

The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

January 2001

Edition 8

William Luckraft and his American family

William and Julia from Preston, England

Louise and Arthur Luckraft very kindly sent me this wonderful family portrait, taken about 1917. It shows, (l to r) Helen (b. 1898), Edward (b 1904), Henry (seated b 1897), Albert (b 1901), Steven (b 1910), with William (b 1869) and his wife Julia Ann (Thompson b 1873). Arthur is the youngest son of the seated Henry.

Louise writes that William and Julia both came from Preston. They were married in St James Roman Catholic Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1896, and the Luckraft family still attends this church, where many were married and baptised.

In previous newsletters we have given details of how this family emerged from the Dean Prior Luckrafts, through a Richard Luckraft, who went to work in Kidderminster and then to Preston, where he married Ellen Hoskisson, and they had their first child, also Richard, in 1837. The son Richard married Elizabeth Halliwell (whose father was named William) in 1866, and their son William, shown in this photo, was born in 1869.

Though William and Julia had emigrated to America, where they were married in 1896, William served in the British Army in the Boer War, and later in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in World War I.

William and Julia lived on Vial Street in the south end of New Bedford, before buying their own wooden-framed and clad home on Thatcher Street, just a few blocks away. This home, built in 1895, still stands and remains in the family, being the home of Art and Louise.



"The two boys in uniform had just gone into the services, and so a family photo was in order." Given that the war started in late 1914, which would make the youngest child, who was born 2nd Jan 1910 nearly four, I think that the photo was taken about 1917, when he was nearly seven. Would this fit with the uniforms looking as if they were the American Navy? The USA entered the war in 1917. Because of his age, William, the father, by then over 45 years old, had to travel to Canada to enlist, after his sons were already in the services.

Bankrupt Joiner

John and Di Luckraft from Plympton brought to the family weekend a wonderful bag full of old parchment indentures and papers relating to a John Luckraft, Carpenter and Joiner of Plymouth that they had obtained. (Today's John is a descendant of the Kingswear family group and he and Di subsequently brought the papers up to Sheffield for me to transcribe, with Gwen's patient help.)

I had pieced various parts of the tree together over the years, and here were actual documents signed by the earliest known member of this branch. John Luckraft and Ann Martin had been married at Plymouth St Charles on 28th July 1782. As yet I've not been able to tie them into any other part of the family trees. (Intriguingly, however, another man with a middle name, John Newton Lucraft, the cooper in Broadclyst, married another Ann Martin, in 1850. There were Martins all over the area, so this is probably just a coincidence 70 years apart.)

These indentures and deeds relate to money John Luckraft borrowed, to build houses with, and for which he was not able to meet his commitments. The documents show how John was unable to build and sell the houses in time for his creditors, who appear to have called in the loan after John was declared bankrupt in Westminster.

I know a little about some of John and Ann's children.

- A son John married, I think, a woman with the surname Oldcat and they had a daughter possibly named Neno Luckraft. The documents are very unclear and further local work would be required.
- One son, Joseph Luckraft, mentioned in the deed copied here, was born about 1795 in Plymouth, and also became a Carpenter. He is listed as a "Carpenter of Maker" in 1820, and I believe that he married Ann Squire on 1 March 1820 in Maker, which was presumably her parish. I believe Joseph may have been listed as an artist in 1851, of 1 Eldad Lane, Plymouth, though there is another candidate for this. In 1853 he is listed as a builder. Joseph and Ann had up to 10 children, I believe, including another Joseph, who was variously a seaman (1851) and a bird and animal preserver (1897) of 103 Union Street. Another son, Edwin, became a successful pawnbroker and lived at 4 Penrose Villas, and last at Compton Gifford. His son, Edwin 2nd, also was a pawnbroker, and lived at Egg Buckland and Colebrook. Edwin 2nd was rich enough to send his son, Edwin 3rd to Eton. As well as Edwin 3rd, Edwin 2nd's only son, Edwin 2nd had 13 daughters, almost one per year between 1879 and 1899. One of these girls, Gwendoline, was moderately well-known as an artist and illustrator of children's books, having studied at Newton Abbot School of Art. The family has shown several artistic members. I have recently made brief contact with Edwin 3rd's descendants.
- The deed refers also to a daughter Elizabeth Ann Luckraft, but I know nothing more of her.
- Another son, John Martin Luckraft was born about 1792 in Plymouth, the and married Hannah Stephens, born in Weston Peverell about 1767, in about 1813. I believe

Hannah's parents, Peter and Ann Stephens, both lived until they were 77 and were buried at Pennycross.

