

Previous Generations of the Hunt Family

Richard Hunt, one of J&M's great-great-grandfathers, was a shoemaker. He is found at Wheatley on the 1841 census with his second wife Elizabeth Martha (J&M's great-great-grandmother and whom he had married in 1825), and their children William, Elizabeth, Matthias and Jane. Richard's first wife, the former Elizabeth Buckland (they married in 1807) had died in 1823 at the age of 47 and is buried in Cuddesdon. As noted previously, by 1841 his son by his previous marriage, Thomas, was married with a family of his own and living in nearby Shotover.

Richard himself died a few years after that census, in January 1845, at the age of 64, when Matthias would have been just 10 years old. Richard's will and probate has survived and is reproduced here... It reads....

"I Richard Hunt of Wheatley in the County of Oxfordshire shoemaker do make this my last will and testament as follows first desiring that my just debts and funeral expenses be paid I contest my dear wife Elizabeth Martha Hunt whom I make whole and sole *Executrix* to discharge the same and possess in her own right all I may die possessed of real or personal I declare this to be my last will and testament In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this third day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty three ~ *The X of the said Richard Hunt* the testator in the presence of us present at the same time

Appeared Personally *John Ring* of Wheatley in the County of Oxford Maltster and made oath that he is one of the subscribed witnesses to the last will and testament of Richard Hunt late of Wheatley in the county of Oxford shoe maker deceased bearing date the third day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty three and now hereunto annexed do further made oath that on the third day of April aforesaid the said testator duly executed his said will by making his mark at the foot or end thereof to in a blank space left for that purpose in the clause of attestation thereto in the presence of this deponent and of James Ring the other subscribed witness thereto who were both present at the same time and this deponent and the said James Ring thereupon attested and subscribed the said will in the presence of the said testator and of each other ~ who in his presence have subscribed our names as witnesses ~ *John Ring ~ James Ring John Ring ~* On the thirteenth day of

March 1845 the said John Ring was duly sworn to the truth of this affidavit by virtue of the annexed commission by me ~ *Bowater James Vernon Commissioner*

Proved at London 15th March 1845 before the worshipful John Fanbury Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the oath of Elizabeth Martha Hunt widow the wife the sole executrix to whom Admon was granted having been first sworn duly to administer."

This is a straightforward will, and does not give us any additional information about the family which we did not already know. On the other hand Richard's *father's* will, which follows shortly, poses a few questions. Although the name Hunt is found 'way back' in the Cuddesdon registers, there was in this family, without doubt, 'a London connection', and indeed Richard's second wife, J&M's great-great-grandmother, was a Londoner. Her maiden name was Bussell, and there are very few Bussell's native to Oxfordshire. The Oxford Family History Society report just *three* individuals are to be found in the whole county on the 1841 census. On the 1851 census, by which time respondents were required to give their place of birth in more detail, Elizabeth Martha Hunt, Richard's widow, states that *she* was born in Middlesex, London.

In 1831/2, cholera swept the country, causing many deaths. There is a record of an Elizabeth Bussell, age 19, being buried at Wheatley in 1833 and according to the parish register, she was from Marylebone parish. This evidence, albeit circumstantial, seems to suggest that an element of the Bussell family may have left London and settled around Wheatley in the early 1800s, but unfortunately records to follow this line of enquiry are few and far between.

In Richard's father's will, there is mention of property in Fitzroy Place, St. Pancras. London. In fact 'Marylebone' would have been more accurate, which begs the question "Did the Hunts and Bussells know one another in London as well as in Wheatley?" Who knows!?!

This is the will and probate of Richard's father, William Hunt, one of J&M's great-great-grandfathers. It reads....

