

MOWBRAY OF FISHTOFT : *A family history.*

"With a little help from my friends"

Lennon and McCartney.

Every care has been taken to avoid mentioning persons living or giving any identification that might lead to them, unless permission has been obtained.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since childhood, I was fascinated by my father's tales of the farming side of the family in Friskney, Lincs. Unfortunately my grandfather, Herbert Mowbray had been one of the emigrants from the area and had died in Sheffield when my father was only five years old. When my grandmother re-married, father's visits to his cousins in Friskney soon ended and contact was lost.

My father, then 83, appeared to be the oldest of the Fishtoft Mowbrays and my first motive was to re-establish contact for his interest. Since then, the project developed it's own momentum!

Much help has been given by Rev. Peter Elliot of Gosforth, Northumberland, second cousin, and by Dr. David Mowbray of Farnborough, Hants., fourth cousin. In addition, copies of the Mowbray Journal (1976-79) have helped, and contact has just been established with one of the authors, Stephen Goslin, for the future. Many other members of the family have explained and written with patience for which I am equally indebted.

These notes are but the first stage, the genealogical bones to be fleshed out with more of the family history. Hopefully they will stimulate more searches, more provision of information and a gathering together of what becomes available to permit a fuller story to be written.

And to what purpose? Perhaps because we have lost that extended family concept which prevailed in the past, as evident herein. Our children may come to appreciate and need a link with their roots. On a more flippant level, the pursuit of trivia can be a relaxation in increasingly complex times. You take your choice!

2. ORIGINS

At the time of writing, January 1987, the earliest record discovered is that in the Sibsey parish register concerning the marriage of Henry Mowbrough of Fishtoft and Elonha Tottinham of Sibsey on 5 March 1713. The origin of Henry is obscure but his wife appears to have been baptised 18 March 1690, the daughter of John and Mary Totnaham (Totinham, Totnam etc.), as Elen and the younger sister of Esther, bap. 12 May 1686, who married a John Mowbray of Fishtoft at Skirbeck 11 August 1709. John and Esther had children baptised at Fishtoft:-

- * John bap. 24 Sep 1710
- * Elen bap. 1 Nov 1712

Unfortunately John senr., husbandman, was buried at Fishtoft 24 Oct 1712 and Esther, now a widow, together with Elen were buried 8 Nov 1712. We do not know what became of the young John, except that Esther's will made Henry one of his guardians, nor whether John senr. was Henry's brother.

However, the Fishtoft register records the baptisms of Henry and Eleanor's children, 8 in all, of whom 6 survived infancy. The register goes on to record the burial of one Benjamin Beden, servant to Henry Mowbray in 1715 and another interesting entry, for 25 Jan 1720, 'John Mowbray of Bardney' was buried. Was this a visiting cousin, uncle etc. or could it have been the father of Henry and possibly John, husbandman deceased, living with Henry in retirement? Another entry is that of the burial of Thomas Fox, schoolmaster, in 1731.

3. EARLY YEARS

That Henry (d1) was a farmer of some substance is clear from a surviving parchment roll, the Acre Book for the manor of Fishtoft and Hiptoft dated 1733. It records all the parcels of land in the manor by owner and tenant. Henry owned just two acres but was the tenant of a further 100 acres including

On the south side of the Clamp:

The heirs of Mr.Curtice (own) a cottage and 7 acres of pasture under it, abutting on a petty drain in the east, a highway west and north and Mr.Ffidell' s heirs south, in the tenure of Henry Mowbray.

Launderthorpe:

The heirs of Mr.Curtice (own) a mansion house and 8 acres of pasture under it, as aforesaid (a highway) east and west, Mr.Calthorpe north and a field called Burne south, in the tenure of Henry Mowbray.

At the end of the roll the usual list of jurymen of the manor court appears, including Henry Mowbray with his mark, a blocked-in capital È between the two words.

Along with William Quincy, William Kelsey and Anthony Bowcer, Henry was one the feoffes for the poor of Fishtoft, according to a deed of 1734 settling Burnt Mill Hill for this charity.

The court rolls for the manor survive for the years between 1720 and 1766, and Henry, or one of his sons Henry (d11) or Samuel (d4), is listed amongst the residents or as a member of the court jury. In addition to the rolls there are verdicts for the years 1754 to 1824, again with Henry' s progeny amongst the jurors, ending with John (d32) in 1824.

Henry was buried 17 May 1742 having made his will ten days earlier, leaving £20 to each daughter Eleanor (d9) and Mary (d6), £5 to George (d13), when eighteen, together with the livestock already in his possession and to his sons John and Henry, the livestock they then had. His wife Eleanor (d2) survived until 1760 when, on 13 September, her burial is recorded.

4. THE FAMILY OF SAMUEL (d4) BAP. 20 MAR 1715.

The marriage of Samuel to Martha has not been found but they baptised their children John (d15) to twins George (d20) and Elizabeth (d21) in Fishtoft. Of the three presumed to have survived infancy, the only further record is that Reynolds and his wife Elizabeth baptised their children in Fishtoft in successive Augusts.

A Samuel appears in the court rolls and verdicts juries in 1750 and intermittently until 1769. At least until 1760 this must have Samuel (d4) as later bearers of the name would have been under 18 years of age. Samuel also witnessed the Burnt Mill Hill deed of 1734.

Martha baptised the twins on 7 Dec 1745 but she and Elizabeth were buried four days later and George another six days after that.

On 1 Sep 1749 Samuel re-married taking Tabitha Goodrick of Fishtoft as his wife. Her burial is recorded on 9 April 1771 as wife of Samuel showing him to be alive at that date. His burial does not appear in the Fishtoft register but presumably he died before 1780 since the will of Henry (d11) does not mention him.

5. THE FAMILY OF JOHN (d7) BAP. 8 OCT 1720.

It has been seen that a John, baptised 1710 as the son of John and Esther, was placed in the guardianship of Henry (d1) and this makes subsequent records open to confusion between him and the subject of this section. An assumption has been made that the family group of John and Elizabeth involves (d7). Certainly there is no further record of either John in Fishtoft. However, the Bishop' s Transcripts for Wainfleetall-Saints show a marriage on 1

May 1742 between John Mowbray and Elizabeth Evisson.

