concerning my said trust property and premises or as near thereto as deaths and other circumstances will admit of provided also and I hereby further declare that in case the said **Philip Zachariah Cox William Cator and Albemarle Cator** or any of them or any trustee or trustees to be appointed under this present provision in their place or in the place of any of them shall die or become unwilling or unable to act in the trusts hereby declared before the said trusts shall be fully executed and performed then and as often as the same shall happen it shall be lawful for the acting trustees or trustee for the time being under this my will or the executors, admors or assigns of the surviving or last acting trustee and with the privity and approbation of the said Lindsey Zachariah Cox if and when of age to nominate any fit person or persons to supply the place or places of the trustee or trustees respectively so dying or becoming unwilling or unable to act as aforesaid and that immediately after every such appointment my said trust property and premises shall be transferred and made over so and in such manner that the same may vest in such new trustee or trustees jointly with the surviving or continuing trustee or trustees or in such new trustees solely as the case may require subject to the trusts aforesaid. And every such new trustee or trustees shall exercise all the powers and authorities whatsoever in this my will contained in the same manner to all intents constructions and purposes as if he or they had been hereby appointed a

trustee or trustees provided also that the said trustees hereby appointed and also the also the trustees to be appointed by virtue of the provision lastly hereinbefore contained severally and respectively and their several and respective heirs exors and admors shall be charged and chargeable with such sums only as the said trustees respectively shall actually receive by virtue of the trusts hereby reposed in them notwithstanding their joining in signing any receipt or receipts or doing any other other and for the sake of conformity. And that they or any of them shall not be answerable or unsuitable for any misfortune loss or damage which may happen in the execution of the trusts hereby declared or in relation thereto except the same shall happen by or through his or their own neglect or default and in that case each person alone shall be answerable for each loss or damage as shall arise from his own neglect or default provided also that it shall be lawful for the said trustees hereby named and for such future trustee or trustees to be appointed as aforesaid severally and respectively and that their several and respective heirs executors and admors by or out of the monies which shall come to their hands by virtue of the trusts aforesaid to deduct retain and reimburse for themselves respectively and also to allow each other all costs charges damages or expenses which they or any of them shall or may sustain disburse or incur in or about the execution of the aforesaid trusts or in relation thereto. And I hereby nominate and appoint the said Philip Zachariah Cox Executor of this my will. In witness whereof I the said Emma Bertie the testatrix have hereunto set my hand and seal the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty *Emma Bertie* signed sealed published and declared by the testatrix Emma Bertie as and for her last will and testament in the presence of us who at her request in her presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses hereto. *Mary Elizabeth Button, Brighton, Harry Farquharson, householder Brighton.*

Proved at London 7<sup>th</sup> May 1840 before the worshipful John Janberry? Doctor of Laws Surrogate by the oath of Philip Zachariah Cox the sole executor to whom Admon was granted having first sworn duly to administer.

## **Ch 25 THE BERTIES OF BROMLEY**

It is said that the Berties came from Bertiland in Prussia and came to England with the Saxons. The town of Bertiestad (now Bersted) near Maidstone was perhaps a gift to them from the Saxon kings.

However that may be, their notability certainly began when Richard Bertie married Catherine Willoughsby de Eresby in 1553.

Their eldest son was named Peregrine because he was born in Lower Wesel, Cleves when his parents were fleeing persecution in England but in the course of time they returned and Peregrine became Lord Willoughby de Eresby.

By the time Peregrine had married Mary de Vere, daughter of John Vere, Earl of Oxford, they were moving in high society.

Queen Elizabeth was godmother to their eldest son, Robert, born December 16<sup>th</sup> 1572. He became a loyal subject of King Charles I, General of the King's Forces and Admiral of the ship-money fleet. He was created the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Lindsey in 1626 for his services to the Crown. When the civil war broke out, the regard of the gentlemen of Lincoln for the Robert, Earl of Lindsey, enabled him to raise a strong force for the King who appointed him Commander in Chief of the Royal Forces. However Prince Rupert was General of the Horse and the King began to listen to Rupert in preference to Robert.

At the Battle of Edgehill in 1642, Prince Rupert set off without consulting Robert who declared that if he were not fit to be a general he would die as a colonel leading his men.

While marching forward, pike in hand, he received a mortal blow and died in a nearby cottage.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Lindsey was Montague born about 1608 to Robert and his wife Elizabeth Montague the only daughter of Edward, Lord Montague of Boughton, Northants. Montague married Martha the widow of John Earl of Holderness and daughter of Sir William Cockaine. Their son, Robert, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Lindsey, is where Bromley enters the story.

Robert, born October 20<sup>th</sup> 1660, was created 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Ancaster and Kesteven in 1715, thus bringing yet another title to the Berties. He married twice and both marriages are of importance. His first marriage was to Mary Wyne, daughter of Baronet Gwydir. Robert and Mary had two sons, Robert and Peregrine but Robert died underage in 1704 leaving Peregrine to take over the title of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Ancaster and Kesteven in 1723.

Robert's second marriage was to Albinia Farrington, daughter of Thomas Farrington and Theodosia Bettensen, both Chislehurst families.

Theodosia's grandfather, Sir Richard Bettensen, Bart, had purchased the Manors of Scadbury and Chislehurst which passed to Theodosia's dissolute brother, Edward.

Edward gambled away the family fortunes, even losing the oak trees of Scadbury. When he died in 1733 he left the Manor saddled with debt. The family sold the estates outside Scadbury but managed to keep the Manor.

Robert and Albinia had six children, Vere 1714-1769, Norris who died young, Montague c1720-1753, Thomas c1720-1749, Louisa and Robert c1721-1782. Robert married late to Mary Raymond in 1762 and in Chislehurst today, the private school Farringtons, which was opened in 1911, stands near the site of their graceful Jacobean house. He was known as Lord Robert Bertie and the house was Bertie Place. It was left to him by Thomas Farrington, who, having no children of his own, passed the house to his sister Albinia's youngest son, Lord Robert.

Robert's white marble memorial can be seen on the wall of the North aisle of St Nicholas church at Chislehurst. It reads as follows: Underneath this monument be buried the remains of the Right Honble Lord Robert Bertie 5<sup>th</sup> son of the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Ancaster and Kesteven, General of His Majesty's Forces, Colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Troop of Horse Guards, Lord of the Bedchamber to His Majesty, Governor of the Fort of Duncannon in the kingdom of Ireland and Member of Parliament. (See the end of the chapter)

From the town of Boston in England he married the Lady Raymond Relict of Robert the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of that name and one of the coheiresses of Lord Viscount Blundell of the kingdom of Ireland with whom he lived in the freest love and harmony for many years and who now being his disconsolate widow has erected this monument to his memory. He died 10<sup>th</sup> March 1782 aged 61 years.

The Bertie arms can be seen on the shield at the base of the memorial. It consists of three battering rams (including heads!).

Near to Lord Robert's memorial is that of his brother, Lord Thomas Bertie, Captain of the Royal Navy. It is ornamented with an urn inscribed with a festoon of flowers between the trophies and naval ensigns of war. He died at Portsmouth 29<sup>th</sup> July 1749 and was brought in solemn procession to Chislehurst for his burial on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

We go back to Peregrine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Ancaster and Kesteven, who married Jane Brownlow in June 1711. Between 1712 and 1729 they had four sons and three daughters.

Their second son, Peregrine, succeeded to the title and became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke. From his second marriage, which was to Mary Panton, he had two sons and three daughters. The elder son, Peregrine Thomas, died young and his brother Robert died of scarlet fever soon after his accession to the Dukedom in 1779.

One of the daughters died young, Mary Catherine, leaving her sisters Lady Priscilla Barbara Elizabeth and Lady Georgiana Charlotte joint holders of the family title of Lord Great Chamberlain of England.

The Dukedom passed back to their uncle, Brownlow Bertie, who became the 5<sup>th</sup> and last Duke of Ancaster and Kesteven.

When only 17, Lady Priscilla had married the young cricketer and landed gentleman, Peter Burrell, MP for Haslemere. His inherited estates at Beckenham stretched over 3,202 acres from Monk's Orchard and Ham Farm in the South to Elmers End in the West to Beckenham High St in the North and Bromley in the East. Peter was created Baron Gwydir in 1796 as befitted the husband of the Lady Priscilla.



The story is not quite finished, as the most interesting part is still to come. Peregrine Bertie, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Ancaster had seven children, the sixth being Albemarle Bertie c1724-1765. Albemarle had five surviving daughters and one son between 1750 and 1759 by Mary Coleback, probably without the benefit of marriage. The girls were Jane, Mary, Susannah, Diana and Anne while the only son was another Albemarle. Albemarle junior became a famous admiral and his sister Diana married the rich merchant Joseph Cator, brother of John Cator, Lord of the Manor of Beckenham. Joseph and Diana had seven sons, John Barwell, Albemarle (who died at the age of 12), William, Charles, Bertie Comelius, Thomas and Peter.

Diana's sisters, Jane and Mary both married and all these family names can be seen inscribed on the Joseph Cator tomb in the churchyard of St George's church, Beckenham. The name Albemarle is commemorated in Albemarle Rd beside Beckenham Green and as for Bertie, this was used as a forename by at least 10 of the Cator descendants.

References:

The wills of Sir Albemarle Bertie d. 1765 and Admiral Sir Albemarle Bertie d.1824. Webb's History of Chislehurst. The Bertie Legend from [www.baronage.co.uk](http://www.baronage.co.uk) The National Biographies.



## **Ch 26 BERTIE PETER CATOR'S FAMILY**

Bertie Peter Cator, solicitor, was only 39 when he died from scarlet fever at Farningham, Kent on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1875, not quite two years after the death of his father, Peter Cator.

He married Mary Elizabeth Akers in 1860, the daughter of Aretas Akers of West Malling, Kent. Bertie Peter left eight children ranging from 14 to a few months.