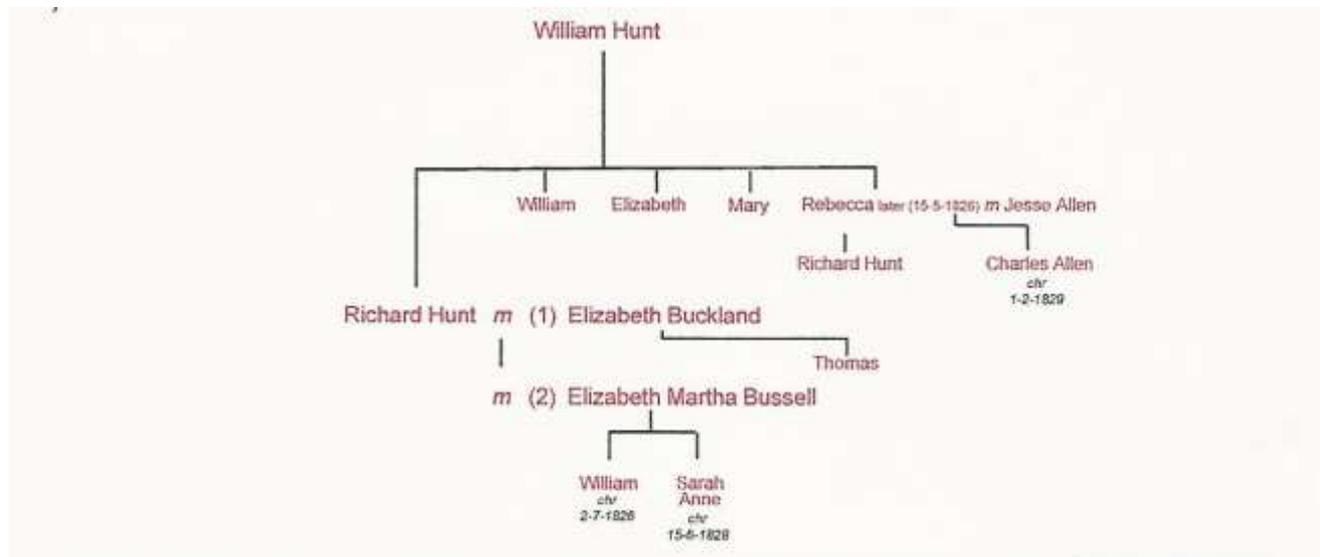
In the Name of God Amen ~ I William Hunt of the parish of Cuddesdon Oxfordshire being in moderate health of body and of sound mind and memory and understanding Praised be God for the same do make this my last will and testament in manner and form as follows I appoint my son Richard Hunt as *Executor* of my whole property and I bequeath to my said son Richard Hunt five pounds a year I bequeath to my son William Hunt five pounds a year I bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Hunt five pounds a year. I bequeath to my daughter Mary Wheeler five pounds a year I bequeath to my daughter Rebecca Allen five pounds a year and I bequeath my grandson Thomas Hunt the son of Richard and Elizabeth Hunt Senior five pounds and I bequeath my grandson Richard Hunt the son of my daughter Rebecca Allen five pounds and I bequeath my grandson William Hunt and my granddaughter Sarah Hunt five pounds those grandchildren Thomas William and Sarah are the children of my

son and executor Richard Hunt and of his wife Elizabeth Martha Hunt of Wheatley I bequeath my son in law Jesse Allen three pounds and I also bequeath my grandson Charles Allen five pounds I bequeath to my daughter Rebecca Allen all my household goods and particularly the clock and this in consequence of the very great trouble I have been to her and her husband for years and do a small compensation for their kind attention to my wants I desire my executor to part my wearing apparel equally between my grandsons Thomas and Richard Hunt and also that my executor takes care that I am correctly buried and that the expenses of my funeral be paid out of the rents of my property it is my desire that the legacy I have left be paid as soon as the dead year is up and that the annuities be regularly paid every year as.... the money any share in the property amounts to my sons and daughters so long as the lease lasts for them to have equal shares amongst them all when I depart this life in hopes of a better amen This my property consists of a third share in two houses situated in Fitzroy Place and in four Mews in the same Fitzroy Place in the parish of St. Pancras London in the county of Middlesex I hope that you my executor will be upright and honest and do as I have wrought and be thankful praised be God for the same Signed and sealed by me this sixteenth day of August 1831 ~ *William Hunt*- in the presence of these three witnesses *Thomas Cooper ~ Robert Hildegose ~ Charles Waterman* //~

