

THE HART FAMILY: BARBY MILLERS



**BARBY LOCAL
HISTORY GROUP
JUNE
2020**



INTRODUCTION

There are no longer any Barby residents named 'Hart'. The name is chiefly remembered as that of the millers of Barby, principally the brothers Job and Edward, who were recorded in the national censuses from 1841 To 1871. The last member of the family to live in Barby was Frances Harriett Hart, who was buried in St Mary's churchyard in 1934.

The first written mention of the name occurs in the Bishops' Transcript of 1741, when Job Hart married Mary Elkington. Job was a newcomer to the village records, but there were Elkingtons recorded in Barby in the mid-Sixteenth Century.¹ Job was the first recorded miller.²

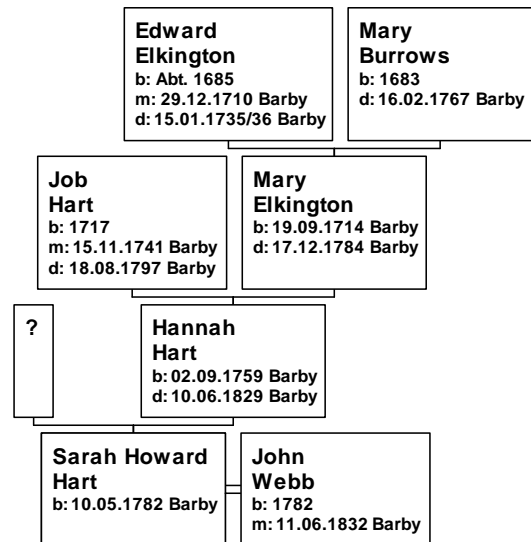
JOB HART (1717 – 1797)

Job and Mary produced at least nine children, of whom seven survived to adulthood. Ruth, the eldest, who married into the Ellard family, and Edward, made their homes in Willoughby; Rachel married a Ravensthorpe man; but the other four children lived out their lives in Barby.³ Mary, the second daughter, died unmarried and childless, but Hannah, the youngest, though unmarried when she died, left all she possessed to a daughter.⁴

By 1785, the Hart children had received two family legacies: firstly from their mother's uncle, William Burrows, and then, nearly twenty years later, from their uncle William Elkington.

The four daughters received cash payments of £30 each from William Burrows. Ruth and Rachel received another £30 each from William Elkington. The £30 promised to Hannah by her uncle was cancelled in a codicil to the will made a month after the birth of her daughter Sarah. Mary was given an income of 50 shillings per year, to be paid quarterly, in case she never married, special treatment which suggests there was a reason why it was thought she might not marry.⁵

Ancestors of Sarah Howard Hart



¹ For details of Mary's ancestors, see *The Elkington Family of Barby* on the website of Barby Local History Group, barbylhg.org.uk.

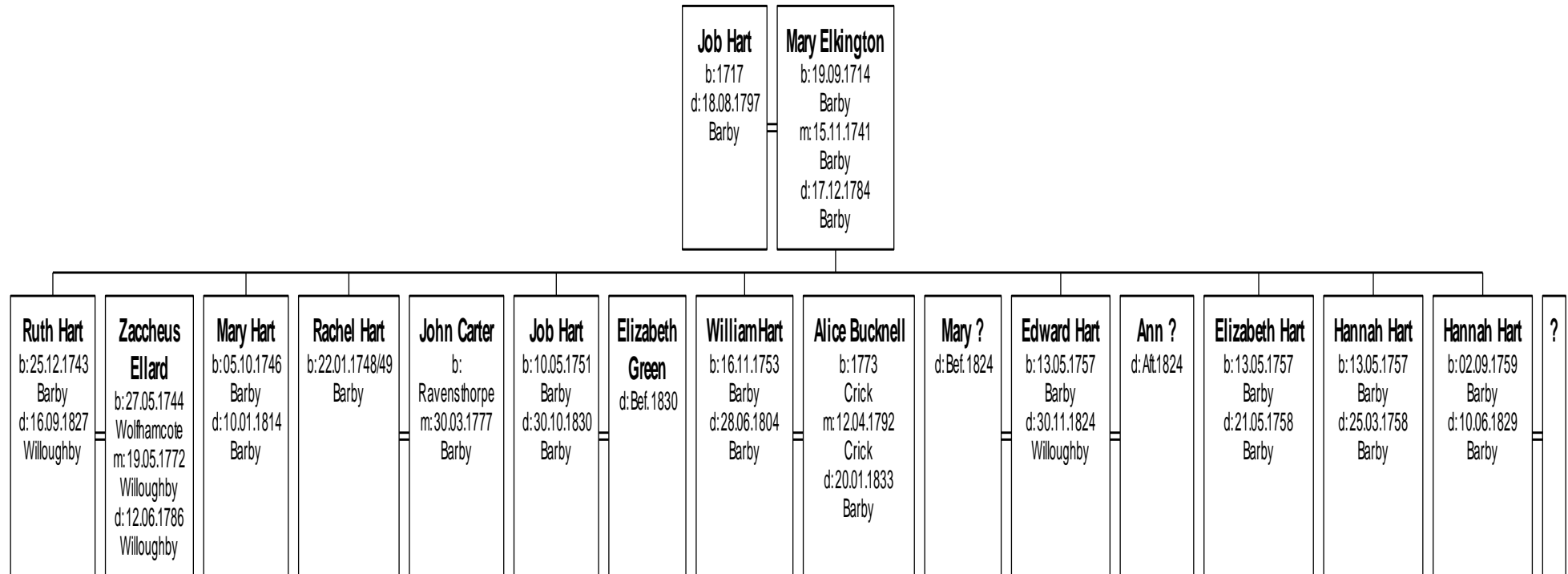
² Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO), Will of William Burrows, proved 4.10.1764

³ For details of the connections between Barby and Willoughby families, see *Barby and Willoughby: Family Connections* at barbylhg.org.uk.

