

LOVELOCK LINES

The Lovelock Family Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Though the New Year of our Common Era is some weeks behind us now, we bring you greetings for the New Year celebrations that fall at the end of the month – the Chinese on 29 January and year 1426 of the Muslim Era on the 31st.

Our newsletter grew out of the Lovelock Gathering and it has been our ambition to recreate through it something of the exciting atmosphere of that occasion. To my mind that had two aspects. One was that people who until then had been only names to each other took on flesh and blood. Our aim, likewise, has been to try and bring our forebears to life, to give a sense of their personalities and the times in which they lived.

The other aspect was that we had the chance to talk together and out of that dialogue came fresh possibilities and discoveries. I particularly wanted the newsletter to become an extension of that dialogue, an ambition only achieved in this issue, I think. In article after article, conversations (even if only by email) are quoted so that we have a sense of not just the one voice but of many together. I hope it will inspire our readership to keep the feedback coming in, and to continue talking to each other.

What's New on the Lovelock Web Site

James Loveluck



The first edition of Lovelock Lines included a history of the origins of the Lovelock Web site, emphasising the collaborative nature of its creation and elaboration, together with a summary of what had been achieved at the time (summer 2004). Yann Lovelock has invited me to provide an update on recent progress.

We now have an impressive collection of primary records for a number of counties, and in the past months we have continued to make incremental additions to this collection. In particular the census records have been greatly enhanced. The coverage of wills and letters of administration has also been extended and an attempt has been made to improve the organisation of this material. The rest of the world was also recognised by adding a page for Lovelock records of other countries (Australia, NZ and the USA). These collections still depend on the efforts of a limited number of devoted individuals, in particular Robert Sterry, with contributions also from Graham Lovelock, Mike & Alison Turner, John Dixon, John Lovelock, Mary Pipe (Aus & NZ), Chris Knight, Sue Lovelock and Lynn Squire. Any help in extending the collection would be greatly appreciated!

Perhaps the most significant progress we have seen in the past months concerns the collection of family trees, which has been augmented both in quantity and in scope. Of course, this rapid progress in developing family trees would have been much more difficult without the previous groundwork on collecting the primary records! The increasing coverage of the FreeBMD extracts of GRO records has also helped to complete 19th and 20th century branches of these trees. Some of the recent trees have extended the coverage far beyond the core Lovelock territory of Wiltshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire, and we now have a line which begins in Gloucester and ends in Derbyshire, another one which extends from Hampshire to Herefordshire, a Berkshire to Cheshire connection, a tree which links Lambeth to Australia and New Zealand, and we have also seen an exciting link between the Lyneham Line and the Nevada Lovelocks. For many of these trees, *gedcom files* have been added to the Web site for download, the gedcom format being the standard for exchanging data between genealogy programs. Some of the trees are more speculative in nature, and this has led to the addition of a ***Work in Progress*** section which includes these tentative proposals and other unfinished work, as well as collecting together enquiries from people who are trying to connect their family to one of the Lovelock trees. Do let us know if you have a family tree or a fragment for your family which is not included on the site.

I continue my attempts to improve the organisation of the site, and there have been some cosmetic changes which I hope have improved navigation around the site. In addition, I have set up a new site, on an experimental basis, which uses PhpGedView, a software tool which allows one to browse a family tree in a dynamic fashion. The site was recently attacked by a hacker, but it didn't suffer serious damage and is now again available at: <http://james.loveluck.free.fr/>

The Lovelock Web site is very much a collaborative undertaking and in addition to those above who have contributed primary records I would like to thank all those who contributed family trees and other material. As well as regular energetic contributors, in particular Graham Lovelock and Robert Sterry, we have also had some very active new contributors since the Lovelocks Alive 04 gathering. I would particularly like to mention Robin Lovelock, Sue Lovelock, John Lewis, Nigel Gerdes and Chris Knight. On the Web site I do try to make it clear who has contributed what, but I'm sure I occasionally make mistakes and I hope that I will be forgiven for these lapses. Finally, I'd like to thank Yann for his perseverance in producing, with help from John Lovelock and Robert Sterry, four editions of ***Lovelock Lines***. This has enriched the Web site by providing a different angle on family history, compared with the BMD records and family trees.

FROM WILTSHIRE TO NEVADA

– Tracing the Lovelock connection



What a difference the Internet and email systems have made to our family history research, and especially to world-wide collaboration. I started my Lovelock research over 20 years ago, when sharing information involved typing long letters, sending them off to various fellow researchers and waiting weeks for their replies. Nowadays the same collaboration can be done in a matter of days, as the following story illustrates.

I traced my husband's line quite easily via birth certificates and parish registers back to George Lovelock who married Jane Clark in Lyneham in 1805. Then I turned to census records to find George's baptism in 1784 in Compton Bassett, and those of his brothers John, Thomas, Stephen, Jacob and Daniel, and his sister Jane. I found out more about Thomas, who lived all his life in Compton Bassett, working as a gardener, but I wondered what had happened to the other brothers, as there were no burial records for them locally and no sign of them marrying or dying in the neighbouring parishes. But over time I almost forgot about them, as I took the Lovelock line back to Abraham Lovelock and Priscilla Greenaway who married in Wroughton in 1689, then concentrated on other lines (and indeed on other hobbies).

In June 2004 my husband and I attended an event called "Lovelocks Alive", organised by a group of Lovelock researchers, including James Loveluck, whose web-site is such a useful tool to anyone researching the name. It was a great opportunity to meet so many Lovelock descendants and to put faces to the names of people I had corresponded with in the past. And I also learned about the Rootsweb Lovelock distribution list which played such a vital part in the discovery described below, and which I immediately joined.

I had been aware for some time that there is a town in Nevada called Lovelock, founded by a George Lovelock – but according to James Loveluck's web-site, no-one could connect George into any of the main family lines. Then one day a researcher named Chris Knight sent an email to the distribution list:

Daniel was my 3rd great grandfather and at the time of the 1851 census, aged 58 and a gardener, lived in Wolverhampton (Brewood) with his second wife and daughter Mary (my 2nd great grandmother) by an earlier marriage. He married his second wife in Wolverhampton in 1847. Daniel's birthplace is given as Compton Basset and I believe him to have been descended from the line of Abraham Lovelock and Priscilla Greenaway.