They baptised 2 sons and 4 daughters at Wainfleet-St.Mary' s, the eldest of whom, John (d22) had a family which confirms the link with Fishtoft. The Wainfleet-all-Saints B.T.s record John Mawbraw and Jane Pickburn marrying 22 May 1763. Of their 7 children, there is an entry in the Fishtoft register for the baptism on 4 Dec 1774 of Charles (d47) ' son of John and Jane Mowbray of Wainfleet' ~~to~~ger with his burial there on 27 May 1775. Also son Pickburn (d48), baptised at Wainfleet-all-Saints 1 Oct 1777, was buried at Fishtoft as Dickburn ' son of Jane Mowbray' and aged 23 (sic).

Both Johns, (d7) and (d22), were buried at Wainfleet-all-Saints, on 3 Mar 1786 and 25 Oct 1799, but it is speculative that the elder died first. One of them was churchwarden there for many years but occupations are unknown. Jane was buried at Fishtoft on 31 March 1808 aged 73.

Given Pickburn' s early death, James (44) is the only known survivor of this family group at this point. His baptism was at Wainfleet-all-Saints 3 April 1771 and he married at Wrangle 25 Oct 1803. His wife was Bridget Fawsit baptised 13 Mar 1772 at Toynton-St.Peter, daughter of Robert and Mary. The Friskney B.T.s record their children John baptised 5 Aug 1804 up to Jane baptised 29 Jan 1813.

In Friskney churchyard is a memorial inscription to James who died 13 Feb 1832 aged 61 and Bridget who died 3 Jul 1837 aged 65. It also mentions 3 children who died in infancy, presumably Robert Fawsits and two others. Another M.I. commemorates Jane Mowbray who died age 27, clearly still single. On 26 Nov 1832 Mary (d85) married John Gask of Boston, which is where Bridget was living when she died.

Earlier, in 1828 John (d81) married Sarah Plummer on 10 April at Friskney. Sarah was the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth and was baptised 11 May at Freiston. Five years later her burial was recorded 27 Apr 1833. John re-married in 1835 on 13 April at Wainfleet-St.Mary' s, Mary Abraham being his bride.

The census records show him:

- * 1841 Grazier, 2 labourers and 1 house servant.
- * 1851 Farmer of 700 acres employing 16 men, 4 boys.

Mary died in 1858 and was buried at Friskney on 30 December and John' s niece Elizabeth Merrifield became his housekeeper. In 1871 the census gave his farm as being at Hiddicks and he died in 1874, buried 11 September. As far as is known, he was the last male survivor of the line from John (d7).

6. HENRY (d11) BAP. 5 APR 1724 AND GEORGE BAP 18 JUN 1727.

It is Henry who appears to have built on his father' s effort and consolidated the family' s position. Indeed he is the progenitor of the majority of the Mowbrays remaining in Lincolnshire. There is no record of George marrying but he clearly played his part in the family fortunes.

On 12 Sep 1751 at Fishtoft Henry married Martha, daughter of John West of Sibsey baptised 30 Oct 1728. In their 15 years together Martha bore him 5 daughters and 3 sons but within 6 days of the birth of the last in 1767 she died. At that time their eldest surviving daughter was Martha (d29) aged 12 and besides the recent arrival there were Mary and Eleanor aged 2 and 4. Small wonder that Henry married Jane Smith of Freiston at St.Guthlac' s in Fishtoft on 5 May 1768. The two children by this second marriage did not survive.

From 1745 to 1778 Henry was amongst the jurors at the manor court, sometimes with his elder brother Samuel and in 1769 with his brother George (d13). For that year the Court Book mentions against Mr. Henry Mowbray' s name the late Mr. West' s holding (of land).

Henry' s burial is recorded as 20 Jul 1780 and his will left:

- * To Jane #10 per year paid quarterly.
- * To his brother George, £5 "as well as 10 or 12 sheep in consideration of his living with and serving my

executors as far as he is able, in his brotherly love and counsel, in the same capacity in which he now lives with me."

* To daughters Martha, Eleanor and Mary £100 each.

* To his son Henry, lands called Hill Croft with the houses, all being in Fishtoft.

* To his son John, lands called Cliver, Launderthorpe Horns, Catch Garth, South Seldyke Field and the road, lying between Fishtoft and Freiston.

* To his son Samuel, lands called Buckhorn, Corrington Acre and land against Stockbridge, all lying in Fishtoft.

None of the sons to sell their property until Samuel shall come of age. The guardians of all the children are to be Thomas Clark and Gregory Reynolds, graziers of Fishtoft and Robert Hood, schoolmaster of Freiston. Executors are to be the three sons.

The following year Henry's widow Jane remarried at Skirbeck, 17 May 1781, Robert Physick a widower of that parish. Earlier, on 19 April 1765 Robert and his first wife, Susannah Holmes, had baptised a daughter, Susanna Physick who, 3 years after the marriage of her father to Jane, would marry John Mowbray (d32), the next builder of the family.

At this point it is interesting to note that a William Physick of Fishtoft was buried at Sibsey in 1814 and had donated the church clock there.

George Mowbray was buried on 25 Nov 1784 aged 60 and had lived to see the marriages of his nephews Henry (d30) and John (d32).

Jane Physick was buried on 14 Dec 1800 in Frieston, aged 74.

7. THE FAMILY OF HENRY (d30) BAP. 10 JULY 1757

As we have seen, Henry inherited land from his father in 1780, at the age of 23. His marriage was at Benington on 1 May 1783 to Susanna Harrup, baptised 13 Nov 1757, daughter of John and Susanna. In Fishtoft they baptised 4 children followed by twin boys Henry (d54) and Harrap on 4 May 1794. Harrap was buried on 25 September the same year but Henry, their second child of that name, survived.

Henry (d30) lived little longer being buried 4 Apr 1796 in Fishtoft aged 39. Susanna went to live in Benington where, in an 1807 List of Claims (see later) she held freehold 2 acres and a house at West End, with John Harrup listed as tenant. She died aged 57 in 1815, also being buried in Fishtoft.