⁴ NRO, Will of Hannah Hart, proved 26.11.1829

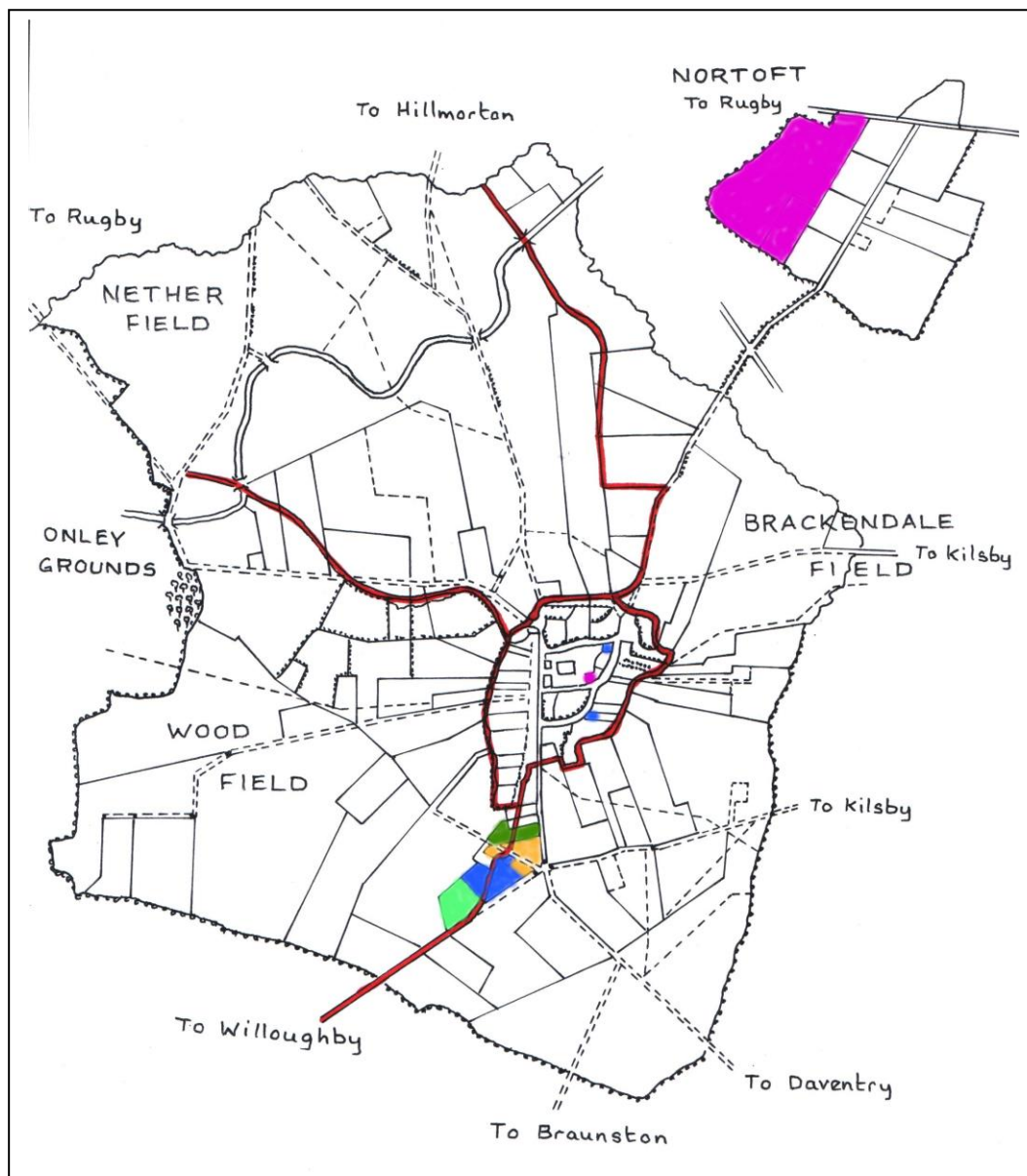
⁵ NRO, Will of William Burrows; NRO, Will of William Elkington, proved 18.12.1782

Descendants of Job & Mary Hart



The three sons, Job, William and Edward, received land in the parishes of Barby and Kilsby. They were all named as miller's sons on the Militia list compiled in 1777.⁶

After enclosure in 1778, Job Senior was the owner of an 8-acre field on what is now Longdown Lane, adjoining the plot on which his windmill stood. Within the village, he also owned two small plots with buildings. He had been paid £6 3s 9d for land sold to the Oxford Canal Company in 1773.⁷ He was probably not one of the wealthiest men in the village, having paid tax on only seven windows in 1752, whereas the majority of those eligible to pay had paid for nine.⁸



LAND HOLDINGS AT THE TIME OF ENCLOSURE, 1778

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Job Hart Senior | Job Hart Junior | William Hart |
| John Batchelder | William Elkington | |

⁶ Northamptonshire Record Society, *Northamptonshire Militia Lists 1777*

⁷ NRO, 24P/211 & Map 5082; The National Archives (TNA), RAIL 855/157

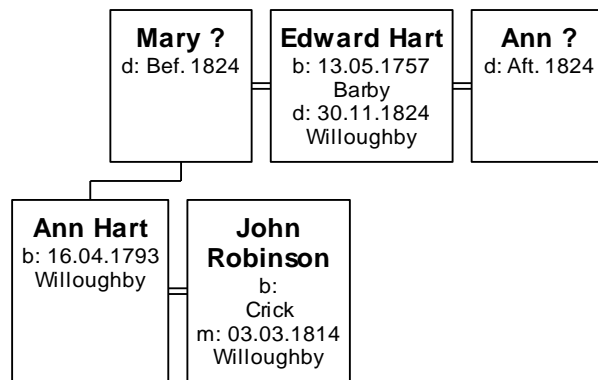
⁸ NRO, D5330, Window Tax, 1752

THE SONS OF JOB HART (1717 – 1797)

EDWARD HART (1757 – 1824)

The youngest son was Edward, who followed his sister Ruth to Willoughby. He first appears in the Willoughby registers at the baptism of his daughter Ann in 1793, with his wife Mary. He next appears as a witness at the marriage of Ann to John Robinson of Crick in 1814. There are no further references until his burial in 1824, two weeks after he made his will, bequeathing everything to his 'loving wife Ann Hart'.⁹ His daughter Ann received a bequest of £30 from her aunt Ruth Ellard in 1828.¹⁰

Descendants of Edward Hart



Although Edward received no large parcel of land from his great-uncle William Burrows in 1765, he was bequeathed the house in which William lived in Barby 'together with the yard garden barns stables outbuildings Hovels Orchards homeclose homestead ... and ... the dead Hovel standing between the said Yard and Orchard and the Hovel Timber and stones thereto belonging'. He was also given 'my Large oak coffer standing in my Chamber over the Parlour in my said Dwelling House in Barby' and 'my Bedstead standing in the said Parlour'.¹¹ In 1798 he paid land tax on property in Barby, presumably this plot; his tenant was Thomas Tilley.¹²

In 1808, Edward sold William Burrows' plot to Richard Lord the Younger, farmer, of Barby, and his trustee William Wilkins, grocer, of Daventry, for £62. The plot, amounting to approximately half an acre, had previously been occupied by Alice Reynolds, but, by 1808, there was no longer a building on the site. The sale included 'two seats or sittings' in Barby church.¹³

From his uncle William Elkington, Edward received 17 acres 'in the late New Inclosure of Kilsby' which was 'set out for and in lieu of One Quarter and Half Quarter land Freehold'. Access to this land across the neighbouring 11 copyhold acres was assured: he was given a 'Free Road way and passage

⁹ TNA, PROB 11/1696/205

¹⁰ Warwickshire Record Office, CR 3074/3, pp 127-130

¹¹ NRO, Will of William Burrows

¹² TNA, IR 23/63

... for all manner of Cattle and Carriages and other things'. He was required to raise £100 from this land to fulfil a bequest to his cousin William Burrows Elkington.¹⁴

Having lived as a farmer in Willoughby, Edward described himself as a yeoman in his will.

JOB HART (1751 – 1830)

Job was the eldest son of Job and Mary (née Elkington). Like his father, he lived to the age of 80 years. He was a farmer, having inherited land in Barby from both William Burrows and William Elkington.