So now I knew what had happened to one of the "missing" brothers! But there was more to come. Within an hour, James Loveluck responded:

I wonder if Daniel Lovelock could be the progenitor of the "Nevada Lovelock Line"? ...[the web-site shows that] Daniel (a gardener!) married

Jane Roberts at Oystermouth, Glamorgan, Wales 4 Jan 1816 and they had 5 children, including Mary bap. 20 Apr 1822 at Newport Wales (this doesn't quite fit your data but it's within the errors of census returns etc.)... It would be very interesting if we could link the Nevada Lovelocks to the Lyneham Line!

Full of excitement, I checked the Lovelock web-site to understand what James had said. Indeed, it showed that George Lovelock, baptised in 1824, who had founded the town of



Lovelock in Nevada and died there in 1907, was the son of Daniel Lovelock. It appeared that Daniel had moved from Compton Bassett to Glamorgan as a young man, married and produced a family there, including the pioneering George. Following the death of his first wife, Daniel moved to Brewood, near the small market town of Penkridge north of Wolverhampton, where he married for a second time and worked for the Giffard family as head gardener at a grand mansion

called Chillington Hall. Checking the Chillington Hall web-site, I learned that Daniel must have held a very responsible position, as the grounds cover 1100 acres and had been landscaped by Capability Brown in the 1770s.

The following day, another email appeared, this time from Robert Sterry, an Australian member of the group who had helped organise the Lovelocks Alive event:

Well done James! I believe you have indeed connected the Nevada Lovelock line to the Lyneham line. This is pretty exciting stuff and doesn't happen very often. The 1851 census data that Chris Knight supplied on Daniel Lovelock of Wolverhampton exactly matches that of Daniel L bp 1793, the son of Thomas L and Jane Bratfield on the Lyneham line.

Chris Knight then supplied some further information, including a correction of the maiden name of Daniel's first wife to Rees. By that same evening, James Loveluck was able to write:

It certainly would be gratifying if we could connect the Nevada Lovelocks to the Lyneham Line - so far everything seems to fit together! You're quite right ... there would seem to be an error in the Nevada fragment on the Web site concerning the name of Daniel L's first wife (should be Rees, not Roberts).

And in the same email, another possible link to Compton Bassett emerges:

Returning to the Lovelocks in Glamorgan, we don't have an explanation of 4 Lovelock burials at Oystermouth . . . Perhaps John (bur 17 Mar 1811) is the brother of Daniel bap 2 Jan 1713 at Cherhill, and the others are his children.

So there was at least the possibility (not yet proven) that another of George's brothers had moved to South Wales!

The email continues, inviting descendants of Daniel Lovelock to contribute:

It would be interesting to hear from Richard Dowd and/or Jack Lovelock (I think they're both on the mailing list) about the early part of the Nevada Lovelock tree!

The link with these correspondents, living in Australia and New Zealand respectively, is via another son of Daniel's, also named Daniel, who emigrated to Australia in the 1840s. (Indeed, Australia was the first destination of George, before he moved on via the Sandwich Islands to California and Nevada, and it was while he was on board ship heading for Australia that his first son Frederick was born.)

Within a couple of days, both cousins had replied, and were able to corroborate the evidence. And only a week after the very first email, Chris Knight sent the following details from the 1861 census which absolutely clinched it:

RG9 - 1980 Folio 55 page2

Parish of Brewood Chillington Garden house.

Daniel Lovelock, Head, age (unreadable), Head Gardener, Wilts, Compton Bassett

Mary Lovelock, Wife, 54, Staffordshire Wolverhampton

George Chorlton, Boarder, age (unreadable), Under Gardener, Lancashire, Manchester

Frederick Lovelock, Grandson, Scholar, 14, Born at Sea

This last entry ties in beautifully with the fact that Daniel's son, George Lovelock had a son Frederick, born 1848 at sea on board "Success"

Not only did the connection between the Daniel (58 years old, gardener born in Compton Bassett) shown in the 1851 census at Wolverhampton and the Daniel born to Thomas Lovelock and Jane Bratfield - baptised 3rd March 1793 - seem indisputable, but also the connection between this Daniel and George, the founder of Lovelock in Nevada. James updated the web-site accordingly, and I was left with a wealth of information about Daniel and his offspring where a few days previously I had none!



© Sue Lovelock's article appears concurrently in the journal of the Wiltshire Family History Society

FEEDBACK

Readers will have been well aware that the editors were getting a trifle despondent. There's lots of genealogical chat going on in the background, so that the Lovelock family site grows almost by the day. The excitement of chasing down and assembling a picture from scattered facts is evident in Sue and Robin's articles here, as it has been in those by others earlier on. But it has almost seemed as if some folk think that once a thing is written down there's nothing more to be said. Far from it! We're more than grateful to Robert Chapman and Mary Lovelock (daughter of the runner Jack Lovelock), of Raleigh, North Carolina, for putting us right on details that have appeared in our past three issues. Here are their comments and the results of the further research they pushed us towards.

a) Concerning the curious news story of Nate Baer, Jack Lovelock's grandson, on p. 4 of #1, Bob writes:

"Nate Baer was well aware of his grandfather's connection to New Zealand prior to attending the University of Otago. It's possible that he somehow did not directly connect Jack with Otago, although it wasn't because he hadn't been often told by his father and me! Mary and I were as surprised as anyone when we read that he'd told a Dunedin newspaper reporter that he'd been unaware of the connection until arriving at Otago. Nate has tentatively agreed to contribute a chapter to a collective biography of his grandfather, which focuses on Jack the physician instead of Jack the runner. The biography is being written primarily by a number of New Zealand physicians, one of whom is the editor, and Nate hopes to use the discipline of medical anthropology to shed additional light on Dr. Lovelock."

b) Bob also corrects me on the Lovelock family home in Opoho (#3, p. 16-17) in which Jack lived while attending the University of Otago. The photo on the next page, also featuring Mary on the left, was taken in 1987 and features the now missing blue plaque. He comments, *"It's a far cry from the Dunedin mansion now known as Lovelock House which--as far as we know--has never had any connection with our branch of the family. Because of its proximity to the University and its association with Jack, we've surmised that the present owners decided to cash in on Jack's notoriety."* The family's circumstances therefore seem to have been more modest than I had assumed. I am informed that Jack was able to attend Timaru High School and Otago University (as, indeed, Oxford) only because of scholarships.