After John Martin Luckraft's marriage there are several references to him in poll-books, directories etc., including:

1846 Living at "Lodging House", 21 Coburg Street
1851 "Late a Yeoman"
1857 "Gentleman"
1860 living at 27 James Street
1861 "Proprietor of houses"
1862 of 11 Hyde Park Terrace "and of Lutely, Pennycross, Weston Peverell"

John Martin clearly was trying to better himself. John Martin and Hannah had only one child of which I know, Ann, born about 1820, Weston Peverell and died 1851, buried at Penycross.

By an extraordinary coincidence, a few years back I was sent out of the blue by Mary Outhwaite, of Plymouth, a small red leather bound diary. It was the diary for 1834 of Hannah Luckraft (nee Stephens). She had not written a lot in it, but there were some rents listed for lodgers! The inscription in the front suggests it was given her by her daughter Ann.

The documents are very long, very repetitive, with repetition lawyers would now consider unnecessary. (The lawyers always knew how to add charges to the bill). I cannot possibly repeat all the documents, or even one, as some are five pages of full vellum sheets. So I have copied out a few paragraphs of the first document for interest's sake. The extracts will not make sense as a whole, but give a few windows onto the events. Where there are dots It means there are whole chunks missing.

This indenture of nine parts made the seventeenth day of August in the fifty first year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Eleven Between Joseph Pridham of the Borough of Plymouth in the County of Devon Gentleman of the first part John Harris Richard Rosdew and John Harris the younger all of the same place Bankers and Copartners lately carrying on Business under the Firm of "Bulsteel Harris Rosdew & Harris" of the second part Henry Woolcombe of Plymouth aforesaid Gentleman of the third part William Hale Symons of Chaddlewood in the said County Esquire George Soltau of Plymouth aforesaid Esquire and Amaziah Empson of the same place Esquire Bankers and Copartners of the fourth part Richard Bayly of Plymouth aforesaid Merchant George Herbert the younger of Plymouth aforesaid Banker and the beforenamed George Soltau (Assignees duly Elected and Chosen under a Commission of Bankrupt lately awarded and Issued against John Luckraft of Plymouth aforesaid Carpenter and Joiner) of the fifth part the said John Luckraft the Bankrupt of the sixth part John Webber of Plymouth Dock, in the said County Builder of the seventh part George Norrington of Plymouth aforesaid Hosier of the Eight part and Thomas Gendle of the same place Silversmith (a Trustee for the purposes hereinafter mentioned) of the ninth part It is Witnessed that in Consideration of the Sum of Eight hundred Pounds therein declared to have been lent and