Daughter Susanna was married on 20 Oct 1803 to Samuel Smaller.

Son Henry (d54) was living at Benington by 1821 and there married Elizabeth Wilkinson of that village on 15 March. Their son Henry was baptised on 25 Nov 1851, it being recorded that his father was a farmer. Neither Henry junior nor his parents made old bones.

The parents Henry and Elizabeth were buried in Benington, respectively 24 Mar 1847 aged 52 and 18 Mar 1849 aged 46, both stated to be living in Leverton.

Henry junior appears in the 1841 census as a 15 year old servant to Margaret Richardson aged 50 of independent means in the house of John Ogle, Vicar of Boston in Churchyard. The 1841 census rounded ages to the nearest 5 years and Henry should have been shown as 20 years. However he is the only Henry who fits and appears again in 1851 aged 29 years, unmarried and a footman, visiting at a house in Town Road, Butterwick, together with Ann Wilkinson, also unmarried, aged 43 years, born Leverton (his aunt?).

The same year he was buried at Benington on 16 July aged 29 and described as living at Scrembly. Once again he appears to have been the last male survivor of his line.

8. THE FAMILY OF JOHN(d32) BAP. 19 NOV 1758.

Through John passed the line from which most of the presently known Boston district Mowbrays originate. Also it seems that the major farming interests were inherited through this line.

John was active on the manor court jury by 1783 when he and his brother Henry were fined 6 shillings for non-attendance! Three years earlier, when he was 22 years old, his father had died leaving him lands in Fishtoft and near Freiston as we have seen. Aged 25 he married on 3 June 1784 at Skirbeck the 19 year old Susanna Physick of Freiston, already described. By now she was the step-daughter of her bridegroom' s stepmother!

Whether an indication of financial security or just of good health, life flourished in this household since Susanna bore 14 children and lived to the age of 87 whilst John achieved 72 years himself. John must have seen the easing of the manorial system in his time, although he served on court juries until 1824, the last record located.

A manuscript at the Society of Genealogists records a list of claims in East Holland for the right of common in the East and West Fens, based on land-holding in 1807. This shows John holding or occupying:

- * In Fishtoft 57 acres and a house near Sea Bank, freehold, occupied by himself.
- * In Freiston 1 acre freehold at South Selldyke occupied by himself.
- * In Fishtoft 11 acres as a tenant of the Fishtoft Poor.
- * A house and 124 acres near the Scalp as a tenant of John Physick' s heirs.

The children of John and Susanna, all baptised in Fishtoft were:

1. John (d56) bap. 23 Aug 1785 and who died in a shipwreck off Ryhope near Sunderland on 13 Jan 1832. It is not clear whether John had married in his 43 years.
2. Henry (d57) bap. 30 Mar 1788. See later.
3. Robert (d60) bap. 19 Jul 1790. See later.
4. Samuel (d62) bap. 28 Aug 1791. Nothing further is known.
5. George (d63) bap 15 Jul 1793. It is believed he married in Boston in the second quarter of 1843 but by 1851 he was a widower living in Liquorpond Street, Boston, with his widowed mother and described as a retired mariner. By 1861 he was an inmate in the Union Workhouse, Boston, having outlived his brothers and apparently uncared for by his nephews. His burial is not recorded in Fishtoft.
6. William Physick (d64) bap 5 Oct 1795 and who died 15 Dec 1819 serving in the Third Battalion Grenadier Guards, circumstances yet to be established.
7. Susanna (d65) bap 10 Apr 1797 and deceased 26 Sep 1821. She is buried in Fishtoft Churchyard where her gravestone records also her younger brother Charles.
8. Mary Ann Physick (d66) bap 21 Feb 1800, married in Fishtoft on 23 Oct 1821 to Zachariah Potts, master mariner and died 2 Aug 1826. As Mary Ann Physic Potts she signed as a witness at the marriage of Martha. Her gravestone in Fishtoft is elaborate with nautical motifs.
9. Martha (d68) bap 29 Mar 1802 and married in Fishtoft on 15 May 1823 to John Mountain, a widower of Boston. She was buried in Fishtoft on 20 Dec 1860, the register giving her abode as Skirbeck.
10. Rebecca (d70) bap 31 Oct 1803 and buried 16 Feb 1820.

11. James (d71) bap 4 Apr 1805 and who died 3 Apr 1837. His gravestone leaves no clue of a marriage in his 32 years.

12. Frances (d72) bap 5 Mar 1807. Her life was a short one for her burial is recorded on 23 Dec 1807.

13. Charles (d73) bap 11 Jan 1809 and buried at the age of four on 7 Jan 1813.

14. Joseph (d74) bap 11 Apr 1810 and buried in Fishtoft 14 Mar 1849. The register records his abode as Boston, although the 1841 census evidence has not been located. Did he live with his mother Susanna?

John (d32) died on 12 March 1831 and his gravestone in the family plot near the south door of Fishtoft Church records also his sons John and William Physick. He was followed four months later by his second son Henry who must have been managing the farm in John' s last few years. Certainly the farm was being run by Henry' s widow and eldest son in 1841.

As we have seen, Susanna (d33) was living with her son George those ten years later, in Boston, until her time came to be buried in Fishtoft 13 January 1853.

We will return to Henry (d57) and Robert (d60) in due course.

9. THE FAMILY OF SAMUEL (d37) BAP 12 APRIL 1767.

A Samuel Mowbray married Mary Hall in Boston on 8 July 1790 and a couple with these names baptised three children in Butterwick in the next twelve years. Since the second child was named Samuel Hall Mowbray it is assumed the events connect. The Mowbray Journal (vol.3-no.2-Aug1978) records Samuel as "grazier of Butterwick, died 1805" but his burial record is not known to the writer. Nor are the origins of Mary Hall clear.

The previously mentioned Claims List of 1807 records:-

- * Samuel Mowbray -copyhold a house in Butterwick near the church and 5 acres, tenant himself.
- * Also in Butterwick 18 acres freehold, tenant himself.
- * In Fishtoft at Stockbridge Close 4 acres freehold in respect of his common-wright house in Butterwick, tenant himself.