Another commercial use of Jack Lovelock's name that Bob points out is in Lambourne Games' *The Complete Metric Mile*. Designed for solo or multiple players, it is of low complexity (playing time 30-40 minutes). A fascinating 'what if' game, it races athletes from different eras against each other. Thirty-six of the world's past and present milers are brought together in this simulation of the classic track event. Individual cards recreate



the strengths and weaknesses of the runners portrayed and a unique game system ensures that the tension builds steadily through each race as the player decides how to run each of his athletes, when to force the pace, when to unleash the final sprint. The game includes such features as stamina, boxing-in, use of a pacemaker and four different modes of running. Lap times and final times are dependent on two factors - the individual performance of the athlete plus the Pace Count (the pace at which the race is run) which is assessed by the aggression of the leading runners throughout the race. Campaign rules enable you to train each athlete and plan their season, attempting to peak at exactly the right time for an important race or world record attempt. The game now comes complete with the More Metric Milers and A Few More Metric Milers extension sets.

(c)Finally, by way of literary update, Bob sends *"much-belated congratulations to Yann Lovelock for the splendid "Imaginary Lovelocks" article in the January 2005 issue of Lovelock Lines. We'd like to add another entry to this literary pantheon: FBI Special Agent Mary M. Lovelock appears briefly in Monkey Trap, a science fiction action-adventure novel by Lee Denning, published in 2004 by Twilight Times Books (ISBN 1-931201-34-X).*

The first volume of a trilogy, Monkey Trap draws heavily on the Global Consciousness Project at Princeton University. Written by a father-daughter team under a nom de plume, the actual authors are Denning Powell and Leanne Powell Myasnik. Denning, who is married to the real-life Mary R. Lovelock's cousin Virginia James, made good on his promise/threat to create a character named after the elder daughter of Dr. John E. "Jack" Lovelock. After fetching sandwiches for higher-ranking G-men, Special Agent Lovelock

gets knocked cold by an extra-terrestrial residing in a human body. Thus far there's no indication from the lead author whether Mary Lovelock will have a greater role in the next instalment. He's promised to kill off a character based loosely on the real Mary's husband!"

A web review by Harriet Klausner sums up the plot:



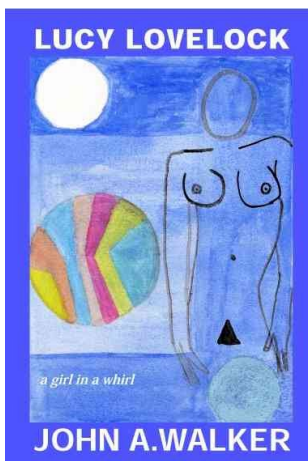
'MONKEY TRAP is Book I of the Nova Sapiens trilogy, a speculation that takes off from the present-day science of evolution and consciousness and leaps into the dangers of an alternative future for humanity. An evolutionary feedback loop in the human genome is being triggered. It better integrates the three evolutionary segments of the brain. The resulting Nova sapiens -- newborns of a more-than-human race -- possess extraordinary physical and mental powers. But how will the world greet these newborns?

At the Goddard Space Flight Center, the staff observes a fight between aircrafts in outer space, which end with both objects plunging toward earth. One crashes in Colombia and the other in Washington DC. Officially the government claims space debris.

In Colombia, Black Ops drug lord assassin Captain John Jacob Connard takes a bullet during a jungle fight and lies near death in a cave until an entity somehow enters his body. John quickly learns to heal himself and to use other telepathic powers. For saving his life, his symbiotic partner demands John kill the enemy who will destroy all living beings on earth unless stopped.

FBI Agent Lara Ellen Picard rides her bike when a bee flies into her mouth stinging her several times. Struggling for air she stumbles off the path and is near death below the biking path until an entity somehow enters her body. Lara quickly learns to heal herself and to use other telepathic powers. For saving her life, her symbiotic partner demands Lara kill the enemy who will destroy all living beings on earth unless stopped.

MONKEY TRAP is a terrific science fiction starring two humans who become the battle armor for aliens at war. Readers will wonder who the evil species is as the evidence is cleverly designed so that the audience keeps switching perspective to include one or the other, both and even neither.'



Still another Lovelock title that appeared in 2004 is a piece of UK teenage fiction recommended for the 15+ range. This is Scottish author John A. Walker's "Lucy Lovelock: a girl in a whirl", published from his own imprint, Cosmos Original Productions (ISBN: 0-9534703-4-2).

According to the synopsis, Lucy Lovelock and her friends, Jenny Penny and Gina Cappuccino, like most young girls in the 21st century, do not like being controlled by the TV and Media Moguls. And yet here today Lucy is off to work for the Academy of Entertainment: the main TV station in the city centre. How will she cope? How will the girl in a whirl keep her free spirit free? Given that the author is no fan of media moguls himself, the

outcome is hardly in doubt.

"THEY GET EVERYWHERE, DON'T THEY?"
"THEY GET EVERYWHERE, DON'T THEY?"

said my correspondent, sending me an item from the Property News of the *Sunday Times*, "having read a *Lovelock Lines* while on hols in Wilts". My thanks to F. B. Barrett for the fascinating item below, the rest of which can be found online (though PDF link won't work): <http://property.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,14049-1809448,00.html> . It reads:

Few people would choose to live in a prison. Fifty-year-old banker Gregory Lovelock is an exception: he has spent the past five years renovating the old town jail in Wigtown in Dumfries & Galloway as his home.



"I just happened to be in the right place at the right time to spot it," he says. "I was walking down the road and saw it looking very sorry for itself — boarded up, windows smashed, derelict, with an overgrown garden. It hadn't been lived in for 20 years by this point. "I happened to mention it at the nearest shop and was told that it was up for sale. I left my name with the town information office, subsequently got a phone call, offering it, and bought it for £54,000."

The building, now named Clintz House, was built in 1846 as a prison, before being converted into a police station in the 1870s and surviving as such until after the second world war, when it became the house and workshop of a church organ-maker. "It has still got the cells downstairs, complete with the doors and a huge cast-iron key to lock them, which still works. The only modernisation was the installation of toilet pans in the 1850s. It's smaller than you'd think — really just three up three down, plus the cells. The cells still have graffiti; the prisoners counting off the days they've been in there."