The eldest son, Ralph Bertie Peter, was born 21.11.1861 and educated at Radley and Keble College Oxford. He had a distinguished career as Judge in the British East Africa Protectorate 1896-1905 followed by Judge of H.M. Supreme Consular Court for the Ottoman Dominion 1905-1916. He was President of the Internal Court of Appeal, Alexandria 1931-1932 and was knighted in 1931. He married Johanna Caroline Arnoldina Emily, second daughter of Jonkheer Johan George Otto Steuart von Schmidt of The Hague on 8.4.1907 and died 29.7.1945 leaving his widow but no children.

Bertie Angelo, born 29.9.1864 became a Commander in the Royal Navy. He married Violet Alice Ethel daughter of John Wingfield- Stratford on 25.1.1893 and they had a son Richard Bertie born 5.12.1902 and a daughter Elizabeth. She married the Rev. Edward Eustace Hill, formerly rector of North Cray on 20 April 1922 just before her Midshipman brother was lost on board H.M. Drifter "Blue Sky" in June.

Their mother saw neither event because she died when they were young in 1916 but Bertie Angelo lived to enjoy four grandchildren until he died in October 1933.

Douglas, born 11.2.1867, was educated at Highgate and like his eldest brother he worked in Africa.

He was in Sierra Leone and Nigeria in the Colonial CS (British North Borneo Co.). He married Dorothy Anne, daughter of the Rev R. George Benson, rector of Hope Bowdler, Salop, on 5.10.1892.

They had a son, Edward Philip Douglas who was killed in action in France 11.4.1918. He was Capt, Acting Major in the 69 Field Company of the Royal Engineers, having been educated at Rugby and the RMA Woolwich.

They also had two daughters, Dorothy Jean and Diana Joan, both of whom married.

Of Bertie Peter's remaining two sons, Peter and Edmund Humphrey Style, neither married. Peter died in 1915 and Edmund in 1897. There is a plaque in St George's church to the memory of Edmund Humphrey Style Cator. He served as Lieutenant Royal Engineers in the Dongola Expedition of 1896 and died of enteric fever the next year at Wady Halfa, Egypt on 21.2.1897.

Robert Borrowman states that this young soldier was a descendant through his mother of the Sir Humphrey Style of Langley who died in 1552.

Only one of the three girls married, Mary Dorothy, who married Maurice Richard Martineau, JP, only son of John Martineau of Walsham-le-willows on 4.11.1903.

Isobel Mildred died 10.9.1954 and Diana Mary 17.4.1925. Thus the Cator name died out in this branch of the family.

*The Bertie Almshouses*



## HOARE'S BANK

The Tower of London was the repository for the storage of hard currency until Charles I took £130,000 for himself! So depositors turned to London's goldsmiths to keep their money safe and on hand, to be returned on demand. One of the successful goldsmiths was Richard Hoare, who founded the Golden Bottle in Cheapside in 1672. The date appears at the door of Hoare's Bank at 37, Fleet St to where the business moved in 1690. He noticed that the depositors began to leave much of their gold in store and so he began to lend it out with interest. His son, Henry, improved the family fortunes further with the sale of South Sea Company stock and the family became influential. They purchased a large estate in Wiltshire at Stourhead and joined the landed gentry.

There are numerous entries for Cater/or. The earlier ones were for Mr John Cater in 1695, 1706 and 1707 but the money was only deposited for a month or so before being withdrawn in its entirety. There was an entry for a Joseph Cater in December 1712 where a deposit of £70 was withdrawn 12 days later.

It is noticeable that the John Cator (1728-1806) who made most of the family fortune did not have an account at Hoare's Bank. It was suggested that he was a moneylender in his own right<sup>1</sup> and he certainly knew how to make money work for him. As Henry Thrale's executor he handled the money affairs of Hester, Henry's widow but there was continual bickering with Hester's second husband, Piozzi, as to John Cator's financial management.<sup>2</sup>

A more useful entry was for Peter Cator in 1821 when cash deposits totalling £236 9s 3d in July were gradually withdrawn to self until all was gone. His next entries were in 1840, which suggests that he had returned to London from India by then to manage the family's finances. Of £3,127 6s 10d on deposit, only £1,995 14s 2d was debited and this in various amounts to a dozen or so creditors.

Addresses were given in the records of later family members showing that when Isabella Akers died in 1891, Malling Abbey was sold.

Isabella's daughter Mary Elizabeth Cator moved to The Birches, Tunbridge Wells from 15.11.1891.

Until 1983, Hoare's Bank held some Cator deeds in their archives. One such bundle was a release for John Cator in 1799 named Jackson and Cator. Another involved the settlement for Martha Alder, Peter Cator's wife, being a bundle of deeds for land in Framlingham, Northumberland.

Unfortunately, some of the archive material was burnt at this time while some was transferred to the British Record Association at the London Metropolitan Archives.

At least ten Cators had accounts with Hoare's Bank in the 1800s a proportion in the Loan Ledgers and there were also many of the Akers.

The oldest ledgers are kept in bookcases upstairs but from the 1800's they are in bookcases flanking a long corridor downstairs. They are in the process of being rebound with black and white covers but plenty of the old dusty brown covers remain.

<sup>1</sup> Anecdotes of Edmond Malone in "Maloniana"

<sup>2</sup> The diaries of Hester Thrale (Piozzi) in "Thraliana"



*An old ledger of 1706 from Hoare's Bank*

*Ledgers in a bookcase in the lower corridor*



## TODAY

### Ch 27      JOHN CATOR the SPORTSMAN 1862-1944

John, eldest of three surviving sons of Albemarle and Mary Cator, was born 24th September 1862 at Colkirk, Norfolk. The village remains today in the midst of farming country with the church still standing but John was not baptised at the local church. His family soon moved to Gloucestershire where John was brought up with his eight younger sisters and two brothers. He was educated at Eton and Christchurch, Oxford and was a Captain in the Prince of Wales' Own Norfolk Artillery Militia, retiring in 1902 with the rank of Major.

His marriage in 1895 to Maude Adeane, daughter of the late Henry John Adeane, Esq of Babraham Hall, Cambridge, was a society affair at All Saints Church, Ennismore Gardens with the reception at Lowndes Square. The Duchess of York presented the bride with a curb chain bracelet with sapphire and diamond centre. It was also a family affair with the nephews and nieces of Maude and John as pages and bridesmaids. John's brother in law, the Rev. Lord Victor Seymour assisted the Rev. Canon Basil Wilberforce of Westminster at the ceremony. Even the honeymoon was provided by the family as another brother in law, Mr Henry Lennard, lent them his house at St Vincent's, West Malling, Kent. It was useful that John had so many sisters!

Details of the guest list are appended and are taken from an issue of the Beckenham Journal.

John was the Director of the Alliance Insurance Company. He contested Parliamentary seats unsuccessfully North Norfolk in 1892, and South Hunts in 1906 but he became MP for South Hunts from 1910 to 1918. He was a great sportsman and the large estates inherited from his father at Woodbastwick enabled him to pursue his recreations of hunting, fishing and shooting as well as farming 200 acres.

He was still Lord of the Manor of Beckenham and owner of the Cator estates of Beckenham and Blackheath where he was as greatly respected as was his father before him.

He was also the Patron of the livings of Carshalton, St Michael's Blackheath and St George's, Beckenham.

John and Maude had two children, Henry John and Elizabeth Margaret b 30.9.1899. Elizabeth made perhaps the most distinguished marriage of all the Cators on 28.2.1928.

Her husband was the Hon Michael Claude Hamilton Bowes-Lyon (1.10.1893-1953) one of the seven brothers of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Her picture appeared in the Times 12.12.1927 on the occasion of her engagement followed by her marriage shortly afterwards in the Times 3.2.1928.



*Elizabeth (Betty) Cator was one of the eight bridesmaids when Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon married Albert, Duke of York in 1923. According to a letter from the Queen Mother, Betty was the bridesmaid seated on a chair at the extreme right of the wedding group.*

There had been much speculation as to the identity of the 8th bridesmaid. Betty had been a friend of the future



Duchess of Kent for about four years. They had been debutantes together and shared many interests. They were possessed of the same unaffected disposition and merry temperament but her choice as bridesmaid took all the columnists by surprise.

The eight bridesmaids of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon and the Duke of York wore dresses of white chiffon trimmed with four perpendicular strands of silver leaves. Bands of Nottingham lace trimmed the crepe de Chine underdress. The lowslung girdle held a floating length of leaf green tulle fastened by a silver and white rose and a spray of white heather. They wore simple circlets of myrtle green leaves round their heads each with a white rose and sprig of white heather either side.

They complemented Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon's delicate medieval-styled dress of ivory chiffon moire with silver and pearl embroidery both front and back. The Queen's veil of old Point de Flandres lace covered the bride's head and formed a train. Lady Elizabeth wore an orange blossom wreath with a white rose on either side.

The bridal procession must have been breathtakingly beautiful. Sketches of the dresses appeared in the Times of Thursday 26.4.1923 from where the above descriptions came. The marriage is fully reported in the Times 27.4.1923. Elizabeth Cator's mother wore a blue marocain dress and coat trimmed with lace and chinchilla.

Michael Bowes Lyon and Betty Cator had four children, two boys and two girls. Fergus Michael Claude born 21.12.1928, became the Earl of Strathmore. He died 18.8.1987 at the age of 58. His brother Michael Albemarle was born 29.5.1940. The twins Mary Cecilia and Patricia Maud were born 30.1.1932 and Mary married Timothy Colman 10.11.1951. A tribute to Lt Col the Hon Michael Bowes-Lyon appeared in the Times written by Col Harry Cator. He was described as a man of effortless charm with a countryman's patience, stored wisdom and common sense. He had suffered asthma for many years, which inevitably curtailed his enjoyment of sport.