From William Burrows he received a half quartern of 'arable Meadow and pasture ground ... lying and being dispersed in the ... open and common fields and parish of Barby'. In addition, on his mother's death he was to inherit her quartern of similar land.¹⁵ But, at the time of enclosure in 1778, Job was allocated 7 acres 0 roods 10 perches on Longdown Lane, adjoining his father's plot, whilst his mother's name does not appear, which indicates that he was already in possession of both bequests. In 1773 he had received £3 2s from the Oxford Canal Company for land sold to them.¹⁶

His bequest from William Elkington was somewhat larger. He was living with his uncle when William wrote his will in 1780, in the property across the road from the Rectory, on what is now Rectory Lane. He was bequeathed this property, together with 44 acres 3 roods 11 perches of freehold land in the 'New Inclosure of Barby', plus another 8 acres 33 perches leasehold; the two adjacent plots were in Barby Nortoft. Job was already the tenant of this land; he also farmed William's 11 acres copyhold in Kilsby across which his brother Edward was guaranteed access to his own land. Job was obliged to raise £100 for his cousin Edward Elkington, £50 for his cousin Mary Bliss and £150 to be shared equally between five other female cousins. Anything remaining, such as household goods and cattle, he inherited. He was the sole executor of William's will.¹⁷

In 1798 Job paid land tax on land which he farmed himself, but by the time he wrote his will in 1829, he owned only about 13 acres, consisting of two fields – Furlong Close and Hophorn Close – and the dwelling house and buildings on the east side of 'Kilsby Road' that were owned in 1778 by his father. He left this property for the use of his son Edward's family, who already occupied it. The non-household goods and chattels were given to his son William, who was the sole executor and who, with William Wiggins, Job's son-in-law, was to manage the property that Edward lived in, on trust. Neither his daughter Elizabeth nor his son Robert was a beneficiary of his will.¹⁸ Most probably, Elizabeth received her inheritance when she married William Wiggins. Each of the four children had received a gift of £300 from their maternal grandfather, Robert Green of Ravensthorpe, in 1811.¹⁹

¹³ NRO, ZB 747/5

¹⁴ NRO, Will of William Elkington

¹⁵ NRO, Will of William Burrows

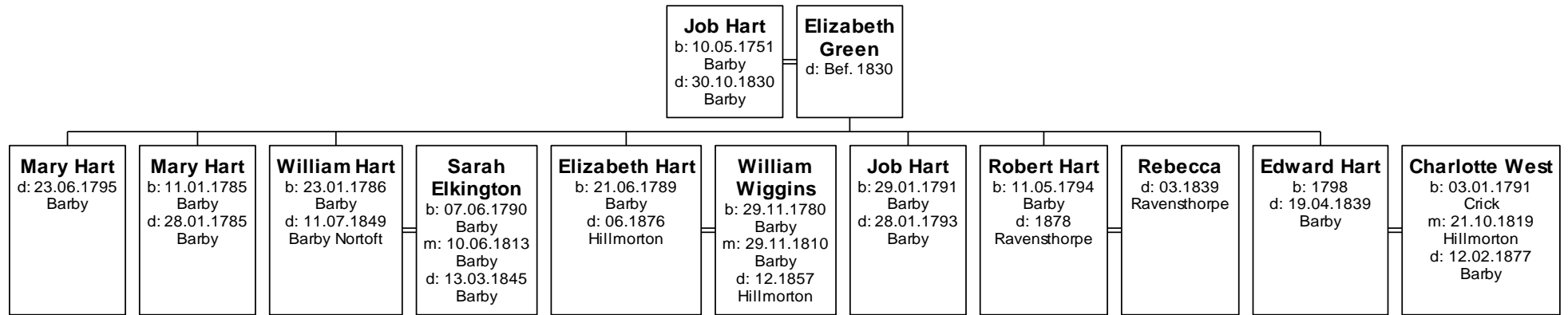
¹⁶ NRO, 24P/211 & Map 5082; TNA, RAIL 855/157

¹⁷ NRO, Will of William Elkington

¹⁸ TNA, IR 23/63; NRO, Will of Job Hart, proved 8.12.1830

¹⁹ NRO, Will of Robert Green, proved 8.10.1811

Descendants of Job & Elizabeth Hart



William Wiggins was farming 214 acres in Hillmorton with the help of three labourers in 1851, when there were still five unmarried adult children living at home, in High Street, Hillmorton. However, his son Robert married in 1856 and, in 1861, was farming 72 acres at Barby Nortoft, the place of birth of his first three children. The land was probably that owned by his grandfather Job Hart. By 1871, Robert was farming 268 acres in Kilsby parish.

William's younger brother, Nathaniel Wiggins, lived in Barby at Manor Farm and operated a brickyard on 'Ware Road' opposite the farmhouse; he farmed 300 acres in 1851. Two of his daughters married brothers of the Jenaway family of Onley Fields Farm on Onley Lane. By 1861, Nathaniel's unmarried son Thomas was the only Wiggins in Barby parish, farming 50 acres with the aid of one man.

WILLIAM HART (1753 – 1804)

William, the middle of the three sons of Job and Mary, inherited his father's windmill. In 1778, he already owned the neighbouring field straddling the 'road' along the ridge of Barby hill. In 1785, he acquired the adjacent field owned by John Batcheldor in 1778. John Batcheldor was a tailor of Barby, who had purchased the field from William Whitmore, a worsted manufacturer of Kilsby, in 1772.²⁰

Pre-enclosure, William had inherited half a quarter of land from his great-uncle William Burrows. In 1773 he and William Elkington received £3 3s 3d from the Oxford Canal Company for land. In 1782 he inherited William Elkington's 11 copyhold acres in Kilsby that his brother Job farmed.²¹

William's wife Alice was from the Bucknell family of Crick, where they were married by licence in 1792. Alice's sister Mary married John Robinson of Crick, who was one of her husband's executors, with his brother Edward, in 1804. These executors were responsible for all William's real estate and charged with using it to support his widow and young children and keeping his windmill in good repair. Alice and her sister-in-law Hannah Hart were expected to carry on living in the family house, whilst Alice was given all goods and chattels.²² Alice's only daughter Mary died unmarried at the age of 30 in 1830.

William and Alice's eldest son, William, moved to Coventry with his wife Mary (née Coleman) after their children were born (the youngest being born in Braunston). They were fish dealers in Leicester Street in 1851, and in Swann Street in 1861. Their son Job married another member of the Barby Coleman family, Jessica, and became a building contractor, living in Cox Street. Mary Coleman's half-sister Elizabeth married William Elkington whose grandfather was the brother of Mary Elkington, her husband's grandmother.