Proved at London 15th May 1832 before the worshipful William Calverley Curtois Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the oath of Richard Hunt the son and sole Executor to whom admon granted having first sworn duly to administer //~

William Hunt died in early 1832 at the age of 80, and was buried in Cuddesdon on March 23rd. This would make him 'born in 1751 or 1752' but no record of an appropriate baptism has been found. No wife is mentioned in his will, and it is presumed that there was some sort of complication when Rebecca was born. The parish register records her baptism on February 8th 1797, and the burial of 'Elizabeth Hunt wife of William' on February 23rd. There is a record of a 'William Hunt of Wheatley' having married an 'Elizabeth Harper of Wheatley' at Garsington, (two miles from Wheatley) by licence, on May 16th 1771, which may well have been the marriage in question. (One wonders why they sneaked off to Garsington to get married.) But they had a son named Charles born in Garsington in 1772 who has not been traced and is not mentioned in his father's will. He may have emigrated, or may have died young, perhaps during the Napoleonic Wars. Note that William's grandson by Rebecca and Jesse was named Charles, which possibly was a mark of respect.

With the information contained in William Hunt's will, we are able to construct the following section of 'the tree ' as it existed at the time the will was written. (Matthias would not be born until several years later).



"I bequeath my grandson Thomas Hunt the son of Richard and Elizabeth Hunt Senior five pounds" *This was to Thomas, the son of Richard and his first wife Elizabeth Buckland.*

"I bequeath my grandson Richard Hunt the son of my daughter Rebecca Allen five pounds"

There is no baptism record for a Richard Hunt in the Cuddesdon or Wheatley registers that would fit this scenario, but there is a record of the burial of a Richard Hunt of Cuddesdon, aged 15, in Wheatley in 1833. This means that this Richard Hunt would have been born around 1818, when Rebecca would have been 20 or 21, and is probably the Richard Hunt referred to in the will. Rebecca married Jesse Allen, a widower, in 1826.

"I also bequeath my grandson Charles Allen five pounds"
Charles Allen was baptised in 1829. Another son, William, was born in 1833.

"I bequeath my grandson William Hunt and my granddaughter Sarah Hunt five pounds those grandchildren Thomas William and Sarah are the children of my son and executor Richard Hunt and of his wife Elizabeth

Martha Hunt of Wheatley”.

William and Sarah were Matthias's brother and sister, Thomas was his half-brother. The will was written before Matthias or any of the other siblings were born

“I bequeath my son in law Jesse Allen three pounds. I bequeath to my daughter Rebecca Allen all my household goods and particularly the clock and this in consequence of the very great trouble I have been to her and her husband for years and do a small compensation for their kind attention to my wants.”

Self explanatory

There can be little doubt that this William Hunt has been correctly identified as J&M's great-great-great-grandfather. So much 'fits', even down to peripheral items such as the fact that Jesse Allen was a witness when Richard Hunt married for the second time in 1825. The following year they would be brothers-in-law. And yet, deeper research into this generation has been difficult, and there are no definite answers to questions such as 'who married who?' and 'where did they live?'. It seems a rather complicated situation.

William does not mention his wife in his will, so presumably she *had* predeceased him which lends credence to her having been Rebecca's mother Elizabeth who died shortly after Rebecca's birth in 1797.

His son Richard declares himself to having been 'born in the county' on the 1841 census, and we know he was born about 1780 as he was 64 when he died in 1845. The only record of a Richard Hunt being

born in and around 1780 *in Oxfordshire and* with a father named William is a Richard Hunt baptised in Kidlington parish, nine miles from Cuddesdon, in August 1780. His mother's name was also Elizabeth.

