

Series of emails from Heather Tombs in France - March 2016 read from the bottom up!

From Heather

Thank you very much for this. No problem with the images.

The Tombses I have but I hadn't finished working out all of the relationships between the Armbroughs, so that second image is especially useful.

The ONE question that remains on the Tombs side is the also ONE thing that isn't shown on the Tombs tree image. And THAT is exactly what I started puzzling over in 2006!

Just in case you have anyone sufficiently interested in looking into this, I'll explain. If you don't, I quite understand.

The problem is William (sawyer), for which there is no birth date shown on your doc. I suspect that is because the person who drew up that tree had exactly the same difficulty as me !

We know that John (1860 your doc but 1858 on Parish records) and Mary Willis had a son called William in 1788.

We know that a William Tombs married Ann Armbrough.

What I don't think we DO know is whether this is the same William. Because.. William Tombs and Ann Armbrough were married in Oxford St Michaels. In 2006 I saw this marriage on other trees but no one I asked seem to have any proof of it; they had just copied it from other trees. So I went to the Oxford records office to find it, thus discovering they had married in St Michaels. I have recently found a message I posted on a forum at the time, where I said that the marriage record says they were both 'of the parish' and Thomas Armbrough was a witness. What I hadn't put on the forum, and have lost since, are the rest of the details I found that day. However, I remember that something on that record led me to hunt for a birth record for William and I'm pretty sure that I found him born in the 1790s (ie not 1788 like the one in Wheatley) and born in Oxford.

Apart from that, a lady called Christine who was brought up in Wheatley and appears to have done a lot of research has a William 1792 in the place of William(sawyer) whereas most people with online trees still have William 1788 in that place. I'm not in touch with this Christine and don't know her surname but am trying to find out what SHE found out in order to put William 1792. There is also the point that in all the census data later on, where he can be seen with Ann and the children, William's birthplace is marked as Wheatley, not Oxford!

So... all this raises various questions... Why did William and Ann, if both were from Wheatley, get married in St Michaels? Why were they both recorded as 'of the parish'? Was there a second William Tombs from Wheatley who doesn't appear on the records for some reason? If there WAS, and he was the one who married Ann, then what on earth happened to William 1788?!

This marriage makes all the difference you see:

The top half of the tree is right, so William 1778s parents, grandparents and siblings are right.

The bottom half of the tree, William(sawyer), Ann Armbrough and their siblings (his not shown on your image easily found) and children are right.

However, if it was NOT William 1788 who married Ann, then the tree is not quite right. And it hardly seems worth doing a tree at all unless one is going to make sure that it's correct! Hence my original request (although I said George William instead of Thomas George which was very misleading - sorry!)

I have asked the OFHS if they can do a search for the marriage to see what other details it gives, if any, but so far they haven't replied.

So anyway, if anyone is interested in this, please do let me know or ask them to contact me. If not then thank you again for your help and I shall now enter the missing Armbroughs into my tree. From Heather Tombs

From WVA - Dear Heather,

Please find attached two jpeg documents of 1) the Tombs family tree and 2) the Armbrough family tree. Hopefully you can read them. Do get back to us if there is a problem.

From: Heather Tombs - hello to all the team at Wheatley,

Thank you so much for your reply. In fact I have progressed considerably since I asked my question AND I made mistakes in my own question, which will have confused things even further ! Sincere apologies for that.

I also ordered the HED02 CD from the OHFS so I hope that will help too. It arrived earlier today so I haven't had a chance even to open it as yet.

Here is what I know so far:

'George', whose birth date from census data I had estimated as 1824-6 was in fact baptised Thomas George in 1823. I had noted this years ago but during the export/import of an old Gedcom file he, along with various other people, got 'disconnected' and I didn't see the entry for him until someone remarked on this and I looked for him.

His parents were indeed William 1790s (I am still looking for further information on him) and Ann Armbrough. Despite me thinking that I had found this to be a mistake, I found a very old message from myself on a forum saying that this marriage was exactly what I had found at the Oxford Records office, witnessed by Thomas Armbrough/Armbrugh (who I imagine was Ann's father - we shall see).

This all just goes to show how one's memory can play tricks, ten years later in this case!

So 'George', now known to be Thomas George 1823, I think married only Ann Smith, born around 1830 in Drayton. Goodness knows why she was sometimes called 'Mary' on census data! Unless I find out anything different that is.

George William 1854 definitely married Annie Butcher, so we can exclude him from the investigation:)

I'm sure you have other requests so would you like me to see what I can find on the CD, solve any puzzles that I can, then come back to you if I get stuck? I don't want to waste your time by asking you to look for data that I can find myself - I'm sure you all have more interesting things to do :)

Thanks again for your reply, it's very kind of you to help.

From WVA -

Apologies for not replying earlier, but your request has kept us very busy as we keep getting confused by all the George Williams. Hopefully we shall be able to send you some information next week! (The archives are only opened once a week by volunteers)

From Heather Tombs - Location (Town/Country): Piegut Pluviers, France

First of all I would just like to thank you and all the contributors for this most interesting website.

I've just tried to subscribe (thinking that this was to a newsfeed for the website but am now thinking that perhaps it's to the Wheatley Society?) but the link doesn't work. Please would you add me to your mailing list if you have one, to let me know when new articles are published?

My original reason for visiting the site was to do some family history research. My father, Frederick George Ernest Tombs, died in January this year aged 101. We are decedents of some of the Tombs of

Wheatley. Whenever I'm next in the area I would be most interested in visiting again and perhaps looking at some of your records if that would be possible. The last time I was there was for an uncle's funeral and I took my father for a drive and around the church and churchyard.

In the meantime, I wonder if you could let me know please if you have any definitive proof of the parents of George William Tombs born 1824 (possibly 1825 or 1826; birthdates based on census records vary) to parents William Tombs and wife Ann. There is some disagreement on the family tree sites regarding this little bit of the family and I would really like to crack this one once and for all! I have lost some of my notes unfortunately, but clearly remember visiting the Oxford records office and being quite convinced that I had found George's father.

If there is someone who could help with this I would be very grateful indeed, and of course would be interested in anything else regarding our branch of the Tombs family. This includes George William 1826/6 (who married an Ann from Drayton, born 1830 I think Ann Smith but earlier censuses describe her as Mary!), and his siblings and also George 1854/5 who married Annie Butcher (my father's grandparents) and his siblings. I have a family photo taken at their Golden Wedding in case that is of any interest to you? If so please let me know and I'll happily send it.

Thanks for reading and I hope to hear from you soon,