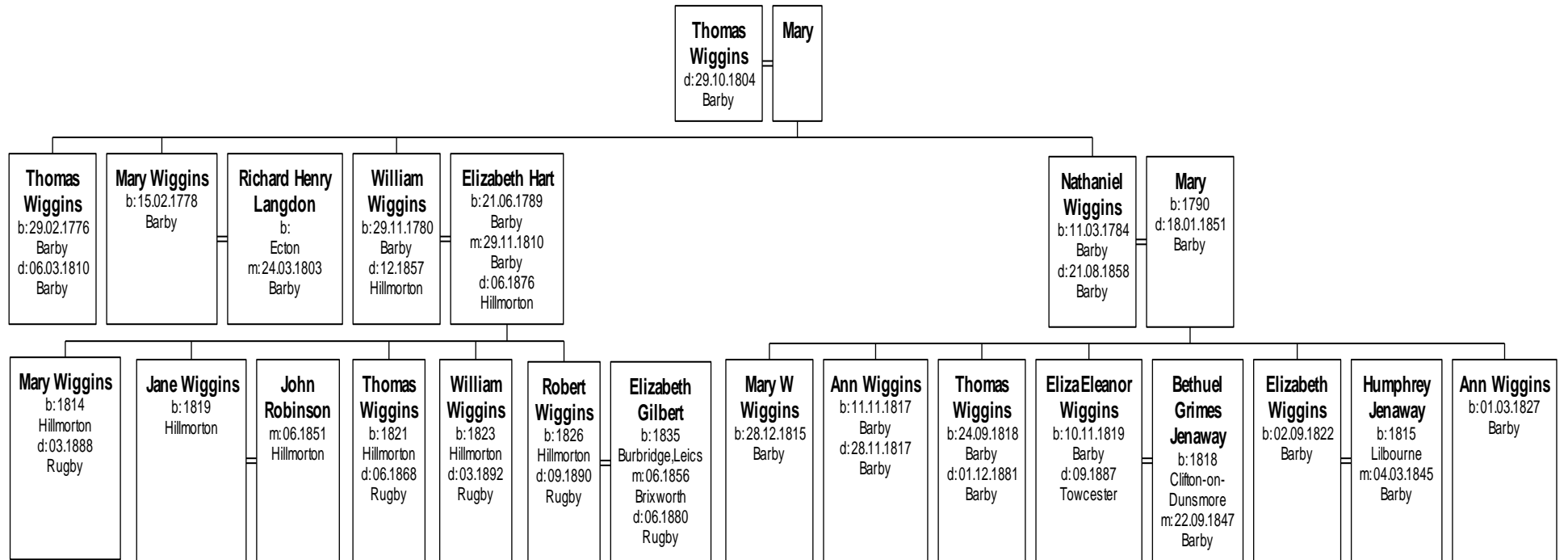
The other three of William and Alice's four sons – Edward, Job and John - became millers.

²⁰ NRO, Will of William Hart, proved 27.02.1805; NRO, ZA 9964

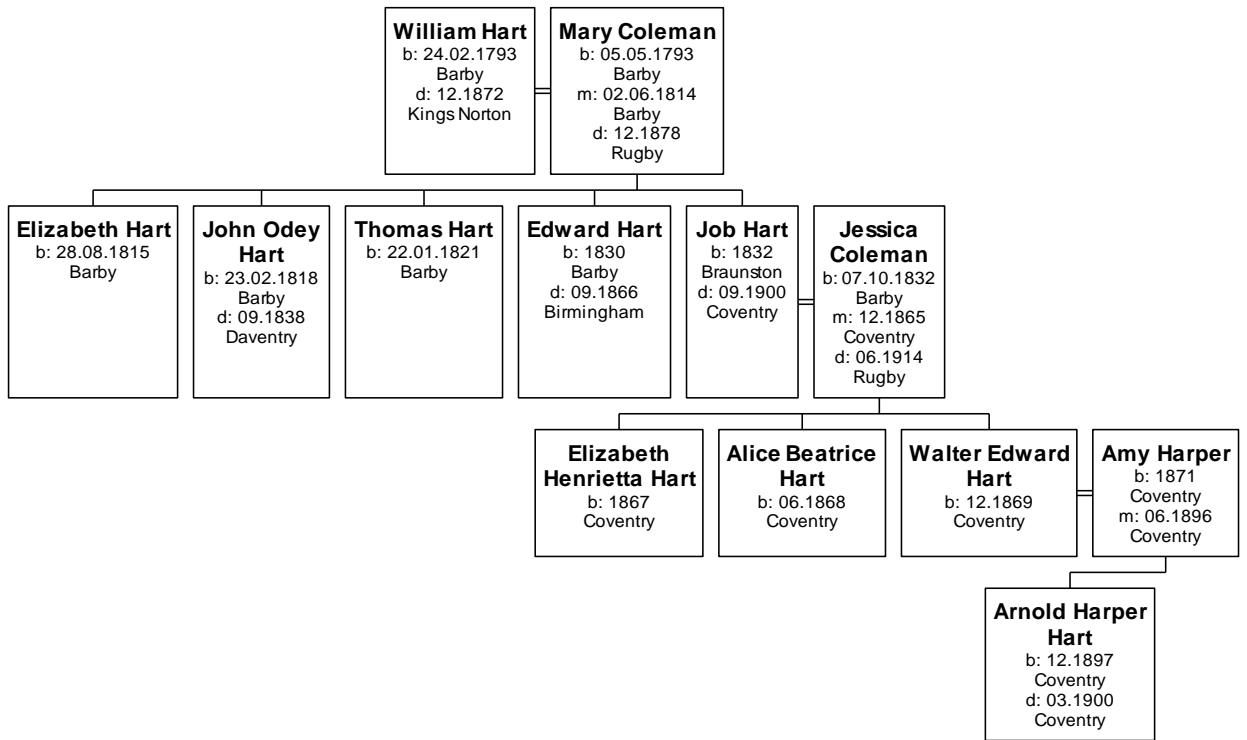
²¹ NRO, Will of William Burrows; TNA, RAIL 855/157; NRO, Will of William Elkington

²² NRO, Will of William Hart

The Wiggins Family



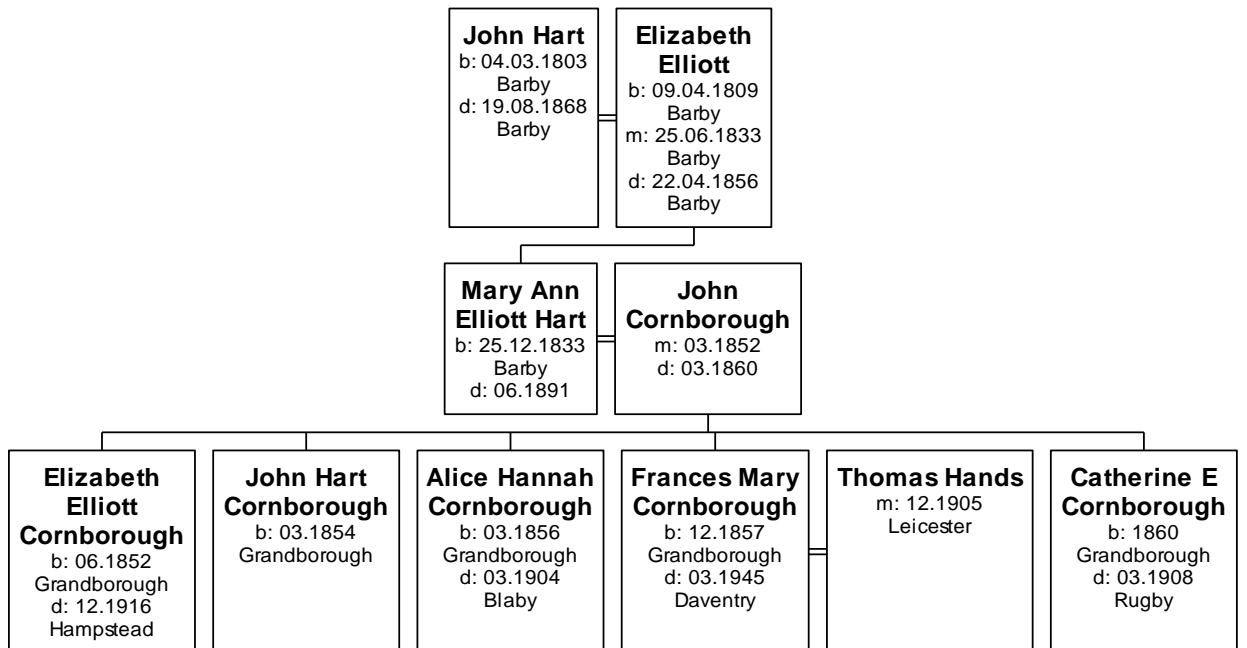
Descendants of William & Mary Hart



THE MILLERS

JOHN HART (1803 – 1868)

Descendants of John & Elizabeth Hart



The youngest miller was John, who married Elizabeth Elliott. Both John and Elizabeth were born and buried in Barby, but, sometime between the censuses of 1841 and 1851, they moved from Barby to Grandborough, where they lived at Mill House. By 1861, John was retired. Both he and his only daughter Mary were widowed and living with Mary's five children and a domestic servant in Church Street. John died in 1868 and was buried in Barby, as was his wife. In 1881 Mary had become a teacher and was living in Lawrence Cottage with her youngest daughter Catherine. At the 1891 census taken a few weeks before she died, her daughter Alice was living with her.