advanced by the said John Harris Richard Rosdew and John Harris the Younger to the said John Luckraft on the day of the date thereof and for the better securing the repayment thereof and its Interest and for other the Considerations therein mentioned He the said John Luckraft (by the Direction and Nomination of the said John Harris Richard Rosdew and John Harris the Younger testified as therein mentioned) Did grant bargain sell assign transfer and set over unto the said Joseph Pridham All and Singular the Messuage or Dwelling House Courtlage and Premises with the Appurtenances hereinafter particularly described and hereby surrendered and released or otherwise assured or intended so to be (with other Lands thereinbefore mentioned to be demised) To hold the same unto the said Joseph Pridham his Executors Administrators and Assigns thenceforth for the Residue and Remainder of a certain Term of Ninety-nine Years originally made and granted thereof to the said John Luckraft by Thomas Bewes Esquire by Indenture of Lease bearing date on or about the Fifth day of September One thousand Eight hundred and Eight and which was then determinable on the Deaths of Elizabeth Ann Luckraft John Martin Luckraft and Joseph Luckraft the Daughter and Sons of the said John LuckraftAnd Whereas His Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain grounded upon the several Statutes made and now in Force concerning Bankrupts bearing date at Westminster the Tenth day of December last past hath been awarded and Issued against the said John Luckraft (by the Name and Description of "John Luckraft of Plymouth in the County of Devon Carpenter and Joiner") and he was thereupon duly found and declared a Bankrupt within the Meaning of the said Statutes some or one of them And the said Richard Bayly George Herbert and George Soltau were on or about the twenty fourth day of January last past duly chosen Assigns of the said Bankrupts Estate and EffectsAnd Whereas the Sum of One hundred and fifty Pounds part of the said principal Sum of Eight hundred Pounds only remains due and owing from the said John Luckraft and his Estate to the said John Harris Richard RosdewAnd Whereas the Sum of Six hundred and fifty three Pounds only remains due and owing from the said John Luckraft and his Estate to the said William Hale SimonsAnd Whereas at an Auction held at the Commercial Inn in Plymouth aforesaid on the first day of March last past (under the Direction of the said Assignees and with the Express Knowledge Approbation and Consent of the said Joseph Pridham John Harris Richard Rosdew and John Harris the Younger Henry Woolcombe William Hale Simons George Soltau and Amaziah Empson) For selling the Fee Simple of (among other Lands) the said Messuage or Dwelling House Courtlage and Premises the said George Norrington became and was the best or highest Bidder for the same and was thereupon declared the Purchaser thereof at or for the Price or Sum of Four hundred and Eighty Pounds being the most money that could possibly be obtained or gotten for the same of which the said John Harris Richard Rosdew and John Harris the Younger William Hale Simons George Soltau and Amaziah Empson do hereby respectively declare themselves to be well satisfied and assured and it hath been agreed by them and by all and every other the parties hereto -

..... All that Messuage or Dwelling House and Courtlage with the Appurtenances situate lying and being in Orchard place otherwise Orchard Street within the Borough of Plymouth aforesaid as the same are now in the possession of _____ as Tenant thereof Bounded on the North by the Lands late of William Clarke Esquire deceased On the East by the Lands now or late of the said Thomas Bewes on which Richard Cleverton lately built a Dwelling House On the South by Orchard place otherwise Orchard Street aforesaid And on the West by the Lands of the said Thomas Bewes on which James Orchard has Erected a messuage or Dwelling House Together with one half of all the Walls dividing the said Messuage or Dwelling House Courtlage and Premises hereby surrendered and released or otherwise assured or intended so to be from the Houses and Courtlages which lie on the East and West sides thereof

.....

[Signed]

Joseph Pridham, John Harris, Rich. Rosdew, John Harris Junr Hen. Woolcombe, W H Simons, George Soltau, A Empson, Robert Bayly, Geo Herbert Junr., G S., John Luckraft, John Webber, G Norrington, Thomas Gendle

The other documents are all relating to this same piece of land and are the agreements with the various parties to the mortgage. The houses were built in Orchard Place, on land being partly the "Garden on which Orchard Place hath lately been constructed." On the south the land was bounded by "a Road now forming part of a Street intended to be called Park Street", and also a plot, formerly part of the said garden was land "situate in Old Town Street."

I hope to be able to include a copy of a map of 1855 for Plymouth which shows Old Town Street just east of Plymouth Market.

Joseph Lucraft in Nebraska

More news of this elusive man. I've reported before on his movements from Devon, through Sussex as a shoemaker, and marriage to a young woman from Hooe, Sussex, to America where he served in the Union Army during the Civil War and was then a farmer in Nebraska.