The restoration has been a long job because Lovelock is doing most of it himself, part-time. "It has been badly repaired in the past with all the wrong materials, and it's riddled with damp," he explains. "If you slam the door, bits of plaster still fall off the walls, but it has heating and lighting. My parents thought I was insane, but they came round and now I have a waiting list of friends who want to visit."

Unless you happen to be a Lovelock, you'll chuckle and pass on to the next item. But we who are family might speculate about whether it's worth joining the waiting list. Everything you need to know is on the Wigtown history site (<http://www.wigtown-heritage.org/jail.htm>). Here are some of the highlights.

The building is the work of architect Thomas Brown Junior, who worked for the Prison Board of Scotland between 1837-49, before setting up in private practice. It is in the Neo-

Tudor style, built to a T plan with two storeys and attic: offices to front, prison to rear. The materials are described as rubble with polished red sandstone angles and margins. The front elevation has tall thin advanced outer bays flanking a gabled centre, originally with symmetrical hood moulded windows, one now enlarged on the 1st floor. At the outer bays and to the gable apex are tall octagonal ashlar stacks. To the rear is a five-bay, two-storey block with cells to ground lit by small rectangular windows placed high up with sandstone dressings. Rubble walls support decorative cast-iron railings; there are rusticated granite gate piers. A desirable residence indeed!



When the jail first opened it was fairly full and housed both males and females. The 1851 census lists thirteen inmates, the majority young, ranging from 14 to 30. Two were of Irish origin, for this was the time of the potato famines and the great migration. Eighteen inmates are recorded in 1853 in accommodation originally meant only for nine. By 1861 there were just four (aged between 19-34, two females, two males); in 1871 there were three older males. After conversion to a police station, prisoners of both sexes were still held in the cells, as the records show.

We're family, as I said, but some of us might be closer cousins than others. In October I posted news of the article under the heading "Infamous Lovelock buys his own jail" on the Lovelock sector of RootsWeb (<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/LOVELOCK>),



appealing for information about who the buyer might be. Shortly afterwards I got an email from Dr Brent Lovelock in New Zealand, grassing his own brother. This was someone I 'knew', since Brent is on my database of academic Lovelocks. In fact, he's Senior Lecturer in Tourism at the University of Otago and you can read more about his credentials at <http://www.business.otago.ac.nz/tourism/staff/lovelock.html>. Although not quite as far from home as his brother, it's still a fair hop from the south-eastern end of South Island to his birthplace in Palmerston North at the south-western end of North Island.

Those with sharp memories will prick up their ears at mention of his place of birth since descendents of the so-called Kent line settled in the region as cattle farmers. In fact they are still there, although the information on the family website is sparse and needs to be correlated with Mary Pipe's list of NZ births, marriages and deaths, 1840-1990. This is a valuable supplement to information concerning the descendents of Isaac Lovelock of Tonbridge (1804-71) who sailed to Port Nicholson (Wellington) on board the "Bolton" in 1840. He seems to have left his four daughters behind with relatives in Kent and had a further two sons and two daughters in Wellington.

The second of these sons was Isaac William (1847-1926), whose first son was William Isaac (b. 1869). It was the latter's son Isaac William (d.1988) who eventually moved out to Palmerston North. Brent informed me that *'we are descendents of Isaac William Lovelock, and his son William Lovelock (who was my grandfather). Isaac William was a contractor*

who worked at some time on developing roads through the thickly forested Manawatu Valley. He bought land there and began his large family. Some of the family stayed in the Manawatu, and some moved north to the next district, the Rangitikei (and are still there).

His son William stayed in the Manawatu and was a champion Holstein breeder. During the depression my grandfather lost most of his money and land (he had several properties in the Manawatu) and the family moved to a smaller farm at Ormond, out of Gisborne on the East Coast. Thus began the Gisborne branch of the Lovelocks.



His son (our father) Donald moved back to the Manawatu (at Newbury) on land settled by Lovelocks in the 1870s, and farmed there, having a Jersey stud. My brother Gregory Neil (b 11/11/55) and my older brother Raymond John (b. 2/6/45) and I were all raised on the farm at Newbury. Raymond took over the farm from my father and has just retired this year (he still owns the farm but has sold his herd). My father Donald Levant (b. 23/2/18) passed away on 1/5/02. My mother, Mary (née Bray b. 27/7/22) passed away last year on 6/9/04.

Gregory attended Newbury School (just out of Palmerston North), then Palmerston North Boys High School. He began work in Palmerston North for the Bank of NZ for a few years until going to the UK (ostensibly for a year) in 1977. He got a job with the BNZ in London and was with them for some years until they closed their operations in the UK. Now he is employed by an Arab Bank.'

According to Brent, his second cousin Martin, son of his great uncle Howard (1891-1973), is 'the keeper of the family history'. Brent has written to him to see if he can give more details of what must now be called, in New Zealand terms, the Palmerston North line. Having collated what is on the family site with Mary Pipe's and Brent's information, we have the following so far in the male line:

1 Levi Lovelock b: abt 1771 d. before 1841 bur: probably Maidstone, Kent, England. Labourer.
+ 2nd wife Charlotte Brisenden m. 11/12/1803 b: 26th March, 1774 Tonbridge bp: 26 Mar 1776
Tonbridge, Kent, d: 7/10/1846 Maidstone, Kent

2 Isaac Lovelock b. 25/11/1804 Tonbridge, Kent, England bp 11/12/1804. Sailed to New Zealand 1840 on "Bolton" to Port Nicholson, Wellington, NZ. Descendants mostly into cattle in Palmerston North. Doctor. d. 1871 Christchurch
+ Elizabeth Bishop m. 31/5/1830 Maidstone, Kent

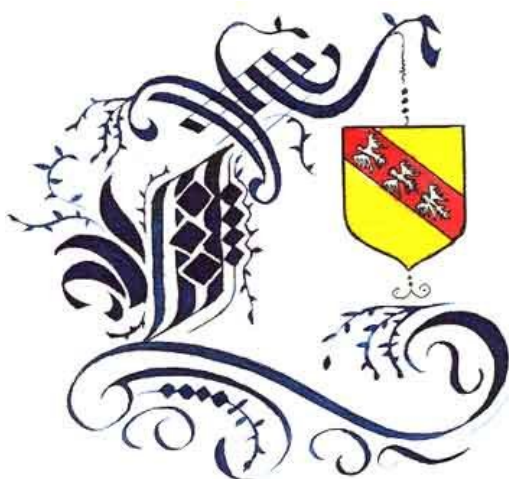
3 Levi Stephen Lovelock b. 19/1/1840 Wellington, New Zealand
d. Featherston Dec. 1918