It was fairly conventional in those days that when a list of children appeared in a will, they would do so in chronological order, so one presumes daughter Rebecca would have been the youngest. If one now assumes this *is* the same family, with Richard and Rebecca accounted for, that leaves William, Elizabeth and Mary to find.

The only records (so far) for baptisms of children with these names *and* with parents William and Elizabeth are in Marylebone, William and Elizabeth in St. Mary-le-Bone in 1788 and 1793 respectively, and *possibly* Mary (at another London church) in 1795. The children seem fairly well-spaced apart, but it's possible there were others who did not survive childhood, leaving just these five still living when the will was drawn up. (For example, there is a record of a 'Sarah Hunt, daughter of William and Elizabeth', being born in 1792 in Cuddesdon but she died the same year.)

This brings us back to 'the London connection'. Did William and family to-and-fro from Oxford and live in London for a while, and then did he move back to the country? It seems the likeliest explanation of the known facts.

In his will, William wrote “This my property consists of a third share in two houses situated in Fitzroy Place and in four Mews in the same Fitzroy Place”. The following was found in the Guildhall Library in London and is taken from a ledger of the old “Sun” Insurance Company.

(Image missing, can be seen in WVA)

“William Hunt of Cuddesdon in the County of Oxford Labourer, Sarah Batten Widow & James McNulty of No 26 Fitzroy Place New Road Marylebone
On two houses adjoining being Nos. 25 & 26 Fitzroy Place aforesaid Private in equal proportion.
Brick Four Hundred Pounds”.

The left hand column gives the policy number, 974313, and the premium details. The first figure is 8/- (eight shillings) and the validity of the policy (to) 'Xmas 182T. Next is another premium, '9/-' and 'the duty' (tax) 'Dy 13/6'. The final figure 2/ -842 is 'the risk', from a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest risk and 5 the highest, so '2' would have been fairly low risk as far as the insurance company was concerned. The '842' was the reference in another ledger (which has not survived) into which the details would have been transferred.

The right hand column repeats the sum assured, £400. At the bottom are the names of Sun agents, W.C.Shawe, H.Ladbroke and B. Pearse.