A Nebraska website has now listed the cemetery where he is buried, with, I think, a possible wife and son. The record shows Joseph was born 18 January 1847, and died 14 Nov 1930, which I hoped would give me a birth certificate from the UK records; unfortunately I cannot yet find him in my indexes. Another check will be necessary....oh dear....! The cemetery records show that the grave also holds Anna Crocket Lucraft, born 30 Oct 1849, died 7 Jan 1931, which looks like his wife, although I thought his wife was called Sarah. (Could be a sister of course.) Also there is George A Lucraft, born 1871, died 1891, whom I suspect to be their son.

How touching, if Joseph and Anne were husband and wife, that Joseph dies in November 1930, aged about 83, and Anna dies just seven weeks later in Jan 1931, aged about 82.

Editorial

Greetings for the new millennium, for all you date purists. I wish you all a happy new year, and hope your families are all thriving. It is a year since I sent out the last newsletter. Life is more than work, and after the community and church work which Gwen and I share in, there hasn't been much time for anything else. I had been waiting also for the DNA results, but these have still not come through.

I'm glad that the system we use is not a subscription service, so I don't feel under pressure to meet deadlines. On the other hand I am immensely grateful for all the donations which arrived after the last newsletter. People were generous enough to mean that all the expense of the newsletter was covered. If you have given last time, please don't feel obliged to do so every time.

There haven't been any major break-throughs in the family history work this year, but numerous interesting items have arrived to add to the overall picture. I hope you'll get some flavour of that in the "Snippets" section. In particular, and from a variety of sources, I have received material relating to the Preston families, and so this edition has several connected items. It is especially fitting after the work that June Harwood did, connecting the Richard who arrived in Preston back through Edmund, into Devon.

Thank you to everyone who sends material in. I've been especially pleased to receive some copies of old certificates and old photographs. Some of the old photos appear in the issue. If you could contribute copies from your family albums too, that would be wonderful. Photocopies will do nicely!

DNA Update

Those of you who took part in the DNA trial are I know keen to hear of any results. So am I. I have tried chasing things, and had a phone call a while ago from Matt Sears whom we met at the weekend at Exeter.

He reports that the main body of their work is now reaching a conclusion; it is much larger than just our small set of samples from our family. He hopes to be able to send me the details soon.

He did say on the phone that not all the swabs had produced testable samples, so that means not everyone will get their own results back. On the other hand he did say that some things will be confirmed. One is that the Broadclyst/London Lucrafts share DNA with the South Hams based Luckrafts. This confirms what I had always suspected, that one of the South Hams members moved to Exeter area to found the Broadclyst families.

He was also able to confirm that the Preston families were linked to the Devon families genetically. Though we had always believed this to be the case, and though June Harwood's research has confirmed this (see Newsletter 5), it will be good to have the genetic results as well.

Eye Condition

Juliet Garner, (nee Lucraft) wrote asking if I would include an item about Macular Degeneration in the newsletter. Juliet has had the condition Bullseye Macular Dystrophy for about 16 years, and the specialists have discussed with her the genetic possibilities of its origin. Juliet is part of a study about the genetic origin of the disease, and wonders if there is anyone else out there in the extended kindred who suffers from this disease. Apparently all the researchers do is take a little blood, and experiment with it to isolate the faulty gene, and they have asked if there is anyone else in the family with the condition.

Juliet writes: "If there is, I would be glad to write to them, and ask them some questions. If they do not want to be contacted I will respect their privacy, but would still be interested in how they are related to me."

I'll pass any referrals on to Juliet, if you care to make contact with me. Thank you, Ian.

Totnes

Martin Owen has sent me some papers for his family, and a certificate for the marriage of Elizabeth Luckraft, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Newton Abbot in 1851, to George Parnell, a mason. Elizabeth's father was Robert Luckraft, and though we haven't yet tied down who he was, there's a strong possibility he may be member of the Dean Prior families. It looks as if he was living in Half Moon Place, Totnes, at the 1851 census, though that is not confirmed. There is quite a bit of work to do on the various Totnes references across the family records, before we can show the connections.

The London Art of Cookery.