- 3** Isaac William Lovelock b. 1847 Wellington, d. Pahiatua, March 1926
+ Parthenia Mary Bannister b. 21/5/1850 Wellington, d. Palmerston Nth March 1927
- 4** William Isaac Lovelock b. Wellington 1869
+ Edith McKenzie
- 5** Isaac William ('Bill') Lovelock d. Gisborne 1988
- 5** Rita + Jack Robert
- 5** Thena Edith (unmarried) d. Palmerston Nth 1988
- 5** Joyce + George Millard
- 5** Dorothy (still alive and living in Geraldine, South Canterbury)
- 5** Percy Gordon d. 1941 in the war (Greece) unmarried
- 5** Donald Levant Lovelock b. Karere (nr Palmerston Nth) 23/2/1918, d. 1/5/2002
+ Mary Bray b. 27/7/1922, d. 6/9/2004
- 6** Raymond John Lovelock b. Hamilton 2/6/1945
- 6** Gregory Neil Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth 11/11/1955
- 6** Brent Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth 16/4/1960
+ Kirsten McKay b. Masterton 19/2/1962
- 7** Millie Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth 16/10/1993
- 7** Oscar Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth 13/3/1998
- 4** Frederick Edwin Bishop Lovelock b. Wellington 1871, m. 1911, d. 1956
- 4** Minnie Sarah Parthenia Lovelock b. Wellington, June 1873, m. 1898
- 4** Henry Charles Lovelock b. Masterton, Sept. 1875, m. 1911, d. Palmerston Nth. June 1949
- 4** David Josiah Lovelock b. Wellington, Dec. 1887, d. Palmerston Nth. March 1954
- 4** Mary Elizabeth Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth. Dec. 1879, m. 1904
- 4** Levi Stephen Lovelock b. Reefton, June 1882, d. Palmerston Nth. March 1918
- 4** George Robert Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth. March 1884, d. Marton 1961
- 4** Leonard Leopold Lovelock b. Foxton, March 1885, m. 1909, d. Palmerston Nth. 1974
- 4** Patience Lovelock [Patience Harriet m. 1915]
- 4** Arthur Clement Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth. Dec. 1889, m. 1912, d. Cambridge 1963
- 4** Howard Dudley Lovelock b. Palmerston Nth. June 1891, m. 1916, d. Palmerston Nth. 1973
- 4** Lucy Gladys Jessie Lovelock b. Newbury (Palmerston Nth), June 1893
+ Horace Matthews (b. Palmerston Nth 1893) 1921

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

or "If you can't blame the tools, blame the workman!"

Notes on some detective work by (Christopher) Robin Lovelock



IKE Sue Lovelock (see elsewhere in this newsletter) I attended 'Lovelocks Alive' in Hungerford in June 2004. Unlike Sue, at that time I was a complete novice. I'd received messages from several old friends scattered around the country who'd seen notes about the event in various local newspapers, but I'd been very uncertain whether to go along, never having been especially interested in family history – either my own or in more general terms. I made tentative enquiries and in response I was alerted – by Yann's brother Jeremy as I recall – to the amazing Lovelock website

<http://perso.numericable.fr/~lovjames/family-history/lovelock> and also put in touch with a second

cousin, David L., in Tucson Arizona. David had done a lot of work on 'my' 'Wootton Rivers (Wiltshire) Lovelocks', who are now, but were not at the time – and that's quite another story! – believed to be part of 'the Lieflock Line' (add [fragments/lieflock-line.htm](http://perso.numericable.fr/~lovjames/family-history/lieflock-line.htm) to the direction above). That line, to quote the website, is 'the most complete tree which we have built up ... starting from Richard Lieflock (Lovelock), who was probably born about 1680 and died in 1760, and extending to this century'. Little did I know where all this would lead me, but I decided to go to the gathering and from then on I've been completely hooked. At Hungerford I met (among many others) James Loveluck, Robert Sterry and Graham Lovelock: three wise men who have since become my mentors in matters genealogical and who have helped and encouraged me to contribute in various small ways to the ever-growing Lovelock website.

The little tale which follows, insignificant in itself, no doubt, illustrates several important things about doing family history - features it shares with other forms of social and historical research. Among these is the importance of being alert to inconsistencies between the various sources of information one typically needs to draw upon, and on the look-out for possible errors in any particular record, primary as well as secondary. Not many generations back, for example, large numbers of people were unable to read or write, and local dialects remained strong; this makes for variations – even errors – in the way names were spelt in parish registers and, later, in the context of the civil registration process for births, marriages and deaths. It's also common to find discrepancies, often of more than a year or so, between a recorded date of birth and an age cited at marriage or death, or in successive censuses; poor general levels of numeracy may well be one factor here, although there can of course be 'good' reasons for hiding a true age in a specific context! When the fact of one or more layers of transcription between an original entry in a parish register or on a census form and whatever document a family researcher is looking at is added to the equation, the potential for inconsistencies – and puzzles – is multiplied. So scepticism is the order of the day – allied to perseverance.

I'm not sure when I first saw the gravestone of John William Lovelock (bap. 1844) and Harriett his (second) wife, which forms the focus of my story. The churchyard at Wootton



Rivers, where it is to be found, was one of several visited on the coach trip during 'Lovelocks Alive' (see report in *Lovelock Lines* #3). The second photograph (taken that day) shows myself (left) and my uncle, Basil Lovelock, standing between it and the grave of John William's younger brother George Lovelock, his wife (also named Harriet), and their youngest son Albert Edward who tragically drowned in the local canal aged 6. George (bap. 1846) was my great-grandfather and Basil's grandfather.