<sup>1</sup>Wedding guests for John and Maude

Mr & Lady Elizabeth Biddulph (mother of the bride)  
Mr & Mrs Albemarle Cator  
Lady Victor Seymour  
Mr & the Hon Mrs Bernard Mallet  
Lord & Lady Suffield  
The Earl and Countess of Normanton  
Lady Beatrice Agar  
Admiral & Lady Edith Adeane  
Mr & Mrs Henry Grenfell  
Captain the Hon John & Mary Yorke  
Hon Alexander Yorke  
Mr & Mrs Fellowes (John's sister)  
Miss Mildred Fellowes  
Mr & Lady Maude Ramsden  
Admiral and Mrs Cator  
Sir John & Lady Lennard  
Mr & Mrs Lennard  
Mr & Mrs Bell  
Miss Biddulph.



CLARENCE HOUSE  
SWIA IBA

13th March 2001

Dear Mrs. Manning,

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has asked me to thank you for your letter, and the good wishes you have sent to Her Majesty.

The Queen Mother was interested to know that you are writing a book on the Cator family, and I am to let you know that Her Majesty thinks that Betty Cator is the bridesmaid sitting on the extreme right in the picture you sent.

Yours sincerely,

Lady-in-Waiting

Mrs. P. Manning.

*The letter from Her Majesty in reply to my enquiry about her bridesmaids*

**Ch 28 HENRY JOHN CATOR O.B.E. M.C.**  
**(1897-1965)**

Henry John Cator was Albemarle Jnr's grandson but it was nearly 50 years before he came into the property of Woodbastwick. He was born 25<sup>th</sup> January 1897 and was educated at Eton and the RMC. He served in both world wars with the Royal Scots Greys, in the airborne forces in WWII, and married twice. His first wife was Anne Letitia Mary, third daughter of Sir George Everard Arthur Cayley, 9<sup>th</sup> Baronet, whom Henry married 5.2.1925. They had two sons, Francis born 30.6.1928 and John born 23.1.1926.

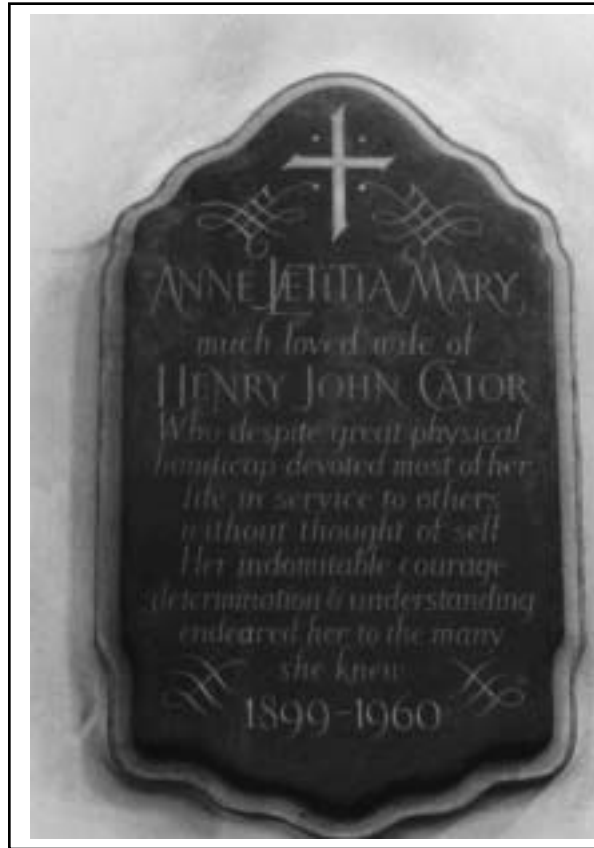
After the death of his first wife in January 1960 Henry left a beautiful plaque to her memory in the Woodbastwick church. He married again in April 1961, this time to Lady Wilhelmina Joan Mary, widow of Lt Col Oliver Birkbeck of Little Massingham, Norfolk and sister of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Munster. Henry died not long afterwards in Fernleigh, Australia on 27.3.1965. There is a simple plaque to his memory which bears the family coat of arms and motto "Nihil sine labore"-nothing without labour in the church at Woodbastwick.

In his will, Henry John Cator is described as MC DL of Fernleigh Ellerton Scone, NSW with probate 20<sup>th</sup> July 1965 to Sir William Albemarle Fellowes and Stephen Francis Thomas Lavie Robinson, solicitor, for £32,459 in England.

A further grant to settled land valued at £118,987 was both to the above and also Francis Cator, merchant banker.

His son, John, of The Old Hall, Woodbastwick, died 19.10.1999, leaving £3,109,583 gross and £2,952,443 net. Probate was at Winchester to Albemarle John Cator of White House Farm, Woodbastwick and Robert Ross Vallings, Westminster. The year before his death, John had been the very welcome guest of the Paragon, Blackheath, where he unveiled a plaque to celebrate two centuries of the Cator Estate there.

A seat made by the local blacksmith, Michael Harvey has been placed outside the church. It bears the following "South Walsham & District Branch Royal British Legion in memory of Mr John Cator Branch President and Benefactor 1965-1999"



*One of a pair of plaques in the church at Woodbastwick This is to Henry's wife Anne Laetitia and the other is to his sister, Elizabeth Margaret Bowes Lyon*

## Ch 29 PETER JOHN CATOR the keen gardener

Peter John Cator, the great, great grandson of John Barwell Cator, was born in 1924. His father, Sir Geoffrey Edmund Cator CMG, born 14.8.1884, Kt Bach 1946, had been the British Resident at Perak, Malaya, between 1932 and 1939 and during WWII he was the Malayan Agent in London. Sir Geoffrey had married Elizabeth Margaret Wynne, daughter of Canon Hon Hugh Wynne Mostyn on 28.2.1922. Their first child, Rosemary Anne, born 31.5.1923, married David Alexander Evander Claude Philips of Surrey in 1955. Her brother, Peter John, was the younger child born 18 months later on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Peter was educated at Shrewsbury and Corpus Christi, Cambs. He served with the Welsh guards 1944-47.<sup>1</sup>

An article from Woman's Realm Feb 1994 mentioned Peter and Katharine Cator's garden as one of about a dozen on show in the Cotswolds for visitors under the National Gardens Scheme.<sup>2</sup>



Peter had married Katharine, younger daughter of Capt Hon Reginald Coke, DSO, from Cuddington Way, Cheam, Surrey on 23.1.1951.<sup>3</sup> The marriage was at St Martin in the Fields. The bride wore a gown of gold and white brocade with a tulle veil held by orange blossom and pearls. The three child bridesmaids, Lady Sarah Coke, Caroline Harvey and Serena Gillian, wore long ivory net dresses over golden satin. There were two pages, John Coke and David Brooksbank, in gold satin trousers and ivory silk shirts. The bride carried lilies and the bridesmaids spring flowers in gold and coral. Peter and Katharine's two children, Charles Henry and Caroline Sarah, were born in 1952 and 1954.

When Blockley joined the garden scheme, the garden of the Cators near St Peter & St Paul's church at Paxton House was one of those chosen. Katharine liked a white and pastels colour scheme provided mainly by a profusion of roses.

Ideas had come from the gardens at Sissinghurst when they lived in Sussex and the classic gardens of Hidcote and Kiftsgate in Gloucestershire, which were only a few miles away from Blockley.

Katharine's late cousin, Gerald Coke, had a memorable garden at Jenkyn Place. Many of their Blockley plants came from Gerald's son John's Green Farm Nursery. The writer described the garden thus: "A curtain of the white rambling rose, Diany Binny, almost hides the dark passageway leading to a shady stoneflagged yard. Low steps lead up the path between Iceberg roses underplanted with silvery *Stachys byzantina*.

Ivy clothes the low walls on either side. *Rosa soulieana* smothering a large pear tree adds cream buds and greyish foliage to the subtle colour scheme. It took 15 years to convert a neglected garden now awash with roses like *Rosa longicuspis* cascading from a cherry tree."

Peter's descent is through John Barwell's son, Albemarle, and grandson, Robert born 3.4.1849. Robert had married Evelyne Susan daughter of the Rev Edmund Miley Estcourt from Derbyshire on 4.6.1872.

They had five sons, Gerald, Robert, William Ralph, Geoffrey Edmund (Peter John's father) and Algernon, three of whom were married with families. The unmarried brothers were Robert OBE, Lt Col late of the RM, and Algernon Estcourt of the Colonial CS (1888-1920), who died from blackwater fever. Gerald, late RN, married Lilian Martha Nance in 1897. They had two sons, Philip James (killed in action 1944) and Frances Gerald and one daughter, Charity Lilian.

William Ralph married Cecilia Line in 1920 and there were three children, Robert 1923, Hope Cecilia 1920 and Joy Evelyn 1922. William took Holy Orders of the Church of Rome and served at Brown Hill, Stroud, Glos.

Peter has some early prewar memories of staying with his sister at his great uncle Albemarle's house, Trewsbury, probably when their parents were in Malaya. Albemarle Jr's daughter Christabel and her husband John Tabor had bought the house in about 1932.

There were prayers every morning in the chapel at 9.00 and occasionally a parson came from Coates to hold a service. They had no electricity at the house and the lighting was by oil lamps until John Tabor managed to persuade the village of Coates to have electricity installed, presumably helping with the cost. Peter remembers the fire escapes on the top floor consisting of canvas tubes that they had to slide down. In 1938/9 the Tabors moved away to Essex and sold the house to the Prices.

References

<sup>1</sup>Burke's Landed Gentry

<sup>2</sup>

<http://www.heffie.dircon.co.uk/garden/press/9402wr.html>

<sup>3</sup>The Times, Wednesday, 24.1.1951, p8b.



## Ch 30 ST FABIAN & ST SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Unlike the majority of churches today, the Woodbastwick church remains open at all times of the day. It is opposite the modern sign for the village and the signpost. The lych gate, in memory of Elizabeth Cator, Albemarle senior's wife who died in 1892, is an exact copy of the one at St George's church, Beckenham.

The clock is a recent addition to the tower, installed in 2001. Michael Harvey the blacksmith was commissioned by the late John Cator to make the clock face shortly before John died in 1999. A Beckenham firm designed the clock mechanism, which will maintain the correct time even if there is a power cut.