This suggests Samuel was still alive in 1807. However the same record gives:-

- * Samuel Mowbray' s heirs, 2 acres freehold at Crabmeat in Freiston, tenant Widow Mowbray.
- * Freiston' s Trustees of the Dor, 6 acres freehold at Short Newland and the Ings, Butterwick, tenant Widow Mowbray and Thomas Baker.

So which Samuel' s (d4 or d37?) heirs are referred to and whose widow?

Samuel evidently kept in touch with the Fishtoft family, by now represented only by John (d32), as in 1799 daughter Frances aged 4 was buried in Fishtoft Churchyard. The next two children, sons, survived to maturity and it is thought there was another daughter, Mary.

What became of Samuel' s property when he died at the age of 38 is not known. The elder son, Samuel Hall (d76), was baptised 3 October 1796 and became a brewer in Grantham. His marriage has not been located but in 1826 and 1836 two children were born in Grantham whereas in 1838 and 1840 two more were born in Gedney Marsh. At the 1851 census Samuel Hall and his wife Mary (b.1803?, possibly Mary King) were visitors of Seph King, brewer of Victoria Street, Holbeach. In Grantham at Wood Hill the 23 year old daughter Mary (d102) was at the family home looking after the 10 year old Richard Butler (d107) whilst in a boarding school at Castlegate were

Samuel (d105) and Hall (d106).

The family seems to have moved to Lancashire a little later as Samuel Hall' s will records he was living at 15 Grosvenor Square, Lower Broughton, Lancs. and died on 7 January 1864 leaving Mary a widow and one Richard King, farmer, of Kingshaugh, Notts. an executor. Was he Mary' s father or brother?

The children were:-

1. Louisa (d101) bap. 8 Nov 1824 at Grantham, not mentioned in her father' s will in 1863. However, a Louisa Hafner is mentioned in the will of Margaret Louisa Mowbray, widow of Hall (d106) as a niece of his.

2. Mary (d102) bap. 11 July 1826 at Grantham, a spinster in 1863.

3. Priscilla (d103) bap. 15 July 1829 at Grantham, married a Robert Lockwood.

4. King (d104) bap. 3 Feb 1832 at Grantham. It is believed he married in 1861 and had children:-

a) Samuel b.1862 ca.

b) Louisa b.1865 ca.

c) Lizzie b.1867 ca.

d) King William b. 1869 ca., emigrated to Saskatchewan, Canada.

King died 1 Jan 1879, late of Grantham Villa, Winton, Bournemouth and formerly of Liverpool, a widower.

5. Samuel (d105) born 1863 at Grantham. It is believed he married Mary Elizabeth Fawcett Taylor and had children:-

a) Kate Fawcett b. 1869 ca. She died a spinster of 11 The Grove, Didsbury, Lancs. on 29 Feb 1906.

b) Sam Harry b.1871 ca. He married an Edith and was 2nd. ship' s officer on H.M.S. Crosby Hall. He died in retirement at 50 Dalmorton Road, Wallasey, Cheshire, 12 Oct 1917.

Samuel died 6 January 1874.

6. Hall (d106) born 1838 at Gedney Marsh. He married a Margaret Louisa and at the time of his death on 19 Feb 1903 was living at Leamington Villa, Washaway Road, Sale, Cheshire.

7. Richard Butler (d107) born 1840 at Gedney Marsh. He was a draughtsman living at Monks Coppenhall, Crewe, Cheshire in 1871, married to Harriet Brooker, born 1842 at Horley, Surrey. They had children:-

a) Adelaide b.1864 in London.

b) Richard King b.1866 in Birkenhead.

c) Amy Harriet b.1867 in Monks Coppenhall.

d) Mary King b.1869, same.

e) Frederick Harry b.1870, place not found.

f) Lillian Kate b.1873, likewise.

g) Charles Ernest b.1874. He married Martha Heard in 1899 and was a motor engineer in London with 3 sons, and grandchildren.

Harriet died in 1874 and Richard (d107) re-married, wife not known, and raised another family in Weymouth:-

h) Nelly b.1875.

i) Kate b.1878.

j) Edith b.1880.

k) Horace Brooker b.1881. He married an Eva May in 1909 and had 3 daughters plus a son b.1911 and 2 grandsons. He died 10 Feb 1921, a resident of 4 Benmore Road, Winton, Bournemouth.

l) Reginald Hall b.1885. He married a Miss Lewis in 1909, also lived in Bournemouth and had 2 sons.

This completes the known line of descent from Samuel Hall Mowbray, brewer. Many details of the lives of this branch remain to be filled in. There was a younger brother, however.

The second son of Samuel (d37) was Henry Maddison Mowbray (d78) baptised 10 September 1802, a more shadowy figure than his brother. Even the origin of his middle name, a local surname, is unknown. He married Mary Parker in Nocton on 18 March 1822 and they seem to have lived in Lincoln for a short period before settling in Boston. Their children were:-

1. Samuel Hall (d108) bap 28 Dec 1823 at Lincoln, St.Peter-at-Gowts. Buried 12 Jan 1824 at the same church.
2. Henry Maddison bap 24 Sep 1822 at Lincoln and buried 26 Oct 1822 at Lincoln, St. Martin
3. Henry Maddison (d109) bap 12 Feb 1825 at Boston and buried 22 Sep 1825.
4. Henry Maddison (d110) bap 10 May 1826 at Boston and buried 19 May 1826
5. Martha Maddison (d111) bap 1 Sep 1827, Boston, who reached the age of 28, being buried in Boston 3 May 1831
6. Henry Maddison (d112) bap 10 Jan 1829, Boston and buried 30 Jan 1829
7. Anne (d113) bap 10 Jul 1830, Boston who reached the age of 27, being buried in Boston 21 Aug 1830.
8. Henry Maddison (d114) bap 28 Apr 1832, Boston, who reached the age of 8, being buried in Boston 10 Dec 1840.
9. Lucy Anne (d115) bap 24 Oct 1835, Boston, and buried 2 Dec 1835.