I may well have visited Wootton Rivers churchyard as a boy, when my grandparents were still living in the village, and/or later when my father's eldest brother occupied the 'family seat'. However, I almost certainly first took notice of John William and Harriett's headstone either around the time of burying my father Eric John (Jack) Lovelock in

1980, or perhaps more recently when my mother Kathleen's ashes were interred in 1996. What puzzled me – leaving aside the matter of how many 't's there 'should' be in "Harriet(t)" – was the name "Merriett", which I took to be a second given, and in this case probably Christian, name, and as such a rather unusual, not to say strange one. The intrigue was heightened by the peculiar 'symmetry' of "Harriett" and "Merriett". Only after I'd been drawn into the labyrinth of Lovelock family history did I explore this further.

On September 2nd 2004 I rather tentatively posted the following to the RootsWeb Lovelock mailing list <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/surname/1/lovelock.html>.

"I've been puzzled by a gravestone at Wootton Rivers: that of the elder brother (John William L. b. 1844) of my great-grandfather (George b. 1846). John William appears to have been buried with his second wife, Harriett - his first, Jane, having died young. [Added Jan. 2006: John William appears in the 1871 census in Wootton Rivers with his wife Jane and their daughters Emily Maria and Sarah Ann, aged one year and two



weeks respectively; Sarah Ann was buried on August 20th and her mother on October 1st of that same year. In 1881 John William and Emily Maria were living with his parents in the village.] On the gravestone we find 'John William Lovelock ... also his wife Harriett Merriett' ... I've always wondered if the mason made a mistake, 'Merriett' not being a first name I've come across elsewhere, and also being so like Harriett. This of course is to assume that 'Harriett Merriett' parallels 'Mary Jane', which is clearly what Malcolm L. and Richard Moore and/or the compilers of the Wiltshire M[onumental] I[n]dex did - for that's the source of the info. given on the website in 'Lovelocks in Wiltshire by Parish' - referring to 'Harriett Merriett Lovelock'.

Harriett came from Swallowfield [1891 census entry – see below] and the following appears in 'Lovelocks in Berkshire by Parish':

Reading, St Giles

1882 Mar 12 John Willam [sic] Lovelock, bricklayer, Father: David Lovelock, bricklayer and Harriett Merrett [supplied by Jill Fleming].

I went on to offer some musings, the first being whether 'Willam' in the cited marriage entry on the website involved a slip on the part of whoever had transcribed the parish register (possibly, but not necessarily of course, Jill Fleming herself), and more significantly which, of "Merriett" as on the gravestone and "Merrett" as on the website and by implication as in the PR, was correct. Having by this time begun to find my way to some key on-line genealogy resources, I was able to add a third possibility for the name under which Harriett had married John William. I'd found a record of the marriage in the International Genealogical Index (IGI)ⁱ, where the bride's name was also given as "Merrett", seeming to confirm the PR and website spelling. (Being very inexperienced in the use of the LDS site at the time, I didn't know how easy it is to download and view individual entries for marriages, births, census returns, etc., so I hadn't actually viewed the entry as such, only the summary which appears in response to a search query.) On the other hand, the entry for the marriage which I'd located on FreeBMDⁱⁱ has "Merritt", with the specific reference being 'Marriages, Reading, March quarter 1882, vol. 2c, p. 499'. I later took out a subscription to BMDIndex (<http://www.bmdindex.co.uk/>) which claims full coverage of civil registrations from 1837, unlike the free site which as yet is incomplete; the image of the relevant page in the GRO register there clearly shows "Merritt".

My other thoughts concerned the gravestone itself. I was far from sure how likely it would have been for Harriett (and John William?) to have used a 'double-barrelled' name, and the inscription didn't seem to suggest it; I also thought it unlikely – albeit with no good reason! – that Harriett would have retained her maiden name.

A key bit of information from the IGI which for some reason does not appear in our website citation of the parish record – the IGI is after all based largely on parish registers – was the name of the bride's father, Joseph *Dicker*, suggesting that Harriett too might well have been married before. The IGI entry also included the ages of both bride and groom (i.e. John William) in 1882 – 37 in each case.

Drawing further on the Lovelock website, I also reported to Lovelock mailing list subscribers that:

"(i) the 1891 census (Graham's extractions) has Lovelock, John William and Lovelock, Harriett M. living in Milton Lilbourne (Pewsey RD);

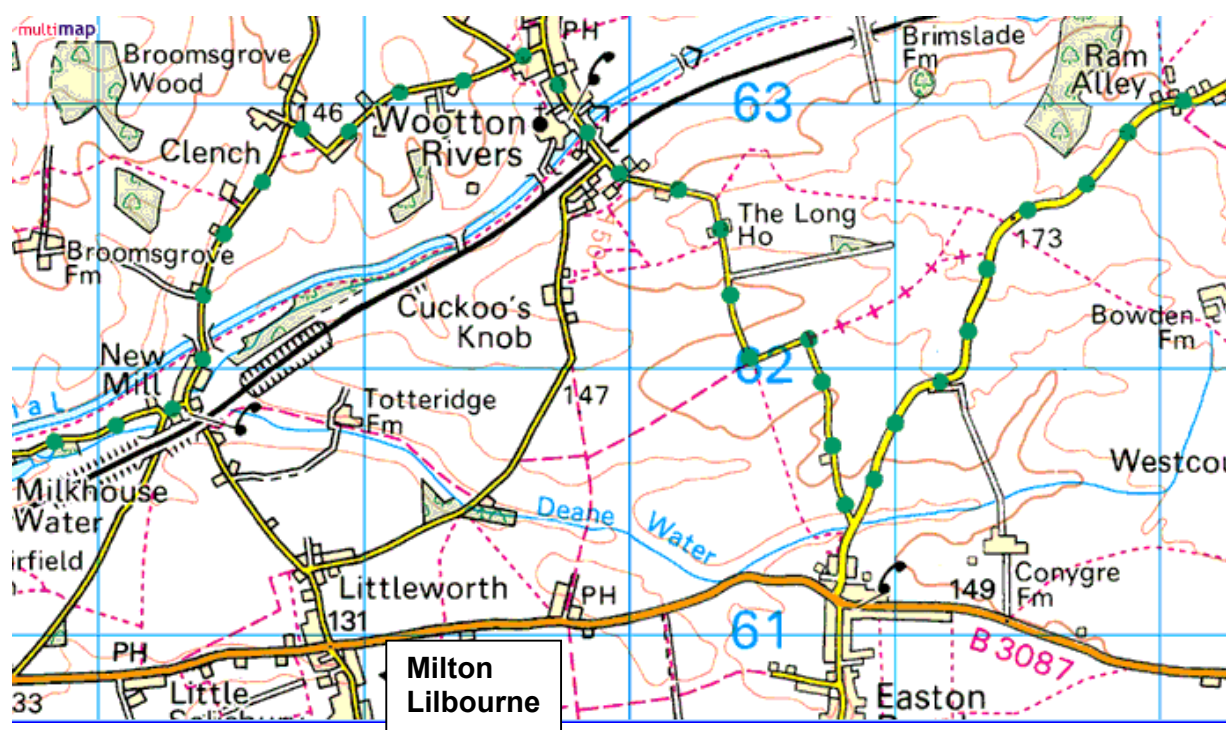
(ii) Lovelock GRO deaths on our website has 1922 Lovelock Harriet [sic] Merritt [sic] ... Pewsey RD".