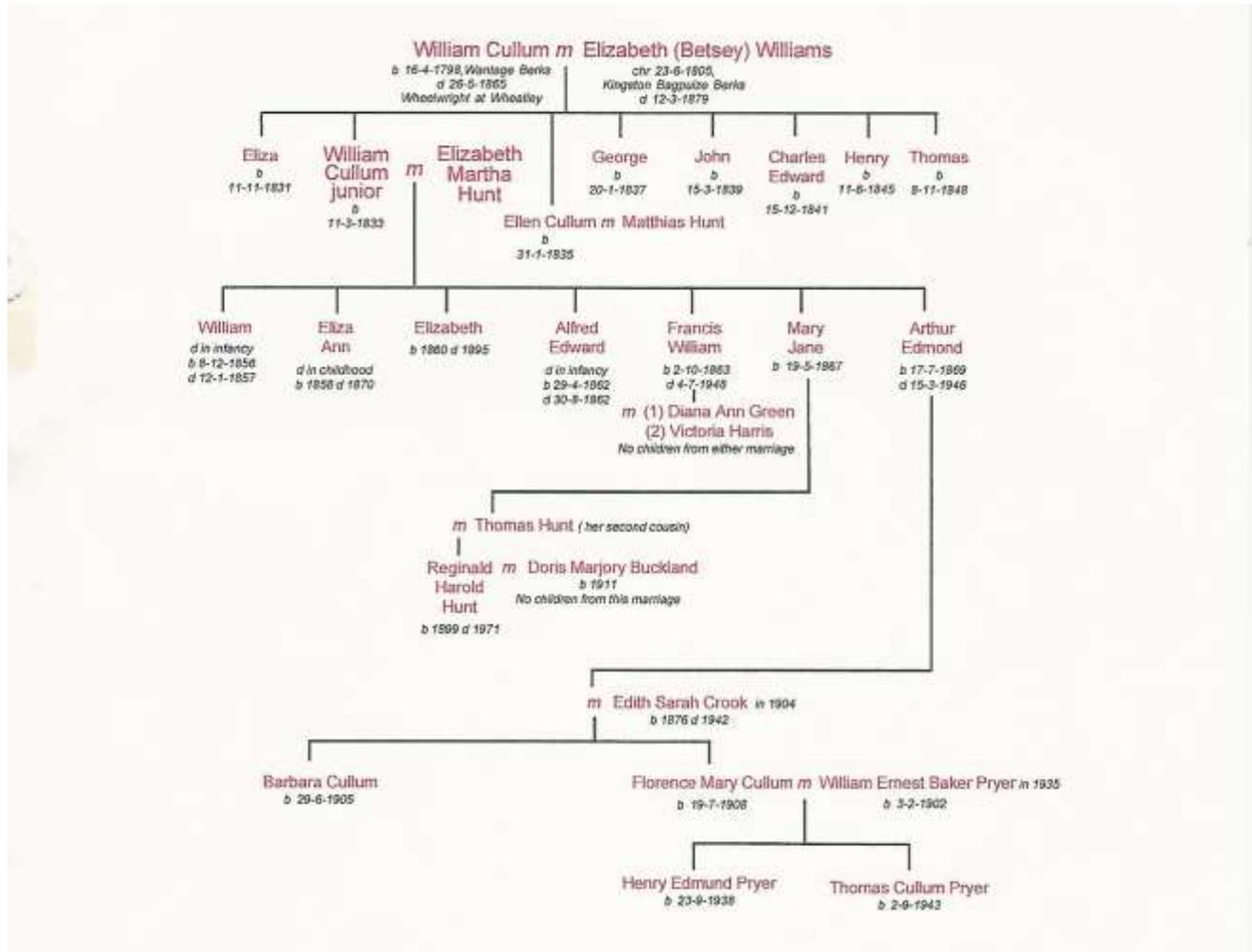
From this information, one learns that William Hunt was a labourer, and it appears that Sarah Batten and James McNulty were actually living in one of the houses, No. 26. It would also appear that William Hunt was the 'driving force' behind whatever arrangement there was over these properties. Although in Cuddesdon, it was *he* who apparently arranged the insurance, (from Oxfordshire?), despite the fact that the other two were actually in residence and in Marylebone, which in those days of course was still a village and 'outside' of London.

Florence Pryer also provided the Wheatley Society with the family tree of the Cullum family. Details of William Cullum junior's siblings are already given in another section, but more information about his own children through his marriage to Matthias's sister Elizabeth Martha Hunt are shown here. We know from JHH's notes that William's daughter Elizabeth was known as 'Lizzie', and his son Francis was known as 'Frank'. It would also appear that the letter which we believe Matthias Hunt sent to his future wife Ellen Cullum, (the one which starts 'Dear Saucy Face'), in which he refers to his sister and her pregnancy by saying 'William's better half is not very well today' and tells Ellen that for her part 't'will be aunt soon' was actually written just the day before William and Elizabeth Martha's first child William was born. Florence Pryer gives his date of birth as December 8th 1856, and

the letter was written on December 7th.

She also confirms the marriage of William and Elizabeth's daughter Mary Jane to Thomas Hunt, the grandson of Matthias's (much older) half-brother.

'Cullum Road' in Wheatley, which Florence Pryer says was named after her father, still exists. It is next to 'Elton Crescent', which in turn was probably named after the Reverend Elton who was the Vicar of Wheatley in Victorian times.



The author's parents-in-law, John and Jean Hunt, met 'the last Cullum in Wheatley', Barbara Cullum, on two occasions in the 1970s. She never married, and supported herself by dealing in 'arts and crafts'. It is thought that she was not living in the Cullum family house, named 'Quarry House' in Westfield Road at the time, (it was probably too big for her), but it was obviously 'her's' as Florence says in her letter that it was Barbara who sold the house and its land before moving away. Being the elder of the two sisters, Barbara probably inherited it from her father.