EDWARD BUCKNELL HART (1794 – 1870) & JOB HART (1797 – 1873)

Edward and Job were the men who featured in the Barby Nineteenth Century records as millers. In 1840 Edward was described as the land owner, farming 23 acres, of which he owned 16. In 1851 he and Job were farmers of 60 acres in partnership, living next to Crown House in Kilsby Road. The following year, they signed an indenture with their brother John, who was to have the 'deeds and writings' of Ploughed Close and the field in which Barby mill stood, but ensuring all reasonable access. In 1861 they farmed 35 acres jointly; their nephew Job Butler, a farmer's son, was living with them. In 1871, Job was alone in Kilsby Road, farming 11 acres; Edward had died the previous year and his nephew had married in 1869.²³

When Edward died in 1870, he gave all he possessed to his brother Job. This included two closes in Crick together with 4ac 23p in Ploughed Close, and 4ac 3r 1p in Mill Close, which housed the windmill, millstones and other equipment. Job was required to maintain the mill in good repair and insure it. After Job's death, the property was to be shared equally between their nephews Edward and Job Butler.²⁴

EDWARD BUTLER (1832 – 1887) & JOB BUTLER (1834 – 1904)

Alice Bucknell, wife of William Hart (1753-1804) was about 20 years younger than William and, after his death, she remarried, becoming Alice Reynolds, the wife of Thomas of Woodford. She was, presumably, the tenant of that name who had occupied the half-acre inherited by William's brother Edward from William Burrows.

Edward and Job Butler were Alice's grandsons, the children of Thomas Butler and Alice's daughter Ann Reynolds, half-sister of Edward and Job Hart. Edward Butler farmed in Braunston, living in Cross Lane in 1881; he never married. Job Butler married a Braunston woman but farmed 32 acres in Barby.

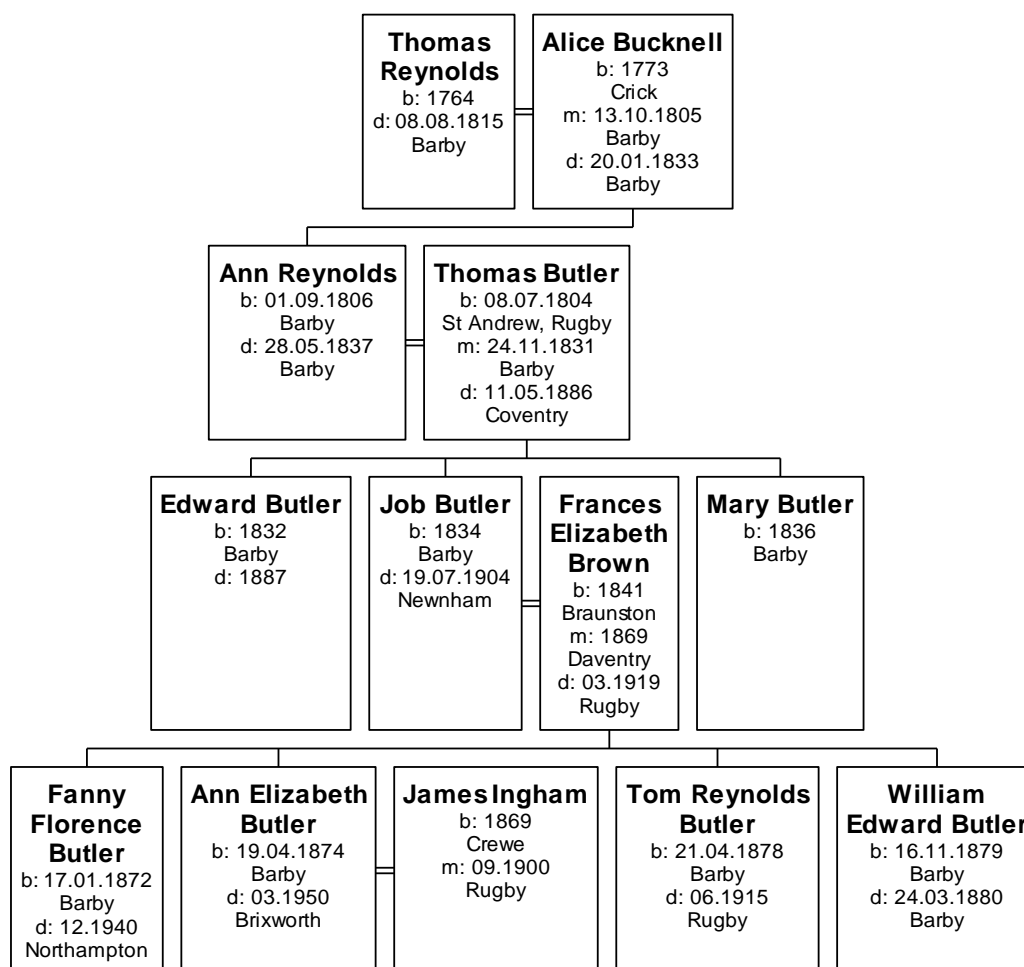
By 1891 Job had become a stockman working on a farm in Wappenbury. His family was living in Park Barn Cottage on census night, but Job was a patient in Warneford Hospital, Leamington. In 1901, he was a farmer again, now living in Kilsby with his wife and eldest daughter.

²³ NRO, ZA 9964; NRO ZA 1431 & Map 4418

²⁴ NRO, Will of Edward Bucknell Hart, proved 6.08.1870

There appear to be no records of the Butler brothers actually working the mill. It was reputed to have lost its sails during a storm in the 1870s and Tom Mason, the village blacksmith until 1972, recalled having removed its workings with his father. Details of its ownership after the Butlers are vague. It became derelict early in the Twentieth Century and was finally converted into a private dwelling in the 1990s.²⁵

Alice Bucknell's Second Family



THE SONS OF JOB HART (1751 – 1830)