The dedication of the church to St Fabian, a pope, suggests its mediaeval origin and the flint and brick construction points to late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. St Sebastian was a soldier. The figure of St Sebastian over the porch shows the damage that occurred in Cromwellian times with the division dating from its later repair clearly visible.

The church was in such bad state of repair by the 19<sup>th</sup> century that Albemarle Cator junior had it restored at his own expense. He obtained the advice of Sir George Gilbert Scott who was the best church architect of the time.

The plans included work on the tower, the rood screen, the interior roof and the chapel now used as a vestry where the registers for baptisms, burials and marriages are all kept inside in a chest. The church became a memorial to the Cator family of Woodbastwick both inside and out. One of the oldest memorials is a stained glass window in the vestry to CHARLOTTE CATOR, born 10.6.1837, died 31.12.1885. She was the eldest daughter of Albemarle Cator senior and his wife Elizabeth. Also in the vestry are five marble plaques placed in a triangle high up on the wall. One to ALBEMARLE CATOR senior himself occupies the central position. Born at Beckenham Place 7.4.1815, he died at South Kensington Hotel 1.5.1868 and is interred in the large family vault.



*The newly installed church clock*



*The lychgate at Woodbastwick, a copy of that at St Geo. Beckenham*

Above Albemarle's plaque are two memorials to his parents, JOHN and ELIZABETH LOUISA CATOR, who are interred at Beckenham. There is a stained glass window to their memory in the church.

On either side are the memorials to Albemarle senior's two sons for whom the East window is dedicated. His eldest son, JOHN, late Capt in HM 10<sup>th</sup> Regt died 23.2.1859 from wounds received at Inkerman 5.11.1854 and at Lucknow 14.3.1858, losing an arm. His 4<sup>th</sup> son, BERTIE ALBEMARLE, died at Bromsgrove School 11.10.1859 from the after-effects of scarlet fever in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of his life. Their sister, ELIZABETH MARGARET, wife of William Birkbeck, died 2.3.1859 in her 18<sup>th</sup> year giving birth to a son, WILLIAM JOHN, who survived her.

All three of Albemarle's children were buried in the family vault with their parents, ALBEMARLE senior, died 1.5.1868 and ELIZABETH MARGARET, died 14.2.1892. Finally there is WILLIAM THORNHILL CATOR who died 8.4.1879. The inscription in the centre reads "Sacred to/ the memory/ of those who/ lie in the vault/ beneath/ this stone."

There are several attractive plaques on the walls of the church commemorating lives of family members. One pair, to the late JOHN CATOR and to HENRY JOHN CATOR, flanks a large memorial to the soldiers of the family. Another pair to the ladies, ELIZABETH, wife of the Hon MICHAEL BOWES LYON and ANNE LAETITIA MARY, first wife of Henry John Cator and mother of Francis Cator and the late John Cator are fastened on opposite sides of the nave. Other plaques are to WILLIAM THORNHILL CATOR and JOHN & MAUD CATOR.

A quiet corner of the churchyard at the East end of the church has eight graves where Cators have been interred. Two are small plinths bearing crosses. These commemorate EDWARD CATOR, died 9.1.1907 and WILLIAM CATOR, priest, died 6.6.1902. The others have similar form of kerbs surmounted by a slab bearing a long E-W horizontal cross.



*The large family vault in the churchyard*

The most recent is to John Cator, 23.1.1926-19.10.1999 to whom the metal bench seat by the South porch is dedicated.

Next to Edward's small cross is the grave of CHRISTOPHER ARTHUR MOHUN CATOR with kerbs only, born 25.1.1881, died 6.12.1925. Then in line with Christopher are HENRY JOHN, 1897-1965, JOHN CATOR, 1862-1944 with his wife MAUD, 1865-1943, 94 year old MARY MOLESWORTH CORDELIA and lastly her husband ALBEMARLE, the only one where the inscription is in Latin.

A plaque covers the ashes of Kit's parents, PETER HARRY and KYLIE SUSAN and at the West end of the church there is a baby's grave with a headstone to CHARLOTTE LUCINDA CATOR. She was a cot death baby, daughter of Alby's brother Henry John.

One of the longest serving vicars of the church was the Rev, H. P. Dunster (1848-1904). He remembered the church interior before its reconstruction with its bare whitewashed walls, the box pews and the three-decker pulpit. The family sat at the West end in the gallery with the household behind them. He was an expert gardener and was the reputed author of "Mrs Beeton's Cookery Book"! \*



*A view of one of the Cator graves (Henry John Cator) at Woodbastwick to show its cross. It is the third from the front in the row of graves below. The grave for the ashes of John Cator d 1999 is shown pegged at the back right.*



## Ch 31 WOODBASTWICK

The Woodbastwick sign opposite the church is startling at first as it appears that there is a Saxon executioner about to behead the kneeling figure before him! However the stooping man is tying up the bindings of his leggings. These are made from the pliable fibrous *bast* beneath the bark of lime trees once common in the area. A late 17<sup>th</sup> century change from the word *bast* to *bass* gives us the name for the bass or raffia used for tying our plants. As the word “*wick*” means creek or settlement, the village became *Woodbastwick*. The sign is a modern one provided by the thriving WI to commemorate its founder President, Mrs Habgood.

The Woodbastwick marshes are part of the Norfolk Naturalist Trust, managed by the Bure Marshes Nature Reserve. The River Bure runs past the Cator estate for some miles before flowing to Great Yarmouth and the sea. The reed that was at one time gathered in quantity from the marshes can still be seen thatching some of the village houses.

Almost all the village is owned by Albemarle John Cator (Alby) whose own property is White House Farm at the West end of Woodbastwick, past the forge and old school building.

There are just four houses in private hands. One of these belongs to Caroline and Christopher Cator who own Copperhole at the East end of the village past the church on the Ranworth road. Both Christopher (Kit) and Alby are descendants of Albemarle Cator (1836-1906), Kit from his son Albemarle Bertie Edward (always referred to as “General” by the family to distinguish him from the other Albies) and Alby from the eldest son John.

The Cator association with Woodbastwick began in 1807 when John Barwell Cator bought the parish of Woodbastwick for £76,000 from the trustees of Thomas Allday Kerrison. The site of the original Woodbastwick Hall is still apparent as its garden walls and glasshouses remain. Its outbuildings are used by the “Wetlands” industry, which maintains the Bure Marshes.



*Peter Harry Cator, General Alby's only child and Christopher's father*

*Church farm and the church behind the well on the Green*





*Copperhole, the property of Christopher and Caroline Cator*

*Here we see the glasshouses and curved kitchen garden wall of the first Woodbastwick Hall of John Barwell Cator*





There was a fire in 1819 but a more serious fire in 1882 caused the first house to be abandoned. Fortunately there was time to rescue the family heirlooms from the lower rooms before the fire took hold.

The family had only moved from Trewsbury to Woodbastwick a few years before and after the fire they divided their time between Church Farm in the village and Trewsbury.

The replacement Woodbastwick Hall was built higher up the hill away from the mosquitoes inhabiting the marshes. Proximity to the waterways for transport of goods by wherry was no longer a priority.

Today nothing remains of that 52 roomed house, with a window for every day of the year, that replaced the earlier one. Kit remembers living in a flat there with his parents Peter Harry and Kythe Susan Blofeld but it was never a favourite with the late John Cator. In 1972 he sold the building but not the land to a demolition contractor and it went piece by piece to all comers.

Church Farm was renovated in 2001. Its stables were thatched with reed and the wall rebuilt on the church boundary. The vicarage next door had originally been "The Boar" public house.

Today the late John Cator's widow lives at the Old Hall. This was on the estate when John Barwell Cator first purchased it in 1807. In those days the Old Hall was a farmhouse called "Herwins." John Barwell Cator who converted the public road to a private one closed the Park to the general public but a drive through its ancient pastures with the mixed herds of British White Cattle is an unforgettable experience. He also laid out the present Ferry Rd and tried to drain the land using windpumps to no avail. The lower end of Ferry Rd is frequently flooded at high water and impassable by car. On dry days one can reach the path leading to Cockshoot Broad and watch the passing pleasure craft. The Ferry Inn over the water was the site of a tragedy in 1941 when a bomb killed some 200 people.

On the village green, the two almshouses remain and round the corner towards Salhouse there is the old school house with its bell.

It closed in the 1970s when the numbers had dwindled to six. Today the head teacher's house and school is the residence of a policeman and his family.

There has never been a village store in Woodbastwick although a postbox and telephone show where the post office used to be. The forge maintained by Michael Harvey displays St George's flag and is the focal point for local information. Michael constructed both the clockface and the church seat in remembrance of the late John Cator

*The blacksmith ready for a chat*



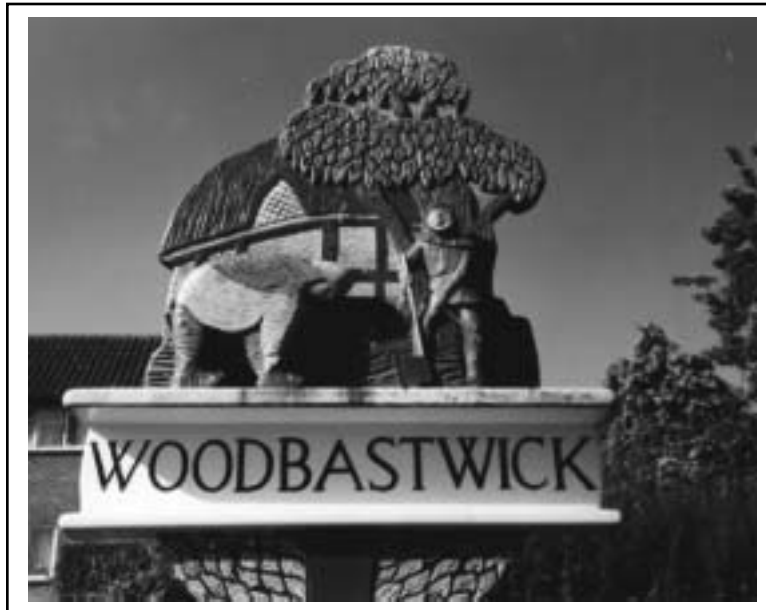
*The schoolhouse was closed when its numbers dropped to six. It is now occupied as a private house*



The Fur & Feather Inn has only been a feature of Woodbastwick since 1992. It is the outlet for Wherry Bitter, Champion Beer of Britain in 1996. This beer was only produced commercially by Woodforde's Norfolk Ales as recently as 1981. Increase in demand by 1988 and the need for expansion brought the firm to the Cator's disused Street Farm buildings in Woodbastwick. There, the high quality water, low in nitrates, used in conjunction with high quality hops and finest East Anglian malted barley combined to make the prize-winning brew. The Fur & Feather Inn has a reputation for excellent and plentiful food and the brewery has a visitors centre from where locals and tourists alike can sample the exclusive bottled beers from a range of >400 and buy from a selection of locally produced produce and gifts.