Robert (Sterry) responded quickly and helpfully from 'down under': *"I'm not sure why you reject the possibility of her retaining her maiden name after she was married. FreeBMD says that her SURNAME was MERRITT... [Given the mention of her father's name, it's very likely that this was indeed Harriett Dicker's second marriage, the first being ... to a Merrett/Merritt/Merriett.] So I checked the IGI – and - guess what? - '1871 Sep 30, Reading St Giles, Harriett Dicker, age 27, Father: Joseph Dicker, married a George Merritt, age 26, Father: Thomas Merritt'.*

I guess the spelling of her previous married name that she chose to place on her headstone was a personal matter! Or perhaps the stone mason did get it wrong. I have found such errors in my own family on headstones. I'm sure it's not uncommon."

I later found the marriage of George Merritt and Harriett Dicker on both FreeBMD and BMDIndex, with matching entries for bride and groom: 'September quarter 1871, Reading, vol. 2c, p. 634'. I also located an entry for a death which is probably that of Harriett's first husband: 'George Merritt, aged 28, June quarter 1874, Reading, vol. 2c, p. 229'.

Pondering further on my original puzzle, it seemed to me that since she died twelve years after John William, Harriett might have reverted to a previous surname in her later years, but if so then why that from her first marriage rather than her maiden name, especially as she seems to have chosen to be buried with her second husband – or did someone decide that for her? However, in early January 2005 a list of Lovelock wills, provided by Graham, was posted on the Lovelock website. It included 'John William Lovelock of Clench, Milton; date of death 30 Jan 1910; beneficiary Harriett Merritt Lovelock'. And of course we already had 'Harriett M. Lovelock' from the 1891 census (see above).



Putting this alongside the other bits and pieces I'd found, and Robert's thoughts, I was coming to the view that Harriett probably did adopt the style of Harriett Merritt Lovelock following her second marriage – although John William Lovelock appears not to have reciprocated – and that the mason was indeed guilty of a tombstone typo! The Merritt/Merrett variation is probably simply that, a variation, with the IGI having the latter in its entry for Harriett's first marriage and the former in that for her second, and the GRO data having "Merritt". Taking all the sources located, "Merritt" seems to have been the more frequent form. But then there's the headstone's Merriett?! Incidentally, just to complicate matters, Basil had the stone refurbished a few years ago. This was almost certainly before *either* of the photographs included here were taken, despite the difference in the stone's colour as between them. However, there's no evidence of the original being replaced or the inscription altered at that time.

In late May 2005 I decided to see what more I could piece together on Harriett, who by then I was pretty sure had started life as "Dicker", became "Merritt" and finally "Lovelock"

– or “Merritt-Lovelock”. In particular, I wanted to pin down some details of her birth and/or baptism and to find a 1901 census entry for her and John William. The assembled 1901 census extracts on the Lovelock website (mainly courtesy of Graham and James, I think) did not include such an entry, but I believed the couple were still living at Clench, Milton Lilbourne (near Wootton Rivers) at that time.

From the two marriage entries which I now had, the gravestone and the 1891 census entry, Harriett had been born in 1843/5, probably – assuming the age cited in each case was accurate – between 6 April and 29 September 1844, in or near Swallowfield, Berks. FreeBMD has seven Dicker births recorded in the Wokingham Registration District (which includes Swallowfield) between 1837 and 1860, with one in 1841 and one in 1846 but none between, and not a Harriett amongst them. FreeBMD claims less than 20% coverage for births in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 1844 (but 100% for a run of quarters either side of that period), so one might anticipate not finding the event concerned there. On BMDIndex (full coverage of GRO data) I viewed all pages from June 1843 to June 1845 which in principle might include a Dicker birth. There *was* a Harriett registered, but the image clearly showed this as having been in Uckfield, and as far as I know the only Uckfield in the UK is in (East) Sussex.

Helen Norton had helped me previously with Berkshire parish records and census data concerning the ancestry of some (other) female ‘non-Lovelocks’ who married into my Wootton Rivers line, so I emailed her in Australia. As before, Helen came up trumps, sending me the following from Swallowfield PRs:

“Harriet DICKER, dau of Joseph & Charlotte of Risley Common, Labourer was baptized May 5 1844, born April 19th.”

Helen later also sent an image of the 1891 census entry for Harriett and John William, viewing which confirmed that “Swallowfield” was absolutely clear and could not possibly be read as “Uckfield”.

I wondered – given that civil registration only began in 1837 – whether it was plausible or likely that Harriett’s birth had not actually been registered, or perhaps had only been registered at some time rather later; also whether a mistake or a complete omission from the GRO data was possible. I shared these thoughts, together with my additional findings thus far, with James, Graham and Robert. Graham supported my reasoning that “... *if [Harriett] was born on 19 April the registration would have fallen well and truly into the FreeBMD 80% incomplete second quarter ... [so her] 'missing' birth registration wouldn't seem so odd ... but for the fact that the image doesn't have an appropriate entry, and it's not a borderline date that could 'slip' into another quarter.*”

He thought it “unlikely that the birth wasn't registered - things should have settled down by 1844 and in any case the vicar would probably have raised the matter,” although I subsequently found the following in Kathy Chater’s book ‘Tracing Your Family Tree’:

‘In the first ten years or so following the introduction of national registration, parents were not obliged to notify the registrar of a child's birth, and if a child was not registered within six months, it could not be included in the records. There seems also to have been some confusion about whether it was necessary to register a child if it had also been baptised. In 1874, fines were introduced for non-notification ... which improved the situation.