By 1841 Mary had died or the couple had parted. The census lists Henry as a Licensed Victualler at The Nag' s Head in Stanbow Lane, Boston, the only other occupants of the household being two serving girls. At the same time a Mary Mowbray aged 40 and two years older than Henry had an independent household at Witham Green.

In 1851 Henry Maddison was a widower, occupation brewer and lodging with Elizabeth Williamson, 57 year old innkeeper of Stanbow Street, Boston. At the same time there is listed a Mary Mowbray aged 45, married but head of household at 1 Military Row, Boston with stated birthplace Caythorpe. The trail dries up with no record of any of them in Boston in 1861.

10. THE FAMILY OF HENRY (d57) BAP 30 MAR 1788.

As noted earlier, Henry was the second son of John (d32) and Susanna. The elder son was a mariner and it must have fallen to Henry to assist his father in farming the land in Fishtoft. In the 1841 census, after Henry had died aged 43, we have his wife Mary listed as a farmer in Fishtoft with all but two of her children at home. In addition

there was Elizabeth Needham aged 82 who may be presumed to be Mary' s mother. The marriage of Henry and Mary Needham "spinster of this parish" had taken place in Fishtoft on 24 May 1814 witnessed by non-members of either family. No Mary Needham of the right age to match marriage and census records was born in the Boston or fen areas, as far as can be seen. However a Mary born to a Samuel and Elizabeth Needham of Somerby, near Grantham, on 13 November 1785 fits well, allowing for a 4-year deduction of age as was often claimed by wives older than husbands at that time. Mary would have been aged 28 when married and it is likely she was the mother of an illegitimate daughter baptised in Grantham on 3 May 1811 as Mary Needham.

The children of Henry and Mary were:-

1. George (d88, a1) bap 15 May 1816. He carried on the Fishtoft farm as we shall see later.
2. Henry (d89, b1) bap 12 Mar 1819. He became a farm worker and founded the Swineshead branch of the family as we shall see.
3. John (d90, c1) bap 22 Mar 1820. Farmed in Butterwick and then in Sibsey. See later.
4. William Physick (d91, e2) bap 30 apr 1826. Farmer at Hilldyke and then greengrocer of Boston. See later.
5. Mary (d92) bap 23 Aug 1829. No further information.

A further child raised with the family was Martha whose 1841 census age fits a Martha Mowbray baptised 30 August 1835, illegitimate daughter of Matilda Clarke, a Sibsey girl working as a servant in Fishtoft. This was four years after the death of Henry (d57). The father appears to have been James (d71) who left in his will dated 28 Feb 1837 "unto Matilda Clarke now or late of Boston £50. Residue in trust to Robert Mowbray of Boston and Joseph Mowbray of Kirton, farmer, for maintenance and bringing up of Martha Mowbray Clarke, daughter of above mentioned Matilda Clarke..."

Martha appears in the 1851 census as an apprentice dressmaker with Frederick and Mary Ann Bobling in High Street, Boston. Interestingly, Frederick was a young man of 24 born in Aylesbury, his 22 year old sister was working with them and Mary Ann aged 27 was from Beccles in Suffolk. No more is known of Martha.

Henry was buried in Fishtoft on 6 July 1831 and Mary likewise on 28 March 1848. Her age was given as 58 but should have been 62 and her abode was Butterwick where her second son John (d90, c1) was farming.

11. THE FAMILY OF ROBERT (d60) BAP 19 JUL 1790.

This third son of John (d32) and Susanna left farming and Fishtoft to become a cabinet-maker in Boston. There he married a Mary Hall on 29 November 1821, who has not been traced but from her age at death would have been born in 1803, 13 years junior to Robert. Their three children died aged 2 years, 16 months and 14 weeks respectively being buried in Fishtoft. After another three years Mary was buried there on 15 January 1831 aged 27.

Soon Robert re-married in Boston on 18 April 1831 to Rebecca Martin Howard, born at Miningsby, Lincs. about 1798. Their children were:-

1. Mary Anne (d97) bap 21 Jan 1833, Boston, but buried in Fishtoft 1 May 1833.
2. Rebecca (d98) twin of above, recorded in the 1851 census living with the family aged 18.
3. Susanna (d99) bap 9 Dec 1834, Boston. In the 1851 census she was a 16 year old pupil at Anne E. Broome' s boarding school at Beaumont Hill, Lincoln.
4. Robert (d100) born July 1836 but buried in Fishtoft 30 Jun 1837.
5. John James (d117) born 1838 recorded as a scholar in 1851.

The family lived in Bargate, Boston in 1841, when Robert was absent on the night of the census and Wide

Bargate in 1851 by which time Robert, aged 60, was retired. He died aged 65 and was buried in Fishtoft on 4 Aug 1855. In 1861 Rebecca was still living in Bargate, now alone and on 7 April 1863 she died aged 65 and was also buried in Fishtoft.

12. THE FAMILY OF GEORGE (d88, a1) BAP 15 MAY 1816.

When George was 15 his father died and for the next fourteen years he must have helped his mother run the farm. On 13 May 1845 he married Elizabeth, daughter of John and Mary Needham of Rochford Tower, near Boston. Elizabeth had been baptised at Wrangle on 16 November 1815, and was occupied as a servant when married. Their children were:-

1. John (a3) bap 20 Dec 1845. See later.
2. Robert (a5) bap 11 Sep 1849. See later.
3. Elizabeth (a7) bap 17 Aug 1851, buried 14 Sep 1854 in Fishtoft.
4. Mary Emma (a8) bap 21 May 1853.
5. George (a10) bap 23 Jan 1855.

In 1851 George senior was farming 110 acres and employing 3 men and in 1861 also, with the address given as Sea Road and the family complete. By 1871, John had married and Robert aged 21 was farm bailiff at Rectory Farm, Skirbeck. In 1872 Elizabeth died, aged 56 and was buried on 27 September. The 1881 census saw George senior a widower of 64 with Mary Emma aged 27 keeping house. George junior aged 26 would have been helping run the farm, now given as New Cutt Road, Fishtoft, Also at the house on census night was Charles Gilliat age 32, as a visitor.