[www.bisforbeer.com/england/woodfordeshistory.html](http://www.bisforbeer.com/england/woodfordeshistory.html)

The Cator family had moved out of Beckenham as London began its sprawl outwards. Originally bought as a “shooting box,” the Woodbastwick estate has been considerably expanded over the years. Hulver farm was added first in 1835 for £6,000. Broad farm to the West was bought from the Stracey family. To the South it was extended to include Plumstead Lane and the Kiln belt to make a sporting estate second to none. Ranworth parish was added in 1908 to bring the estate to 5,000 acres. In 1965, Henry John Cator divided the estate between his two sons. Francis took over the 1,500 acres of Ranworth, leaving the late John to manage the remaining 3,500 acres. I think John Barwell Cator would be pleased with his descendants’ estate.



## **Ch 32 NORFOLK FARMERS**

The pedigree herd of British White Cattle was introduced at Woodbastwick in 1840 from three animals purchased from Lord Suffield at Gunton Park near Aylsham. The descendants of the British White Cattle traced their roots back to cattle brought over to this country either with the Romans or the Vikings. They are naturally polled as opposed to the White Horned Cattle now known as Park Cattle, which trace their ancestry back to those kept near Whally Abbey. John Cator who died in 1999 was President of the British White Cattle Society and it was his efforts that ensured the bull lines were kept alive. He distributed bloodlines from Woodbastwick to breeders all over the country. At a time when the breed was not commercially popular he made its survival more certain. The seat outside the church was made by the blacksmith, Michael Harvey, commissioned by the South Walsham Branch of the British Legion in memory of the late John Cator.

There are now large numbers of White Cattle in the USA and Australia. The first cattle went out to the King Ranch, Texas, during WWII, organised by Sir Winston Churchill. He considered a bloodline of British cattle to be important to the heritage of Britain and this was at the time of the impending invasion of England by Hitler! Five cows and one bull were shipped to Pennsylvania in 1941. The dark pigmentation under the skin of these cattle not only gives them a natural sun protection factor but they hold a unique blood group. This gives them free sweating qualities and so suits them to hot climates.

The Woodbastwick herd with some 25 pedigree females can sometimes be seen from the Fur & Feather Public House in the parkland of the old Woodbastwick Hall.

At present, attempts are on going to establish a World Federation of British White Cattle with closer links between the UK, USA and Australia.

The estate colours of Woodbastwick are black and white to match those of the British White Cattle.



*The seat to the late John Cator*



*A polled British White calf*

The herd at Woodbastwick is thought to hold the record for the longest surviving herd of cattle in one place and in the ownership of one family.<sup>1</sup>

References

<sup>1</sup>From Henry Cator of Broad Farm, Salhouse, Norfolk, son of John Cator, d. 1999.

*The River Bure approached from Ferry Rd near the site of the first  
Woodbastwick Hall*



## APPENDIX

### CATOR NAMES IN THE ROADS and elsewhere of BROMLEY Borough

#### Cator

The **Cator** family from Ross on Wye, Herefordshire founded the Cator estates of Blackheath and Beckenham. Cator Rd, Cator Park and Cator Park School perpetuate the family name. The building of Cator Park School was originally used as a hospital in WWI and then from 1919 by Beckenham County School for Girls. Cator was one of the four Houses of the Beckenham and Penge Grammar School for Boys and the library window contained a stained glass panel of the Cator shield. (Photograph by courtesy of the Beckenham Photographic Society)





The present building is used as an Adult Education Centre (Kentwood) and as Royston Primary School. Worsley Bridge Junior School has adopted the name Cator for one of its houses. Cator Rd is one of six Conservation Areas dated 1983 in Beckenham designed to stop developers demolishing its mature houses to build flats.

#### Albemarle Rd.

The Rt Hon Lord **Albemarle** Bertie, brother of His Grace Peregrine Duke of Ancaster and the Rt Hon Brownlow Bertie had 11 children by a Mrs Coleback, one of whom, Diana, married Joseph Cator in 1780. The only surviving son, her brother Sir Albemarle Bertie, was the famous Admiral of the Blue Squadron of HM Navy. The name Albemarle was used in the Cator family from that time onwards. It was used to rename White Cross Rd in Beckenham some time after 1871. The road received a hit from a flying bomb at the end near the High St in 1944, when three people were killed.

There was Albemarle College in Lennard Rd at Holy Trinity church. As recently as May 2001, the name was used for the orchestra playing with the Beckenham Chorale at St George's church.

#### Bertie Rd

The **Berties** as described above can be traced back to Bertiland in Prussia from where they came to England with the Saxons.

#### Blakeney Rd

Albemarle Cator 1813-1868 married Elizabeth Margaret **Blakeney**, 22.4.1834. They were first cousins through their mothers who were sisters, daughters of Sir Ross Mahon, Co Galway, Ireland.

#### Hayne Rd

The wife of Albemarle Cator 1836-1906 was Mary Molesworth Cordelia Harris, 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter of Christopher Arthur Mohun Harris of **Hayne**, Devon.

Woodbastwick Rd

The family seat in Norfolk was bought as a shooting lodge by John Barwell Cator in 1807 and has remained in the family ever since.

Trewsbury Rd

This was the family seat of Albemarle Cator 1836-1906 at Coates, near Cirencester, Gloucester. It was bought as a hunting lodge in the 1860's. It dates back to at least 1781 according to deeds of the **Manor of Trewsbury** and accompanying farms.

Farnaby Rd

William Cator (3<sup>d</sup> son of Joseph and Diana) married Penelope Anne, only daughter of Sir John **Farnaby** .

Lennard Rd

William Cator's elder son, John Farnaby Cator assumed the name **Lennard** in 1861, that of his mother's family. The Lennards had been resident at Wickham Court for 350 years when it became a hotel in 1931, then a teacher training college. Their memorials are in the Lennard chapel of St John's church, West Wickham.

Courtenay and Morland Rds

Margarita Eliza, one of William Cator's four daughters with his first wife, married William **Courtenay Morland** of Court Lodge, Lamberhurst.



*Victorian house in Cator Rd*



*Another in Trewsbury Rd*



*Hayne Road*

## CATOR WILLS FROM 1858 TO 1934

*My additions in italics.* **KNOWN BECKENHAM /  
WOODBASTWICK CATORS**

1858

**JOHN** (*BARWELL*) Late of Beckenham Place in the county of Kent Esq deceased who died 20.8.1858 at Woodbastwick Hall in the county of Norfolk. Proved 11.11.1858 at the PR by the oath of Albemarle Cator of Woodbastwick Hall, son and sole executor. <£35,000.

1859

**ANNE CHARLOTTE DREW** formerly CATOR. Special letters of admin with will annexed of the estate of Anne Charlotte Drew wife of Francis Barry Drew Esq, formerly Cator spinster, late of 23 Nassau St, Dublin deceased who died 14.12.1852 on board a steam vessel between Hyderabad and Kurrachee Scinde, India. Granted at the PR 21.11.1859 to Francis Barry Drew of Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent, lawful husband. £100. (*daughter of John Barwell Cator, m. 2.9.1848*)

1860,1861,1862 None

1863

**AMELIA** (*2<sup>nd</sup>*) wife of Rev Charles Cator, clerk, late of Stokesley, Yorkshire, who died 2.11.1863 at Stokesley. Proved 30.12.1863 at the PR by the oath of Robert Cannon of Kensington Garden Terrace, General in HM Army the surviving executor. <£800.

1864

**BERTIE CORNELIUS** Esq (*5<sup>th</sup> son of Joseph Cator*) with 3 codicils formerly 17, Sussex Sq, Hyde Park but late of the Palace Hotel, Buckingham Gate, retired Admiral of HM Navy who died 23.7.1864 at the Palace Hotel. Proved 26.9.1864 at the PR by James Alfred Hallett of 14, Great George St and Charles Oliver Frederick Cator of Bryanstone Sq, Esq, the

nephew, the executors. <£40,000. Resworn July 1866 <£45,000.