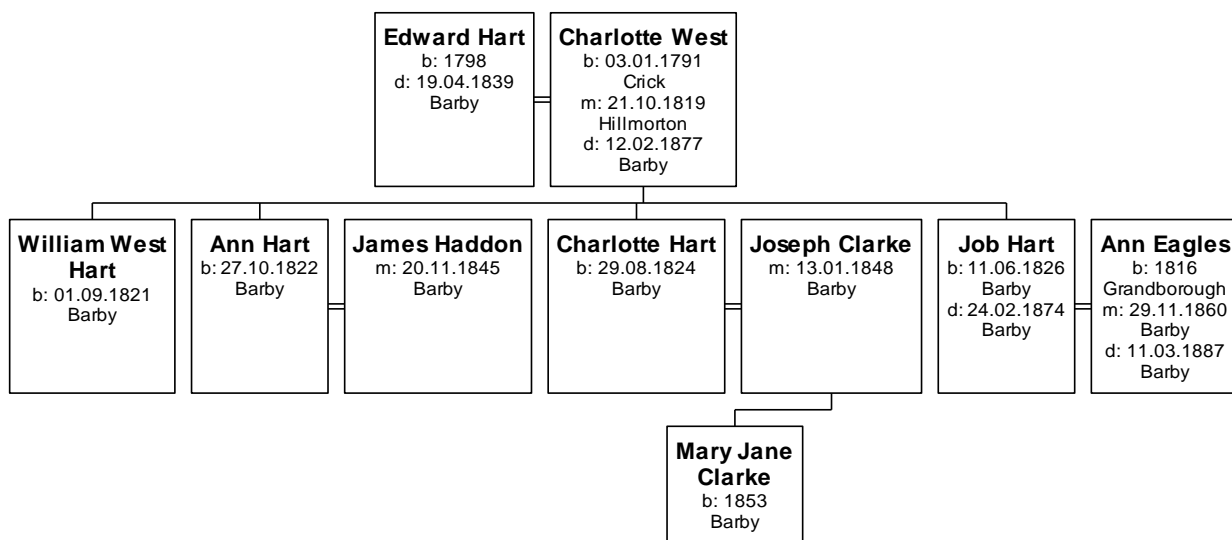
EDWARD HART (1798 – 1839)

Edward did not inherit the genes for long life enjoyed by many other Harts. Like his uncle William he found a wife in Crick; she was Charlotte West, whose nephew Benjamin West Cattell married another Sarah Elkington, the niece of the Sarah Elkington who married Edward's brother William. After Edward's

²⁵ For more discussion of the mill and its ownership, see *Windmills of Northamptonshire* by Trevor L Stainwright (W D Wharton, 1991).

death, Charlotte lived with her son Job and his wife Ann (née Eagles) in a house situated opposite the Rectory. After the deaths of Job (in 1874) and Charlotte (in 1877), this property with an acre of land was sold to the Pittom family. It could have been the residue of the property bequeathed to Edward's grandfather Job Hart by William Elkington in 1782.²⁶

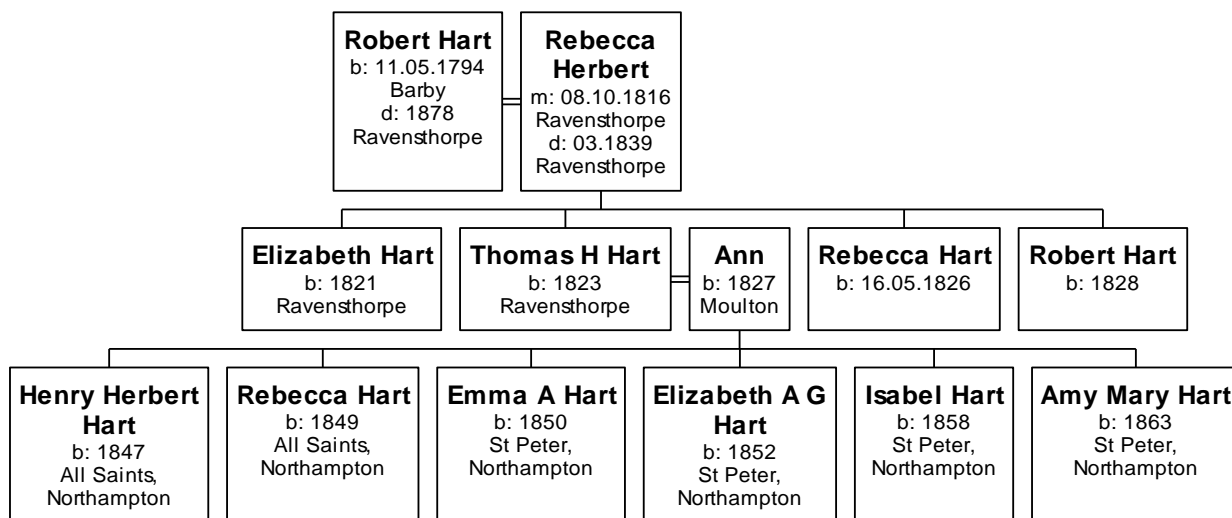
Descendants of Edward & Charlotte Hart



ROBERT HART (1794 –1878)

Robert, like his father, married a woman from Ravensthorpe; he then farmed there. He declared himself retired in 1851.

Descendants of Robert & Rebecca Hart

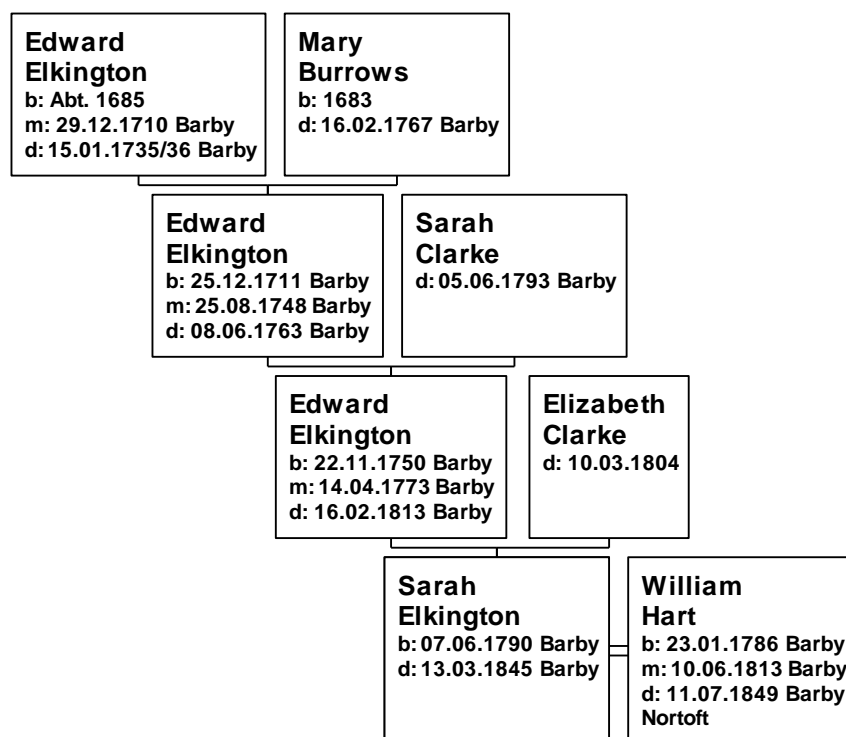


²⁶ Barby Local History Group, Abstract of Title for Pinfold House

WILLIAM HART (1786 – 1849)

The eldest son of Job and Elizabeth, William, farmed the land that his father had inherited from William Elkington at Nortoft. In 1840 he owned more than 50 acres there. He farmed all the land himself, and lived at Nortoft House. His wife Sarah was a great-niece of William Elkington.²⁷