A few months later, on 16 July 1881, Mary Emma married Charles described as a farmer of Carrington but Fishtoft born. In 1916 he was farming at Frith Bank.

George senior died in 1883, being buried 20 April in Fishtoft. He had not lived to see the marriage of George junior to cousin Susanna Mowbray, daughter of John (d90) by now a Sibsey farmer. This took place at Fishtoft on 30 Oct 1884.

George's will shows him to have added to the family landholdings:-

- * 7a 3r 13p in Skirbeck West Fen.
- * 3a 1r 24p in Fishtoft.
- * 19a 3r 5p of pasture in Freiston.
- * 10a in Benington.
- * 20a 6p of pasture with cottages and buildings in Skirbeck.
- * 1a 1r 5p in Fishtoft.
- * 18a 2r 8p in Skirbeck.
- * 3r 20p in Skirbeck.
- * 22a of pasture in Skirbeck, near Hawthorne Tree.
- * 11a 33p in Sibsey.

His estate was valued at #5,500 and the beneficiaries were the children plus an annuity from the Sibsey land for his brother Henry (d89) who had been residing with the Fishtoft family after losing his wife in 1881. George junior inherited the household effects and farmed the Fishtoft lands, where he and Susanna left no successors. He died on 27 July 1916 leaving an estate valued at #30,000 with land in Fishtoft, Freiston and Skirbeck. Principally it was to be let with the proceeds going to his widow Susanna. After her decease it was to be sold with the proceeds going to all nephews and nieces, the children of John, Robert and Mary Emma.

This was the end of the Fishtoft farming saga, begun in 1713 at least, by Henry and Eleanor and continued by a

further four generations before George junior.

Susanna, in 1918 had a stained glass window installed in Fishtoft in the south wall of St. Guthlac' s, Fishtoft in memory of her husband. Alongside it is another in memory of George Cabourn Simonds, grazier of Fishtoft, friend and trustee of the will of George senior. Susanna was living in Tawney Street, Boston prior to her death on 18 September 1927.

Mrs. Ulyatt, wife of one the Fishtoft churchwardens in 1986, recalls moving to Fishtoft in 1922 or 1923 with her parents to live at Old House Farm which still stands in Cut End Road. They were told that it had belonged formerly to the Mowbrays.

13. THE FAMILY OF JOHN (a3) BAP 20 DEC 1845.

On 30 March 1871 , three days before the census, John aged 25 was married in St. Margaret' s, Sibsey to Susanna aged 27 and daughter of Henry Kent a Sibsey farmer with 420 acres. Henry was 70, a widower, born in Kirton and 10 years earlier there had been residing with him and his wife at High Fenside, his 94 year old mother and 57 year old spinster sister! Susanna was sixth child in a brood of 7 girls and 3 boys.

No doubt John and Susanna were out of the area for the 1871 census but by 1881 John was farming in Friskney at Engines Lane. Twenty years later they were at Greenfield House which may be the same location. The children of John and Susanna were:-

1. Walter (a12) 1872 to 1944, farmer of Friskney. He had six children, with two sons, five grandchildren, three of them boys.

2. Herbert (a14) 1873 to 1908 butcher, apprenticed to Thomas Ryan of Boston (now Mountain' s). He moved to Sheffield, working for a wholesale butcher and was the writer' s grandfather. His son, Percy, lived in Newark, Notts. And died on 2 Jan 1991. His sister lives in Sheffield. The writer is a retired mechanical engineer in Gloucestershire with three daughters.

3. Elizabeth Needham (a16) born 1874. She married Ben Musgrove, a farmer near Retford, Notts. and there were no children.

4. Arthur (a19) 1876 to 1952, farmer of Friskney. By his first marriage he had a son Harold (1905 to 1977) and two daughters. He re-married and a son is living in Spilsby.

5. Jesse (a21) 1877 to 1878.

6. Kate (a22) 1880 to 1941, married Fred Pitcher of Friskney and had 11 children.

7. John James (a24) 1882 to 1883.

8. Eliza Susanna (a25) 1883 to 1921 who was housekeeper and receptionist for a doctor in Bolton, Lancs. and died there, aged 38.

Susanna died 31 January 1907 aged 63 years and John died 14 December 1917 aged 71. Both are buried in Friskney cemetery. From this branch there are three Mowbray sons in the tenth generation counting from the first Henry.

13. THE FAMILY OF ROBERT (a5) BAP 11 SEP 1849.

As mentioned earlier, Robert had left the family home in Fishtoft by 1871 and was farm bailiff at Rectory Farm, Skirbeck. Two years after elder brother John went to Sibsey to marry Susanna Kent, Robert was married there, on 9 October 1873, to his cousin Mary Mowbray, the 22 year old daughter of John (d90, c1), and elder sister of

Susanna who would later marry Robert' s younger brother George (a10), as we have seen. In 1872 and 1873 he is listed in directories as farming at Fen Allotment and Skirbeck. By 1881 he was at Diamside, Sibsey with 250 acres and employing 6 labourers and 1 boy. Later he farmed at Quadring. The children of Robert and Mary were:-

1. Frank (a26) 1875 to 1918 of Dunkery Bratton Fleming, Devon who died at Osbourne House, Gosberton.
2. Ada Mary (a27) 1878 to ? who married Matthew Proctor.
3. Emma Elizabeth (a28) 1879 to ?.
4. George (a29) 1881 to 1947 and a farmer of Ivy House, Horbling whose family is still farming in the area.
5. Robert Henry (a30) 1882 to 1960 who was living at Osbourne House prior to his death. Possibly this the was the main home of Robert and his progeny.
6. Bettina Susanna (a31) 1884 to 1960 who also was living at Osbourne House and who never married.

Robert died on 6 October 1906 aged 57 and leaving an estate of some £35,000. His widow Mary survived him for another 36 years, living at Osbourne House, Gosberton where she died on 27 December 1942.

This completes the review of the descent from George (d88) and we turn to the second son of Henry and Mary.