MARY formerly of Bowdon, Chester but late of Toxteth Park, Liverpool, widow, died 8.6.1864 at Toxteth. Proved 29.7.1864 at LIVERPOOL by William Edward Thomas Duncan, 33, Grove Park, Toxteth, merchant, sole executor. <£1,500

**REV. THOMAS** (6<sup>th</sup> son of Joseph Cator). Letters of admin with will of the Rev Thomas late of Kirksmeaton, Yorkshire, clerk, Rector of Kirksmeaton, vicar of Womersley, died 24.8.1864 at K. Granted WAKEFIELD 22.10.1864 to the Rev. William Lumley Bertie Cator of Kirksmeaton, clerk, son.<£200

1865 None

1866 **ALBEMARLE BERTIE** Esq (*son of Bertie Comelius, Joseph's 5<sup>th</sup> son*) formerly of Adelaide in S Australia afterwards of 17, Sussex Sq, Hyde Park but late of Vancouver's Island in BC, Esq, died 17.10.1864 at Vancouver's Island. Proved 15.1.1866 at the PR by Emma Elizabeth Butler wife of Thomas Butler Esq of 43, Queens Gate Terrace, Kensington, sister and the Rev. William Albemarle Bertie Cator of Carshalton, Surrey, clerk (*his 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, son of William and g.son of Joseph*), the executors.< £4,000

**SIR WILLIAM** KCB (3<sup>rd</sup> son of Joseph) with three codicils, late of 6, Eaton Place, Belgrave Sq, General in HM Army, died 11.5.1866 at 6, Eaton Place. Proved July 1866 at the PR by John Famaby Lennard (formerly Cator) of West Wickham, Lt Col in Kent Artillery Militia and the Rev. William Albemarle Bertie Cator of Carshalton, the sons, two of the executors. <£10,000

1867 None

1868

**ALBEMARLE** (*son of John Barwell Cator*) Late of Woodbastwick Hall and of Beckenham Place died 1.5.1868 at South Kensington Hotel, Queens Gate Terrace, Kensington. Proved at the PR by Albemarle Cator of Woodbastwick

Hall, Esq the son the sole executor, resworn Oct 1869 from <£40,000 to £20,000.

1869 None

1870 None

1871 **DAME MARY**, late of Clifton Lodge, Croydon Rd, Penge, widow died 3.4.1871 at Clifton Lodge. Admin of effects granted at the PR 15.7.1871 to Mary Ann Angerstein (daughter and only next of kin) wife of William of Weeting Hall, near Brandon, Norfolk. <£5,000 (*Dame Mary, nee Parkin, was the second wife of Sir William Cator who died in 1866. Her first husband was Edward Nettleship. Their daughter, Mary Ann Nettleship, born 1810, married William Angerstein grandson of John Julius Angerstein and Anne Muilman. John Julius, Lloyd's underwriter and art collector, built the house in Mycena Rd in 1774 which is now the Greenwich Local History Library. After his death in 1823, the National Gallery was formed from the nucleus of 38 of his paintings bought for £57,000.*)

1872 None

1873

**REV. CHARLES** (*3<sup>rd</sup> son of Joseph*) late of Stokesley, Yorkshire, Yorkshire, clerk, Rector of Stokesley, died 17.12.1872 at Stokesley. Proved at the PR 28.1.1873 by Philadelphia Sophia Cator, spinster, daughter, one of the executors, <£450

**PETER** (*7<sup>th</sup> son of Joseph*) 6 codicils late of Lincolns Inn and of Beckenham, died 1.5.1873 at Beckenham. Proved at the PR 7.6.1873 by William Courtenay Morland of Court Lodge, Lamberhurst and John Farnaby Lennard of Wickham Court, Esqs and Bertie Peter Cator of 20, Craven St, Charing Cross, gentleman, son, the executors. <£30,000

1874 None

1875

**BERTIE PETER** (*grandson of Joseph, son of Peter*) of 20, Craven St, Charing Cross and of Broomfield, Farningham. Died 30.3.1875 at Broomfield. Proved 24.5.1875 at the PR by Mary Elizabeth Cator of Broomfield the widow, one of the executors. <£3,000

1876 None

1877

**CHARLES OLIVER FREDERICK** (*5<sup>th</sup> son of the Rev. Thomas of Wormesley*) late of Beckenham, died 10.12.1876 at the Hall, Beckenham. Proved at the PR 22.1.1877 by the Rev. William Lumley Bertie Cator, of East Hardwick, Yorkshire, the brother, and Arthur Elley Finch of 2, Grays Inn, solicitor, the executors. <£4,000, resworn May 1893 <£12,000.

1878

**JOHN THOMAS** Esq (*2<sup>nd</sup> son of the Rev. Thomas of Wormesley*) formerly of 8, Bryanston Sq but late of Ackworth, Yorkshire, died 29.3.1878 at Ackworth. Proved at the PR 4.7.1878 by Catharine Sarah cator of Ackworth, widow and Thomas William Cator brother (*3<sup>rd</sup> son of the Rev. Thomas*) of Ollerton House, Ollerton, Notts, Esq <£200. Resworn May 1881 <£4,000 and Jul 1886 <£18,000.

1879

**WILLIAM THORNHILL** Esq (*son of John Barwell*) formerly of S Walsham but late of the Old Hall, Woodbastwick, died 2.4.1879 at the Old Hall. Proved at the PR 25.4.1879 by Francis John Sayer Cator, the son, and Elizabeth Louisa Cator and Frances Ann Cator, spinsters, daughters, all of Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, executors. <£200.

1880,1881,1882,1883 None

1884

**FRANCIS TETRODE** (*son of William Albemarle Bertie Cator and Aurelia*) late of Stone Ct, Carshalton, gentleman, bachelor, died 31.3.1884 Paris.

Granted at the PR to the Rev. William Albemarle Bertie Cator, Carshalton, Clerk, Rector, father. £585 8s 3d

**PHILADELPHIA SOPHIA** (*eldest child of Charles Cator and Philadelphia Osbaldston*) spinster, died at Marazion. Proved 26.6.1884 by Wellington Dale of Penzance, solicitor, sole executor. £1,060.

**REV. WILLIAM ALBEMARLE BERTIE** (*2<sup>nd</sup> son of Sir William, g. son of Joseph*) died 17.10.1884 at Stone Ct, Carshalton. Proved at the PR by John Albert Craven of Whilton Lodge, Daventry, Northants, Esq, sole executor.

1885

**CHARLOTTE** (*eldest daughter of Albemarle Cator, 1813-1865*) late of Broadoaks, Byfleet, Surrey, spinster, died 31.12.1884 at Otto House, North End Rd, Middx. Proved 24.1.1885 by Edward Cator, brother, of 12, Petersham Terrace, Gloucester Rd, Middx. £10,376 3s, resworn Feb 1885 £11,603 13s.

**THE RT HON LADY LOUISA FRANCES** (*wife of Thomas, Joseph's 6<sup>th</sup> son*) with 3 codicils of 8, Bryanston Sq, widow, died 7.1.1885. Proved at the PR by the Rev. William Lumley Bertie Cator of Eakring Rectory, Newark, Notts, the son and Robert Ruthen Pym of 35, Devonshire Place, Middx, Esq the executors.

1886

**ADRIAN CAMPBELL** formerly of 2, Talbot Ct, Gracechurch St but late of 9, Collingham Place, S Kensington, merchant, died 16.3.1886 at Collingham Place. Proved at the PR 12.5.1886 by Maria Magdalene Louise Cator of 3, Glendower Place, S Kensington, widow, sole executor. £383. (*Bp to William & Mary Cator 22.12.1829, Liverpool*)

**LOUISA MARIA SOPHIA** (*daughter of Thomas and Louisa Frances Lumley*) with codicil, late of 8, Bryanston Sq, spinster, died 11.4.1886 at 56, Cambridge St, Hyde Park. Proved 10.6.1886 by Robert Ruthven Pym of 59, Strand and



Arthur Elley Finch of 2, Grays Inn, solicitor, the executors. £24,706 11s 7d.

SOPHIA HARRIET 7 codicils formerly of 33, Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, late of South Cliff Tower, Bournemouth, Southampton, spinster.

Died 6.3.1886 at South Cliff. Proved 15.9.1886 by John Holman Hay of Forforshire and William Minet of 47, Albion St, Hyde Park, executors. £22,049 4s 5d.

1887 None

1888

**DIANA** (*daughter of Peter Cator*) late of Gloucester Gardens, spinster, died 3.10.1888 at 60, G.Gns. Proved at the PR by John Alexander Radcliffe, Ralph Bertie Peter Cator, nephew and Alexander Nelson Radcliffe, all of 20, Craven St, Charing Cross, solicitors, executors. £7,790 14s. resworn Feb 1889 £7,865 1s 6d.

**JOHN BERTIE** (*son of Charles, g.son of Joseph, brother of George Albemarle*) formerly of Beverley but late of Askern, near Doncaster, Yorkshire, retired Capt RN died 24.9.1887 at Askern. Granted 13.2.1888 WAKEFIELD to Louisa Cator of 186, Coltman St, Kingston upon Hull, widow, residuary legatee for life. £531 16s 2d.

**MARY SUSAN** (*1st wife of George Albemarle Cator, brother of John Bertie*) Admin with will and codicil, wife of George Albemarle formerly of 3, Broughton Rd, Ealing but late of 19, Somerset Rd, Ashford, died 17.3.1889 at Durham House, Oakfield St, Cardiff, Glamorgan. Granted 12.6.1889 at the PR to Susan Cator of Durham House, spinster, daughter, one of the residuary legatees. £71 4s 9d.

1890

None

1891

THOMAS of Ely, Cambs, d. 20.1.1891. Proved PETERBOROUGH by Joseph Mortin & Rev. Edward Russell Wilford, clerk, executors. £12

1892

**ELIZABETH MARGARET** 12, Petersham Terrace, South Kensington, widow, (of *John Barwell*) d. 14.2.1892. Probate LONDON 14.4.1892 to EDWARD CATOR Esq. £2,541 9s

**MARIA DIANA** 17, Beaufort Gardens, Brompton, spinster, d. 29.3.1892. Probate LONDON 29.4.1892 to Rev. HARRY BERTIE ROBERTS & WILLIAM BERTIE ROBERTS Esq. £15,537 15s 4d. (*Peter Cator's daughter*)

1893

**ELLINOR HEATH** of Denbigh House, Eaton, Norwich, widow d. 24.6.1893. Admin LONDON 8.8.1893 to MARY THORNHILL CATOR, spinster, (*her daughter*) £1,370 14s 10d. (*John Barwell's dau in law, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of William Thornhill Cator*).