Ancestors of Sarah Elkington



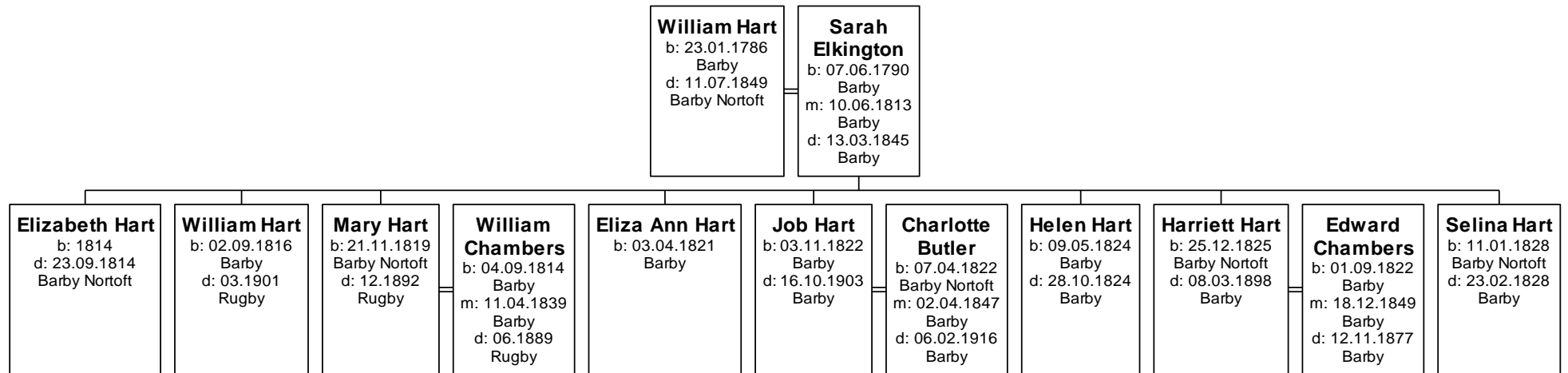
Despite the inheritance of £300 from his grandfather Robert Green, and his ownership of 50 Barby acres and 18 Kilsby acres, William had a mortgage and debts at the time of his death. He instructed his executors to sell all he owned, apart from the household goods that were bequeathed to his son William. The income from the sale was, firstly, to pay off the mortgage and debts; secondly to give each of his daughters Mary and Harriett £150; the remainder to be divided between his two sons William and Job. The original will of 1846 provided for William to have first option to purchase the house and land, but this option was cancelled in a codicil of 1848. The executors were Thomas Townsend, gentleman of Hillmorton Hall, and Edwin William Barker, the husband of his wife's niece Mary Elkington.²⁸

Neither son appears to have purchased William's land. It was probably purchased by his brother-in-law William Wiggins and passed on to his son Robert Wiggins.

²⁷ NRO, ZA 1431 & Map 4418

²⁸ TNA, PROB 11/2104, Will of William Hart, proved 6.12.1849

Descendants of William & Sarah Hart



The eldest son, William, moved to Kilsby and lived with his sister Mary and her husband William Chambers, a blacksmith; their only son William, who was born in 1850, took up his father's trade and never married, like his Hart uncle. Mary's sister Harriett married Edward, William Chambers' brother, also a blacksmith, but they remained in Barby and had a family of nine children.

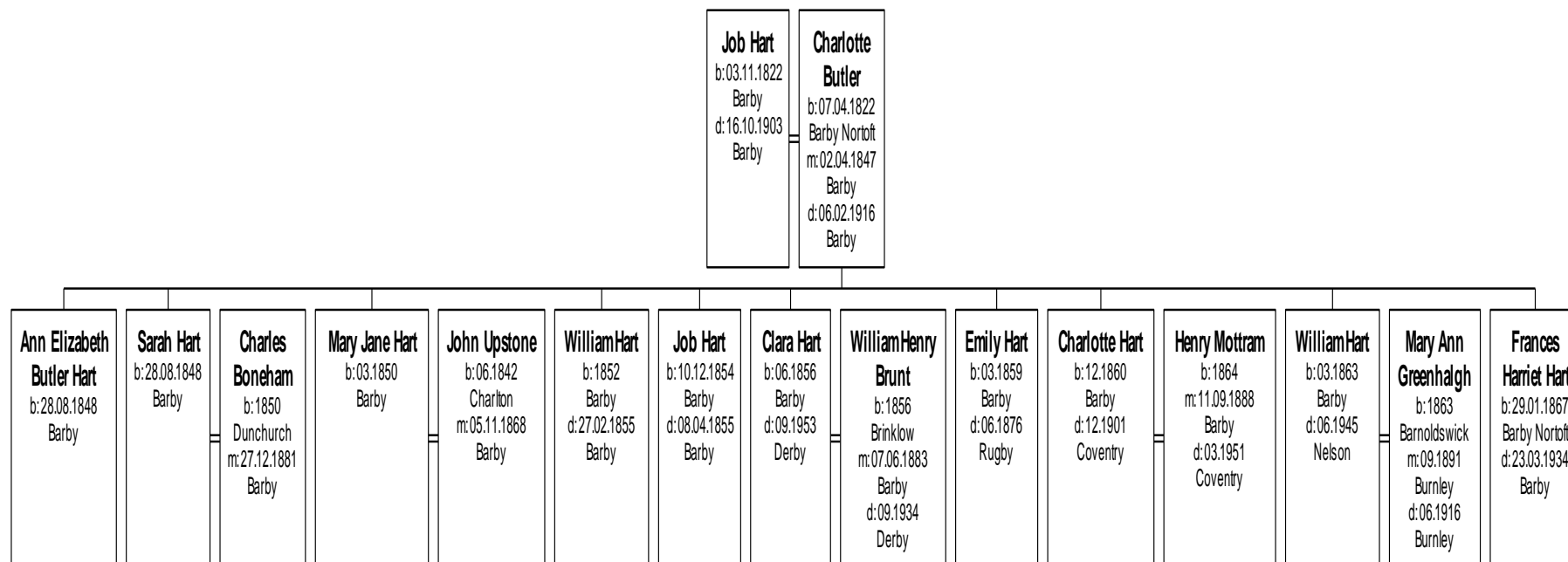
William and Sarah's other son, Job, married Charlotte Butler, whose brother Thomas had married Job's father's step-cousin Ann Reynolds. Their son William moved to Colne, Lancashire, working on the railways; his wife and children worked in the cotton industry. William's sister Clara married a railway man and settled in Derby. Their sister Charlotte moved to Coventry, whereas Frances was the last of the Hart family in Barby, continuing to live with her mother.

BELOW: Charlotte Hart (1821-1916)
Photographed in 1905

RIGHT: Charlotte and her daughter
Frances at 1 Dodd's Cottages



Descendants of Job & Charlotte Hart



THE EMIGRANTS

In 1868, the third daughter of Job and Charlotte (née Butler), Mary Jane, married John Upstone. He was described as a labourer at the time of his marriage; she was a servant. The young couple settled in Hillmorton, where their first three children were born. But in the 1870s they set sail for New Zealand.