15. THE FAMILY OF HENRY (d89, b1) BAP 12 MAR 1819.

After his baptism, Henry appears next in the 1841 census working for a farmer Samuel Hopkinson of Willoughby Hills near Fishtoft. On 29 December 1846 he married Rhoda Outtram, a school- teacher of Tatsfield, Surrey where was born their only child, William Henry in 1848. Their whereabouts in 1851 are not clear but by 1861 they were living in Fishtoft Road, Freiston where Henry was an agricultural labourer and William Henry was a scholar. In 1871 there were just Henry and Rhoda, the address being described as "near Priory", and likewise in 1881.

Rhoda died 28 July 1881 and was buried in Fishtoft. Henry lived for a while with his brother George (d88,a1) before dying on 8 October 1896, location unclear.

Their son William Henry became a wheelwright in Swineshead and married Ann Elizabeth Fox on 26 December 1872. Their children were:-

1. Edward Thorpe (b5) born 11 Jun 1874 and died 28 Apr 1952. He was a builder in Swineshead and had a family of 5 girls and 3 boys.

1.1 Annie (b12) 1899 to 1979 married, no issue.

1.2 Edward Henry (b15) 1901 to 1983. Builder like his father, and married twice. His eldest son Gordon Henry (b31) 1929 to 1980 continued the building business. The sons of Gordon Henry are respectively a medical practitioner and a civil engineer with 2 sons and a daughter between them. By his second marriage Edward Henry had two sons still living, one an aeronautical engineer with a son and a daughter, and the other a medical practitioner with a son and a daughter.

1.3 Alice (b17) 1902 to 1982 married, two sons.

1.4 Cecil (b19) 1903 to 1918.

1.5 Sidney (b20) born 1903, who farmed at Burton Joyce, Notts and had a son, unmarried, and a daughter.

1.6 Emmie (b22) 1906 to 1918.

1.7 Susie (b23) 1909 to 1975, married, one daughter.

1.8 Mary Elizabeth (b26) born 1917, married twice, no issue.

2. Charles Henry (b7) born 16 Apr 1876 and died 4 Dec 1926, cycle dealer of Swineshead, who had a daughter and a son.

2.1 Winifred Mary born 1902, married, one son.

2.2 William Henry born 1911, believed unmarried.

3. Annie Elizabeth (b9) born 2 Oct 1877 and died 24 Dec 1951, never married.

4. Mary Emma (b10) born 1880, married, one son.

The Swineshead branch continues strongly with four Mowbray sons in the 10th. generation and two in the 11th. counting from the first Henry. This completes the review of the descent from Henry (d89,b1) and we can turn to the third son of Henry and Mary.

6. THE FAMILY OF JOHN (d90,c1) BAP 22 MARCH 1820.

Like his elder brother Henry, John was away from the family home on the night of the 1841 census and his whereabouts have yet to be found. Perhaps he was looking after the Butterwick holdings since his mother Mary (d58) was recorded as living there in March 1843.

On 19 March 1849 John married Mary Cook at Swineshead. John was described as "farmer of Butterwick" and Mary, under 21, was the daughter of George Cook, innkeeper. It is interesting that the 13 year-old Martha Mowbray, soon to be an apprentice dress-maker, signed as a witness.

In 1851 John was farming at Butterwick Ings, 72 acres employing 3 men. By 1861 he was at High Ferry, east side of the turnpike, with 105 acres, and the first 7 children born. All were at home except Mary aged 9. In 1871 John was at Shottles Farm, Sibsey with 180 acres and the family complete, 11 children born over 20 years. All were at home except George aged 21.

By 1881 John was farming 230 acres at The Willows, Sibsey. At home were Elizabeth, Fanny, Sam and Robert. The elder ones, George (31 yrs), John Atkin (27 yrs) and Susanna (25 yrs) were in an 81 acre farm in Carrington at Horncastle and Revesby Roads. Fred Cook (17 yrs) was a draper's assistant in the shop of his cousin Emma Hurst, a widow in Boston. Missing were little Emily Martha who had died aged 6 in 1875 and Mary who had married in 1873.

By 1904 John and Mary had moved to Skirbeck (or boundary changes had 'moved' them) for there Mary died and was buried in Sibsey on 8 March. Perhaps John went to live with daughter Susanna and her husband George Mowbray (a10, c12) in Fishtoft, for his death occurred there in 1907 and he was buried in Sibsey on 22 June. Their children were:-

1. George (c6) born 1850. Farmed at Carrington with his brother John in 1881. Labourer in Sibsey in 1911 when his daughter Lillian Maria married Ernest Whiting.

2. Mary (c7, a6) 1851 to 1942. Married her cousin Robert Mowbray who farmed at Gosberton until 1906. Mary lived at Osbourne House for the rest of her life.

3. John Atkin (c9) 1853 to 1938. In 1882 he married Betsy Alice Gosling, daughter of Sibsey farmer Isaac

Gosling. Not much more is known until he died with an address of 1 Stanhope Terrace, Horncastle leaving a widow Ruth Elizabeth who died at the same address in 1941. There may have been a son Albert Atkin (dec. 1949) with his son and daughter living.

4. Susanna (c11, a10) 1855 to 1927. Married her cousin George Mowbray who farmed at Fishtoft until 1916, as seen above.

5. Henry (c13) born 1856. He is said to have farmed at Mount Somers, New Zealand and married Mary Lambie in 1883. Two sons, George and Mark, are known of and there are recollections that Mark fought in the Lincolnshire Regiment (WW 1) and was evacuated to Boston where he stayed with George Mowbray, son of William Physick (see later) to convalesce. His elder brother is believed to have been killed in the war.

6. Elizabeth (c14) born 1859. In 1881 she married William Smalley, a wollen-drapeer of Martin, Lincs. and son of Willam Smaller, miller and baker.

7. Sam (c16) 1861 to 1943. At the time of the marriage of his sons in 1909 and 1913 Sam was recorded as a farmer of Stickney and was still there when he died. It is believed he had children:-

7.1 Jessie with a 23 acre farm in Sibsey.

7.2 Clara, married Edward Dobbs.

7.3 Frederick 1895 to 1979 who has a surviving son and grandson.

7.4 Samuel 1896 to 1966, a farmer of Winthorpe, Lincs. and later lived at Halton Holgate. He had two sons who farmed, believed to be living.