1894

**AURELIA** OF Stone Court, Carshalton, Surrey, widow, d. 11.3.1894 at 22, Lewes Crescent, Brighton. Probate LONDON 16.4.1894 to Henry Cyril Percy Graves Esq and John McClellan, solicitor. £79,299 19s 9d, resworn Dec 1894 £77,535 3s 1d (*Aurelia wife of the Rev. William Cator, her 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage, 1<sup>st</sup> to Henry Craven.*)

1895 None

1896

**BERTIE JOHN LUMLEY** Esq of Norfolk Sq. London d. 31.5.1895. Ad with will, 21.2.1896 to Henrietta Mary Hicks wife of the Rev. John Champion Hicks, clerk. £371

(*He was the grandson of Thomas Cator and Louisa Lumley, son of John Thomas and Katherine Sarah Swann*)

ELIZABETH of 45, Ascalon St, New Rd, Battersea, widow, d. 5.3.1896. Probate LONDON 14.8.1896 to Margaret Simmons (w of Edwin) £5.

1897

**CAROLINE** of "Hazelwood" King's Langley, Herts, wife of Ralph Peter Cator, d. 12.12.1896. Admin with will LONDON 15.1.1896 to the said Ralph Peter Cator retired admiral RN. £27,644 16s 4d. (*Ralph was the son of Peter Cator*)

**EDMUND HUMPHREY STYLE** of Penshurst, Kent, d.21.2.1897 at Wady Halfa, Egypt. Probate LONDON 2.4.1897 TO Mary Dorothy Cator(*his sister*), spinister(*married Martineau in 1903*), £180 6s 10d.

**HARRIET** of 6, St Helen's Church Lane, Ipswich, spinster, d. 22.11.1897. Probate IPSWICH 15.12.1897 to William Chandler Block, solicitor.£199 1s 2d.

**JAMES BENNIE TOWNSEND** of 147, Leadenhall St, London, master mariner, d. 29.4.1897 at the Colonial Hospital, Gibraltar. Probate LONDON 6.7.1897 TO Frederick Bonney, solicitor. £2,125 5s 4d. (*Grandson of Charles and Philadelphia Cator, son of George Albemarle b 1817.*)

#### 1898

None

#### 1899

**GEORGE ALBEMARLE** OF 5, Marylebone Ave, Dalston, Middx, d.16.2.1898, Admin with will LONDON 11.2.1899 TO Emily Augusta, widow. £60

**EMILY AUGUSTA** OF 8, Abraham Rd, Dalston, widow, d. 31.8.1899. Probate 25.10.1899 LONDON TO Albemarle Cator, jeweller's clerk. £378 10s. (*George Albemarle is the father of James Bennie Townsend Cator by his first wife. Emily is George's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife but from a late marriage in 1896. Son Albemarle married in the same year as his parents!*)

#### 1900

**THOMAS WILLIAM** of Ollerton, Newark, Notts and of Woodhall Spa, nr Homcastle, Lincs, d. 14.1.1900 at Petworth House, Edgar Buildings, Bath. Probate LONDON 31.1.1900 TP Jane Louisa Cator, widow and the Rev. William Lumley Bertie Cator(*his brother*) £24,651, resworn £26,026. (*He is a son of Thomas and Louisa Cator*)

#### 1901

**LOUISA** of the Sussex County lunatic asylum, Haywards Heath, Sussex, widow, d.14.6.1900. Probate LONDON 13.12.1900 to George Chapman, gent.£575. (*Times,25.10.1900,p1b, The family of the late Mrs Louise*

*Cator, nee Orelli, a Swiss subject, wish to know if the deceased left a will.)*

1902

**REV. WILLIAM OF** Stratton Strawless rectory, Norfolk, clerk, d. 6.6.1902 at Woodbastwick Hall. Admin with will LONDON 23.7.1902 to the Rev Christian Cator, clerk. £315. (*Albemarle's son, one time rector of St George's. Wife died when son, Christian, one week old.*)

1903

**FRANCIS JOHN SAYER OF** 40, Tasman Rd, Clapham , Surrey, d.19.1.1903 in Virginia Water. Probate LONDON 19.2.1903 tp Eliza Alice Cator (*his widow*) .£4,311. (*John Barwell's grandson, son of William Thornhill Cator and Julia Sayer*).

JAMES of Ashill, Norfolk, yeoman, d.23.12.1902. Probate NORWICH 13.2.1903 to Ephraim Cator roadman and Ernest Jabes Dannett grocer and draper. £44.

**MARY THORNHILL** of "Clarendon", Pakefield Rd, Kirkley, Lowestoft, spinster, d.1.6.1903 at 33, Upper Rock Gardens, Brighton. Probate LONDON 20.8.1903 to Henry John Heron, gent.£24,317. (*John Barwell's granddaughter and Ellinor Heath's daughter*).

**RALPH PETER** of 1, Chelsea Ct, Chelsea Embankment, d.31.7.1903. Probate LONDON 13.9.1903 to Lumley Cator, private secretary and Harry James Shepard, solicitor. £31,808. (*Lumley Cator was the son of Charles Oliver Frederick Cator*)

1904, 1905

None

1906

**ALBEMARLE** of Woodbastwick Hall, d 10.4.1906 at Happisburg, Norfolk. Probate LONDON 23.5.1906 to Mary Molesworth Cordelia, widow and Thomas Henry Burroughs Esq. £55,197. (*Son of Albemarle Cator and grandson of John Barwell*).

1907

**EDWARD** (*son of Albemarle*) of Morpeth Mansions, Victoria St, Westminster, d. 9.1.1907. Admin 2.3.1907 to Annie Elizabeth Mary Cator, widow (*daughter of Charles Morgan Norwood*) £261.

1908

GEORGE of Hockwold cum Wilton, farmer, d.11.4.1908. Admin NORWICH 7.8.1908 to Ellen Cator, widow. £189.

1909

None

1910

**ELIZABETH LOUISA** of Wyndham Place, Bryanston Sq, London, spinster, d.18.10.1910. Probate LONDON 10.11.1910 to Frances Anne Cator, spinster. £4,425 12s 7d. (*These were sisters of Francis John Sayer, William Thornhill Cator's children by his first wife Julia Sayer who died 1855*).

1911

**JANE LOUISA SO THEBY** of Parkfield Weston, nr Bath, d. 12.1.1911. Probate BRISTOL 14.2.1911 TO Charles George Lumley Cator and Alfred Frederick Sotheby Cator Esqs. £13,778 1s 3d. (*She was the wife of Thomas William, the son of Thomas Cator and Louisa Frances*)

1912

JAMES of Stow Bedon, Norfolk, d.1.9.1912. Probate NORWICH 14.11.1912 TO Robert Layt, shopkeeper. £456 11s 10d.

1913

**CATHERINE SARAH** of 10, Lower Seymour St, Portman Sq, London, widow, d.29.3.1913. Probate LONDON 3 July 1913 to Cecil Hilton Wybergh Esq. £4,109 16s 8d. (*Probably the widow of John Thomas, son of Thomas and Louisa*).

**ELIZA ALICE** of 61, Preston St, Brighton and of London and Westminster Bank St James Sq, London, widow, d.10.2.1913 at Preston St. Probate LEWES 24.2.1913 to Frank

Gayner Beames, insurance agent, £1,838 13s 7d. (*Widow of Francis John Sayer Cator*)

1914

**LETITIA ELIZABETH** of 44, Belgrave Rd, London, (2<sup>nd</sup>) wife of Frederick Henry Cator (*son of Thomas and Louisa*). Died 14.1.1914. Probate LONDON 25.6.1914 to Douglas Gordon Prinsep, Col RA and Reginald Seymour Prinsep, engineer. £43 5s 4d.(*sons of her marriage to Charles Campbell Prinsep*)

1915

**FREDERICK EDWARD THOMAS LUMLEY** known as **Edward Lumley** of Gloucester Place d. 8.3.1915 at Dorset Sq, London. Probate LONDON 8.5.1915 to Agnes Sophia Cator, widow. £6,626

**THE VERY REV. HENRY WILLIAM** of Brompton, clerk, d.17.6.1915. Probate LONDON 7.7.1915 TO THE Rev William Ralph Cator. £1017?

**PETER** (*son of Bertie Peter and Mary Akers*) of Panton St, Haymarket, d.10.3.1915 at Bethlem Royal Hospital, Southwark. Probate LONDON 21.4.1915 to Dorothy Anne Cator (*sister in law*), wife of Douglas Cator (*brother*). £4,570.

1916

**VIOLET ALICE ETHEL** of Orchards, West Malling, Kent, wife of Bertie Angelo Cator (*son of Bertie Peter & Mary Akers*) d.16.3.1916 at 1, Merton Rd, Hampstead. Admin with will LONDON 19.5.1916 to Frederick Turner Bloxam, registrar and attorney of the said Bertie Angelo. £698.

1917

None

1918

**FREDERICK HENRY** ( *son of Thomas and Louisa*)of 44, Belgrave Rd, d.27.12.1917. Probate LONDON Jan 1918 to Frederick Henry Montgomery Esq and Percy Jennings, solicitor. £1,429.

**LOUISA** of Trinity Villas, Dovercourt, Essex, widow, d.29.12.1895. Admin LONDON 10.12.1918 to Marion Bertie Mills, wife of Arthur Richmond Mills. £497 11s. (*Husband was son of Charles Cator*)

**MARY ELIZABETH** (*wife of Bertie Peter Cator, Peter Cator's son*) of the Red House, Watlington, Kent, widow, d.1.1.1918.

Probate LONDON 3.4.1918 to (*her daughter*) Mary Dorothy Martineau, wife of Maurice Richard Martineau. £5,830,12s,3d

#### 1919

**EDWARD PHILIP DOUGLAS** of 13, Westminster Mansions, Great St, Westminster, Capt RE, d.11.4.1918 in France on active service. Admin LONDON 11.11.1919 to (*his father*) Douglas Cator, colonial civil servant. £305 7s7d. (*Bertie Peter and Mary Aker's grandson*)

**ROBERT** of 2, Grosvenor, Bath d.27.2.1919. Probate 13.6.1919 to Alexander Nelson Radcliffe, solicitor. £331 6s 3d (*son of Albemarle and Elizabeth*)

**THE VERY REV. WILLIAM LUMLEY BERTIE** of Eakring, Notts, clerk, honorary canon of Southwell, d.23.1.1919. Probate NOTTINGHAM 1.7.1919 to Arthur John Finch Esq and Wilfred James Whitworth, lay reader. £18,707 6s 7d. (*This the unmarried son of Thomas Cator and his wife Louisa*)

#### 1920

**ALGERNON ESTCOTT** of Entebbe, Uganda, Brit East Africa, d.6.2.1920 at Hospital Entebbe. Admin LONDON 13.12.1920 to Gerald Cator Esq. £1,295 6s 10d. (*descent from Robert Cator, bro of Albemarle, grandson of John Barwell.*)

**HENRY WORTLEY** of Hammonds Cottage, Fincham, Downham Marker, Norfolk, d.1.6.1920. Admin LONDON 16.11.1920 to William Henry Bywater, joiner, £183.