This lack of registration, combined with the bureaucracy involved in copying entries as they were passed from level to level in the system, means that a number of events are missing from the indexes, especially in the earlier period. There may be as many as 15 per cent of the births missing for 1837–47, and as many as 1 in 40 marriages missing for 1837–99.’ [p. 31; no specific source is cited for the figures given.]

Graham suggested I contact the Wokingham Register Office and ask whether they would be willing to check the original registers for a record of Harriett's birth, explaining that the GRO record does not seem to match the PR entry. I pursued this by email and soon received the following response from the Deputy Registrar:

"I've had a trawl through our registers from 1837 to 1860 - there are lots of Dickers around, but the only one I can find who has Joseph and Charlotte as the parents is a George Dicker who was born on May 10th 1838. ... As far as the entry for Harriet that you've found being Uckfield, I think the best thing to do is to [contact] them and see if that is the one - there are certainly no Harriet Dickers in the Wokingham District for the time you've mentioned."

I located the entry for younger brother George on both FreeBMD and BMDIndex: 'Wokingham RD, June quarter 1838, vol. 6, p. 270'.

The equally prompt and helpful response from Uckfield RO (at Crowborough) was:

"We do have a birth record for a Harriett Dicker, date of birth 1844, Rotherfield ... Her parents, however, are not Joseph and Charlotte Dicker."

So it now seemed to me reasonably certain that although the birth of one elder brother of Harriett's – George, bap. 1838 – had been registered, hers was not (or else there was some as yet undiscovered error in recording, transferring or copying the information so that the entry got scrambled).

With my own earlier FreeBMD findings and Wokingham RO's comments in mind – both indicating several Dicker births in the RD around the relevant period – I wondered if anything else was available on the family and turned back to Helen Norton, who came up with several interesting additional items:

"[From Swallowfield PRs]

George DICKER, chr 10 May 1838, s Joseph & Charlotte

Banns 1822 Joseph Dicker, wid, otp & Charlotte Watkins, sp, Statfield saye [sic – see next item] (presume marriage took place in bride's parish)

1851 census:

Swallowfield, Berks

Joseph DICKER Head M 60 M Agricultural labourer Pamber HAM

Charlotte DICKER Wife M 49 F Stratfield Saye HAM

David DICKER Son 16 M Agricultural labourer Swallowfield, WIL BRK

George DICKER Son 13 M Agricultural labourer Swallowfield, WIL BRK

Elizabeth DICKER Daughter 10 F Sunday scholar Swallowfield, WIL BRK

Harriet DICKER Daughter 7 F Swallowfield, WIL BRK"

[All or part of Swallowfield parish was formerly in Wiltshire; hence presumably what seems a puzzling dual reference in this census entry]

This set me off to find out more about Harriet's parents and siblings, but reporting what little I discovered with any degree of certainty would take us too far from the focus of this article. Given the ages of Joseph and Charlotte (and noting that he was a widower when they married and eleven years her senior) it rather looks as though Harriet was their youngest child and that whereas George was baptised and had his birth registered (under the then *very* new system) and Harriet baptised only, Elizabeth's arrival was marked by neither religious nor civil ritual. Obviously elder brother David was born before the registration system began. Given the date of Joseph and Charlotte's marriage, one might

expect there to have been other children before David; however, if there were any, Helen's PR data suggests that they weren't baptised in Swallowfield.

Finally, I turned to the matter of no 1901 census entry for John William and Harriett having been discovered by the compilers of the extracts on the Lovelock website. A dedicated National Archives site (<http://www.1901censusonline.com/>) enables one to obtain basic information from a free search of the database; detailed information and census page images can be purchased via vouchers or credit card. Various clever pieces of software have been developed to extract the maximum material without paying for transcripts or images – I'll spare readers who don't know about them the details – but these obviously have limitations.

As I understand it, the extracts on our website were generated using the '1901 Census Extractor/Guestimator' (see notes at <http://perso.numericable.fr/~lovjames/family-history/lovelock/1901-census-extracts-Note.htm>) and the '1901 Census Decoder' (which can be obtained from: <http://censusdecoder.com>). I've only made use of the 'decoder' and – as was only to be expected – I was no more successful at first than Graham or James had been. However, trying 'one more time' and again drawing a blank, I spotted an additional tool for use in such circumstances called the 'Intelligent Person Search'. This automatically goes through a number of steps, varying the search criteria, to try to produce some results. Using this I found John and Harriett, together with information which strongly suggested that a very sloppy census enumerator was ultimately responsible for our not previously finding them – and thereby underlining the appropriateness of the alternative title of this article. Their names had been entered as 'Lovlock' and their birthplaces as simply 'Wilts' and 'Berk' [sic]. Helen Norton subsequently provided me with a copy of the actual image; and by that time Graham too had located this, having treated himself to a subscription to Ancestry.com.ⁱⁱⁱ As well as confirming the deficiencies of the entry as already mentioned, the image revealed that the relevant page in the enumerator's book failed to indicate the census place concerned, or even the county!

Graham neatly summed up my journey: "*The Harriet M story ... might have been brought to an end, as far as on-line material is concerned. The headstone is, of course, a puzzle, but unless the order for it or some other family paper was to emerge, either of which would be quite remarkable at this remove I should think, then speculation will be the only resort!*"

So I haven't found the answer to my original puzzle, and I probably never will, but I've learned quite a bit along the way about my great-great aunt Harriett and those close to her – and a lot too about doing family history.

NOTES

The numbered notes in the article refer to some key internet sites; readers not familiar with them may find the brief details given here useful. Links to and brief details of other on-line resources are included in the main text.

ⁱ The International Genealogical Index (IGI) is one of several on-line searchable databases to be found at <http://www.familysearch.org/>, the website of the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) – 'the Mormons'.

ⁱⁱ FreeBMD (at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>): an ongoing volunteer project to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales and provide free access to the transcripts and to some images of the returns.

ⁱⁱⁱ A note on the Lovelock website states that Ancestry.com (at <http://www.ancestry.com/>) 'provides access (for a non-negligible fee!) to a large collection of databases and family trees'.