Sam' s wife Clara died in 1931 when Sam was retired

8. Fred Cook (c18) 1863 to 1917. After his work as a draper' s assistant in 1881 he married Sarah Anne Potter and by the time of his death was farming at Stone Bridge Farm, Sibsey. Sarah Anne had died in 1906 and both were buried in Sibsey Churchyard (M.I.)

Their children were:-

8.1 Percy born 1888. He married a Clarissa May who is buried at Holy Trinity, Boston although her address had been 10 High Street, Stourton, Wilts. At the time, 1942, Percy was described as having no occupation.

8.2 Leonard 1895 to 1970. During WW 1 he was a sergeant in the Tank Corps but returned to marry Evelyn Mary Robinson of The Farm, Sibsey on 24 Oct 1918. It is believed he became a motor engineer in Mablethorpe before ending his days at The Hollies, Maltby-le-Marsh. He may have had two sons living at Huttoft and Cleethorpes, not thought to be still living.

9. Fanny Sophia 1865 to 1888.

10. Robert born 1867 of whom no information has been found since his 1881 census record.

11. Emily Martha 1869 to 1875, died in infancy.

This concludes the review of John' s branch of the family except to say that it is represented in Sibsey and probably further north in the marsh areas. We now turn to the fourth and last son of Henry and Mary.

17. THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM PHYSIC (d91, e2) BAP 30 APRIL 1826.

In the 1841 census we find him aged 15 and in the household of his widowed mother, elder brother George and two younger sisters (counting Martha!). His 82 year old maternal grandmother was also there. In 1851 he was

described as "farmer' s son", lodging with Stevens Thompson who had a 40 acre farm in Fishtoft.

In 1852 on 8 April he married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Crane, farmer of Fishtoft, although census records give her birthplace as Thorney, Cambs. By 1861 he was farming at Hilldyke Bar and had a 5 year old son, William Henry. Elizabeth died in 1865 and was buried in Fishtoft on 29 April aged 44.

In the same year William Physic re-married a Mary J. Redshaw and the following year was born John with George and Robert Physic in succeeding years. In 1871 they were still at Hilldyke Bar but by 1875 they were at 2 Witham Street, Boston where William Physic was a greengrocer and Mary J. produced two more sons and a daughter.

After another ten years William Physic died and was buried in Fishtoft on 2 Dec 1886. Of Mary J. we know little more except for tales handed down of her selling produce on Boston Market. William' s family comprised:

1. William Henry born 1855. In 1877 after his father' s death he was a pork seller and dairyman at 2 Witham Street and by 1881 was a butcher and married, at 112 West Street. His son, William Physic, the last known to be given this distinctive second forename, was also a butcher and is survived a daughter.

2. John Redshaw 1866 to 1943. He was a greengrocer in Boston and the 403rd. Mayor in 1938. He married twice and had a daughter Elsie Richardson Mowbray (dec. 1980) and a son John William (1901 to 1963) who was a fruit and produce merchant. In 1950 he too was Mayor of Boston and he has two sons surviving and one grandson.

3. George 1867 to 1928. He was another butcher and lived at 32 Pen Street in Boston. He married Jane Richardson of Kirton in 1895 and they had the following children:-

3.1 Frank 1900 to 1967, butcher' s assistant of 47 Botolph Street, Boston. He is survived by a son and grandson.

3.2 Frederick 1902 to 1985, a butcher in Peterborough and survived by his widow and daughter.

3.3 Cyril Richardson 1903 to 1983, butcher of 27 Pen Street, Boston. He married but is thought to have had no children.

Jane died in 1904 and George was re-married to Anna Maria Longden of Swineshead. The couple had:-

3.4 Lucy 1906 to ?1960, married and survived by a daughter in Boston.

3.5 A son, living in Peterborough who has a son in Surrey and three grandsons.

3.6 A son, retired auctioneer of Kent, probably no progeny.

4. Robert Physick 1869 to 1959, seedmerchant of 2 Grove Street, Boston. He married Kate Thompson and had children:-

4.1 Charles William dec. 1933 of 89 London Road, Boston who worked in the family seed business. He married but it is not clear whether there were children.

4.2 Reginald dec. 1984 of 2 Grove Street, Boston, also in the business.

4.3 A daughter, living in Boston.

Kate died in 1932.

5. Fred born 1876. After the 1881 census which listed him as a 5 year-old scholar we have no data on Fred except hearsay that he was a chemist. A Matilda, widow of Frederick and of 14 Pilgrim Road, Boston died 17

May 1972 but it not clear if there was a connection.

6. Harry born 1877 and a butcher of Boston, no further details known.

7. Kate born 1879, no further details known.

This completes the review of the last of Henry and Mary' s sons and of their lines of descent.

18. ROUND-UP.

Several lines of the family remain untraced, in particular the ' senior line' from Samuel (d4) where three male members possibly had careers still to be accounted for. At the ' junior' end there remains much to be discovered about the progeny in the Grantham branch stemming from Samuel Hall (d76) although male births as recently as 1943 are known.

In between we have male survivors in the various branches as follows:-

		Generation from Henry (d1)				
BRANCH	ORIGINATOR	7	8	9	10	11
Friskney	George		3	3	3	
Gosberton	George		1?	1?		
Swineshead	Henry		1?	3	4	2
Sibsey	John		4?	1?		
Boston	William P.	2	4	5		

More data is required from the Sibsey and Gosberton branches to be certain of those living, but even so there is strong growth of Mowbray name-bearers from the centre of our family tree.

19. WHAT MORE?

Person-to-person enquiries are needed to strengthen the more recent genealogical framework. Census and other records searches will perhaps give the direction of the Grantham branch. Newspaper searches in Lincoln and Spalding libraries should illuminate the lives and achievements of those known to us already. The area was covered by the Stamford Mercury which was the earliest provincial paper, published from 1714 to 1908.

Finally there is the intriguing question of where did Henry, who started it all, come from? The clue to this probably lies in the Lincolnshire Archives Office in Lincoln, but it is likely to take some finding!