Mary Jane, John and their three children, together with 497 other passengers (not all of whom were emigrants), set sail from Plymouth on the maiden voyage of the *Ballochmyle* on 25 February 1874. They arrived in Lyttelton on 1 June. The local paper reported:

The ship ... is a fine model, and is well fitted throughout ... The emigrants' compartments were scrupulously clean, the 'tween deck lofty and well lighted and admirably ventilated ... but a better galley for the emigrants should have been provided. The emigrants look extremely well, and appear excellently suited to the requirements of the colony ... The voyage appears to have been a very pleasant one, concerts and amusements of various kinds having taken place during the afternoons. ²⁹

Diane Browning, great-granddaughter of Mary Jane and John, reports:

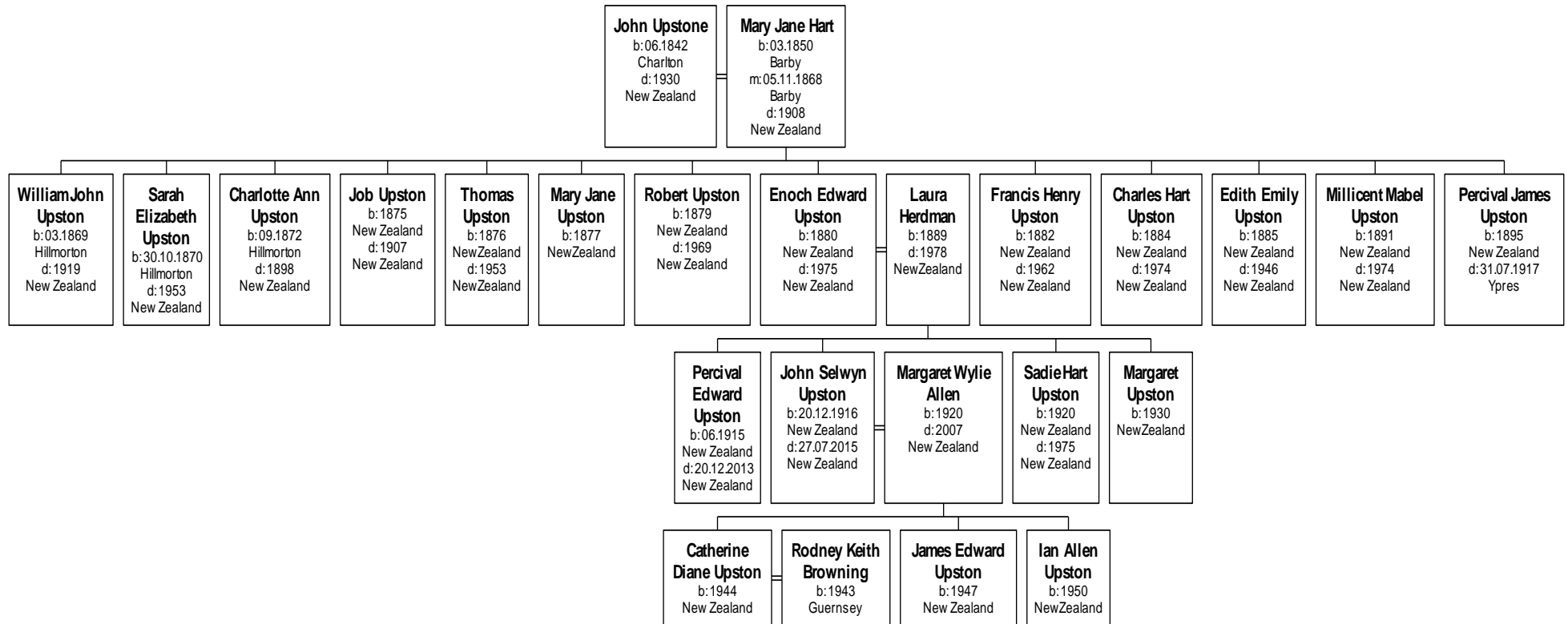
When they first arrived in New Zealand, they lived on farmland at Southbridge, and my grandfather was born at the small hospital in Leeston, the nearest town. In 1906 they bought the land at Selwyn, which they had leased since 1895, where the family [of thirteen] were brought up ... My grandparents, Ted and Laura, lived until they retired on the farm that John and Mary Jane bought ... My Uncle Percy ... and my father had adjoining farms ... My younger brother still farms that block!



Mary Jane and John Upston (born Upstone)

²⁹ 'Ballochmyle from London', *The Press*, 3 June 1874, p 2

Some descendants of John & MaryJane Upston



John and Mary Jane kept in touch with their English relatives, their son Ted often corresponding with his cousin Adeline Boneham, daughter of Mary's sister Sarah. During the First World War, their youngest son Percy joined the New Zealand Machine Gun Corps and died at Ypres in Belgium on 31 July 1917. He had already fought in Gallipoli. His brothers Charles Hart and Thomas also served, being sent to Devonport and Liverpool respectively. They both survived, although Charles returned shell-shocked, having lost an eye; he limped for the rest of his life as the result of a foot injury. Two other brothers, Robert and Francis Henry, appear to have been conscripted but there is no evidence that they served.



Percy



Tom



Charlie

Diane's grandfather Ted was conscripted in 1918 and was in training, but was caught by the flu epidemic of that year and sent home. He survived, as did his two sons who remember sharing his sick bed. Diane reports that 'Granddad had sold his farm in order to go to the war ... The Spanish flu struck and the war ended ... Granddad and the family were asked by Great-grandfather John to come back to Selwyn to run the family farm, which is what they did'.

In 1939, New Zealanders were again called on to fight, in World War II, and Ted's sons Percival Edward and John Selwyn duly answered the call. John was amongst the first in New Zealand to volunteer for the Army, and he and Percy, who volunteered shortly after John, left in the First Echelon of the 2nd NZEF (New Zealand Expeditionary Force), which embarked for the war in January 1940. John was recalled home to train tank drivers, arriving in early September 1941. Percy, however, was taken

prisoner and was imprisoned for more than four years in Germany. He attempted an escape but was recaptured; he worked on a farm in Austria before returning home after the war.



THE UPSTON FAMILY IN LATE 1939

Left to right: Enoch Edward, Sadie Hart, Margaret, John Selwyn, Laura, Percival Edward



LEFT: Ted Upston, at about 80 years of age

For more than 140 years, the Hart descendants in New Zealand have led long, productive and healthy lives. In 2015, John Selwyn joined his wife, parents and grandparents in the Brookside Cemetery, close to *Willowburn*, the farm now run by his son Ian.³⁰

³⁰ The photographs in this section were sent from New Zealand by Diane Browning, following a visit to Barby in the summer of 2013.

THE BARBY APPARITION

In 1853, a collector of ghost stories, Henry Spicer, published an account of a 'Barby apparition'. He had visited 'the pretty, secluded village of Barby ... innocent ... even of a beer-shop' to check on a story sent to him by Sir Charles Isham. He spoke to several inhabitants who were 'unusually clean, sober, and intelligent'.³¹

The story concerned Mrs Webb, who had married, late in life, a wealthy man who had pre-deceased her; but, at the time of her death, on 3 March 1851 at the age of 67, she was a self-confessed pauper. However, after her death she returned to disturb the nights of her cottage's new residents until her stored cash was discovered in the loft and used to pay her debts. During her final illness, she was cared for by her nephew Mr Hart, a farmer in the parish, who was the executor and sole benefactor of her will, and who found the cash.

The connection of Mrs Webb to the Hart family suggests that she was Sarah Webb (née Sarah Howard Hart), the illegitimate daughter of Hannah Hart (1759-1829), who married at the age of 50 in 1832. Her burial was recorded on 9 March 1851. She had no nephews, but several of her cousins had sons who could be called farmers: the millers Edward and Job for instance. The age and relationship discrepancies are minor matters compared with Spicer's generalisations about Barby, a village which supported five or six 'beer-shops' in 1853.

³¹ Spicer, Henry, *Facts and Fantasies: a Sequel to sights and sounds; the mystery of the day* (London: T Bosworth, 1853; repr as *The Barby Apparition*, Northampton: Taylor & Son, 1867)