1921, 1922 None

#### 1923

**ANNIE ELIZABETH MAY** (*wife of Edward Cator, son of Albemarle d. 1906*) widow, died 17.2.1923. Probate LONDON

8.5.1923 to Violet Marion Charlotte Cator of Woodbridge,  
Suffolk, spinster. £4323  
ANNIE ELVINA of Cambridge, spinster, died 19.9.1923.  
Probate LONDON £248

1924 None

1925

**DIANA MARY** of Chiddingfold, Surrey, spinster, died  
17.4.1925. Probate LONDON 30.7.1925 to Frederick Turner  
Bloxam registrar and Isobel Mildred Cator, spinster.  
(*daughters of Bertie Peter Cator and Mary Elizabeth Akers*)  
£7412 8s 6d.

JOHN of Stow Bedon, Norfolk died 18.2.1925. Admin with  
will NORWICH 3.4.1925 to Emma Elizabeth Hunt, wife of  
William Hunt £359 17s

1926, 1927 None

1928

**FRANCES ANN** (*daughter of William Thornhill and Frances  
Julia Sayer*) of 215 Ebury St, Westminster) died 20.7.1928.  
Probate 1.10.1928 LONDON to John Clement Tabor, Lt Col  
HM army and George Wolcott Lang Esq £ 10,453 8s 3d.

**ISABELLA MARIA** (*widow of Charles Oliver Frederick  
Cator*) of 4, Walton St, Kensington) died 1.12.1927, Manor  
House, Bexley. Probate LONDON 3.2.1928 to Charles George  
Lumley Cator Esq (*her son*) and Harry James Shepard,  
solicitor £17,448 7s 9d

WILLIAM of 126, Catherine St, Cambridge, died 18.3.1900.  
Admin with will LONDON 13.2.1928 to Harry Cator, stoker  
and Alice Louisa Cole, wife of James Cole. £175

1929 None

1930

**EVELYN SUSAN** (*widow of Robert died 1919, who married  
Evelyn Susan Escourt 4.1.1873 at Woodbastwick*) of 4,  
Beaufort, W Bath, widow, died 9.10.1930. Probate LONDON  
1.12.1930 to Alexander Nelson Radcliffe, solicitor. £855 3s 7d



**MARY MOLESWORTH CORDELIA** (*widow of Albemarle, d 1906*) of Trewsbury, nr Cirencester, Glos and of St Mary, Happisburg, Norfolk, widow, died 15.12.1929 at Trewsbury. Probate LONDON 5.4.1930 to John Cator Esq and William Seaford Sharpe, solicitor. £43,655 0s 1d. Resworn £40,235 8s 6d.

1931 None

1932

LOUISA of 23, Havelock Rd, Gt Yarmouth widow died 20.4.1932. Admin NORWICH 25.5.1932 to William Cator, motor mechanic. £932 19s 10d, resworn £682 19s 10d.

SUSAN of 35, St George's Sq, Pimlico, spinster died 2.7.1932 at 38, Compayne Gds, Hampstead. Admin WINCHESTER 29.8.1932 to Mary Louisa Phelps, widow. £3,603 8s 3d.

1933

**ALBEMARLE BERTIE EDWARD** of Trewsbury, Cirencester, Glos died 18.11.1932 at Kemble Farm, Minety, Wilts. Probate LONDON 4.1.1933 to Eleanor Gertrude Cator widow and Henry John Cator retired Captain HM army. £1,010 2s 5d.

**CHRISTOPHER ARTHUR MOHUN** of Vancouver, BC, Canada died 6.12.1923 at Shanklin, IOW. Probate VANCOUVER to Delia Forbes Cator, widow. £153 17s 9d in England. Sealed LONDON 11.8.1933

1934

**BERTIE ANGELO** of Cliff End, Sheringham died 30.10.1933. Probate LONDON to Isobel Mildred Cator spinster and Edmund Lawson solicitor. £6,216 13s 9d.

FANNY MARIA of 25, South St, Bourne, Lincs wife of Charles William Cator died 14.10.1934. Admin PETERBOROUGH 24.11.1934 to the said Charles, tailor. £223 3s 6d.

1935

None

1936

GEORGE, Station Rd, Bluntisham, Hunts, died 28.1.1936 at the Addenbrookes Hospital, Cam. Admin PETERBOROUGH 27.4.36 to Kate Maud Cator, widow. £143 0s 6d.

WILLIAM CECIL 15, Chaucer Rd, Acton, Middx, died 3.3.1936 at the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Rd, Chelsea. Admin LONDON 3.4.36 to William Frank Cator, aircraft mechanic and Emily Bertha Cator, spinster. £440 19s 8d.

1937

JAMES Henry 2, Westbury Rd, E7 died 26.6.1937. Probate LONDON 4.9.37 to Emily Mary, widow. £1,154 1s 1d.

1938

None

1939

ROBERT 29, Allens Ave, Sprowston, Norfolk died 2.9.1939 at Norwich Hospital. Probate NORWICH 25.10.39 to Harry Cator, civil servant and Arthur Cator, commercial traveller. £215 6s 8d

1940

JOHN Swaffham Rd, Walton, Norwich died 6.3.1940. Probate NORWICH 25.5.1940 to Kate widow and Charles William Cator, master tailor. £746 13s 8d.

1941

**ADELIN LOUISA** of The Croft, Hartley Wintney, Hants, wife of Charles George Lumley Cator died 28.5.1941. Probate LLANDUDNO 1.9.41 to the said Charles, Captain HM Army. £3,988 5s 5d

**Rev CHRISTIAN** of Marley Farm, Brede, Sussex, clerk died 3.3.1941. Probate LEWES 26.5.41 to Ernest Arthur Long, poultry farmer. £5,699 9s 7d.

1942

None

1943

**MAUD** OBE of Woodbastwick Hall wife of John Cator died 15.6.1943. Probate LLANDUDNO 10.9.1943 to Elizabeth Margaret Bowes-Lyon (wife of The Hon Michael Claude Hamilton Bowes-Lyon) £15,716 18s 5dresworn £15,669 13s.

LETTERS FROM JOHN CATOR (1728-1806) TO CHARLES JENKINSON FIRST EARL OF LIVERPOOL

**Bankside** 3<sup>rd</sup> August **1774**

Dear Sir,

Robert Nettleship Esq being dead who was Governor of the Russia? Company and also one of the Governors of Greenwich Hospital and having several of my friends in my neighbourhood and being not far from me I should wish to be one and I am informed the appointment is by my Lord Sandwich. If it is not disagreeable and inconvenient I should be *oblidged* to you to *reccommend* his Lordship to nominate me.

I shall be at **Stumpshill** tomorrow evening when and where I shall be always glad of the *honor* to wait on you and hope you will this fine weather when you have an hour to spare not be in Parliament Street.

I am Dr Sir

Your most obedt

*faithfull* hble servt

(signed John Cator)

To the Rt Hon Chas Jenkinson.

This is the first of 36 letters written between John Cator and Charles Jenkinson from 1774 to 1791. Most are written by John Cator from **Beckenham Place** or the **Adelphi**. Many request assistance to be elected as an MP. Others seek help for various people including John's brother, William. Letters written from the Adelphi begin in 1779 after the death of Garrick that year. Words in italics are as written.

The letters are available in the Manuscripts dept of the British Library, reference ADD.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, for her gracious reply to my letter.

The Cator family from Woodbastwick, especially their historian Christopher Cator from Copperhole.

Peter John Cator from Cheltenham, descendant of Albemarle Cator senior.

June Freeman from Australia, descendant of Charles Cator.

Michael Harvey, Woodbastwick blacksmith

Janet for her research in Woodbastwick

Philip King, photographer at Woodbastwick

Loraine Budge, Elizabeth Silverthorne, Kathleen Mooney and Simon Finch from Bromley Central Library

Len Johnson and Cliff Watkins of the Beckenham Photographic Society

Friends of Beckenham Place including Eric Inman, Beckenham historian.

Jim Murray of the Ross on Wye Quaker Meeting House.

Robert Edmund Fish, RIBA, The Studio, Beckenham.

Westminster library archives.

National Library of Wales and the record office of the Herefordshire Council, Harold St, Hereford.

The India Office and the Manuscripts dept at the British Library.

The Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone.

Rod Head, the architect and site manager at the restoration of Trewsbury House, Coates, Gloucestershire with present and past owners, especially Mr St John Price and Mr & Mrs Willmet.

Pat Hughes and Heather Hurley, authors of "The Story of Ross"

John Coulter from the Lewisham Local Studies Library.

Grateful thanks to John Bedford, tireless proof reader.

## WHO ARE THESE CATORS?

PETER wrote the play “The Search for Hamilton Stiggs” broadcast on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1974. He also took part in questions about opera as an art form in 1981.

DOROTHY wrote two books. One described her experiences working in a French Military hospital in 1915. Everywhere was filthy. She contracted typhoid and was bitten by bedbugs. She asked “Why anyone ever gets better when there is something seriously wrong with them I can’t imagine.” Her sister, Crib, was with her.

MARGARET from Earls Court, London, stowed away in 1958 on a boat bound for Australia to see her sweetheart. She was discovered in Singapore and sent back to England on the liner Corfu.