(London 1807)

A reprint of this book has been researched by Fiona Lucraft for the culinary journal *Petits Propos Culinaires*. The book was originally written by Richard Johnson, on behalf of the London Tavern's principal cook. The London Tavern was known in the early 19th century for some of the best food and drink in the City of London. Obviously a busy man, Farley secretly hired Johnson to compile this cookbook, which contains a broad range of recipes representative of English cookery at the end of the 18th century, including preserving, confectionery, malt beer, many wines and food at sea. It is a brilliantly disturbing example of 18th century plagiarism with all but one of the recipes having been lifted from earlier cookbooks, notably Mrs Raffald's.

The book costs \$26.00, and normally ships within a couple of days.

www.acanthus-books.com

Ellen Luckraft and her daughter?

Barry Frankland, a member of the Preston family group of Luckrafts, has sent me copies of these wonderful old photographs. Barry is a great-great-grandson of the Richard Luckraft and Ellen Hoskisson of Preston, mentioned on the front page, as the parents of William Luckraft, pictured there with his family. Barry writes that he has obtained from Gertrude Bradley, a great-grand-daughter of Richard and Ellen, a photograph album which was a 21st birthday present in 1903, to Agnes Hobin. Agnes was a grand-daughter of Richard and Ellen, being the child of their daughter of Ellen Luckraft and her husband John Hobin.

The belief in the family, but this is not certain, I understand, is that the picture of the two women shows Agnes Hobin, with her mother Ellen (nee Luckraft). As we know the album was a 21st present in 1903 to Agnes Hobin, if the child is Agnes, and if we assume that she is about 12 in the picture, then it was taken in about 1894. We know Ellen Hobin, (nee Luckraft) was born in 1850, which would put her at about 44 in this picture. Putting to one side the dress, her face shows about that age, perhaps.

What I think is clear is that if we presume that the girl is Agnes in the picture with the older women, the photo is unlikely to be a picture of Agnes with her grandmother, Ellen Luckraft (nee Hoskisson), who by 1894 would have been 86, having been born in 1808 in Longridge, Lancashire. It is possible that the two single photos show John Hobin, and Ellen Luckraft his wife. If so the photos are taken some time later than the mother and child photo.

Does anyone out there know anything? If you have old photos like these in your family albums, would you be prepared to get them copied and send me the copies? Nowadays a good photocopier will do the job perfectly well enough, and should only cost 10p per copy. If you go to a copy-shop, such as Pronto-Print, they have good copiers, and you don't need to let the photos out of your sight! It would make such a contribution to the overall family history archives, please?



Top: Possibly Ellen Hobin (nee Luckraft) with her daughter Agnes Hobin.

Bottom Left: Could this also be Ellen Hobin?

Bottom Right: Could this be Ellen's husband John Hobin?

Family Reunion

Two letters arrived from different parts of the same family about a series of happy re-unions. Michael Lucraft and Anthony Richard are both descendants of the Preston families. Anthony had not been able to be at the Exeter gathering, but his son Michael, and grand-daughter Stephanie were, and they told Anthony all about it.



Anthony sends the photo above, taken in July 1951, showing, l to r, Anthony's father, Richard Lucraft, born 1894 Preston, a butcher in Greenford Essex, his grandfather, Thomas Lucraft, born 1867 Preston, Anthony himself, born 1926 Croyden, and Anthony's son Michael, born 1950 Perivale.

This Thomas, born 1867, is the elder brother of William, born 1869, on the front page of this newsletter. In Newsletter 2 I remarked how the name had changed in this family. It is claimed that Thomas here, being disgusted with business debtors in his family in Preston, had a row with them, dropped the "k" and had nothing more to do with them!

Anthony writes; "As a result of the Lucraft day, I subsequently met my cousin Frank, whom I had not seen since I was on leave from the Navy during World War II. He came to our Golden Wedding party and we visited him at his home in France. His daughter Clare and my grandson have become good friends; they both live and work in London and dine regularly together."

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The CWG maintains a wonderful web-site, where you can search on any name for a deceased person. It includes both military and civilian deaths. The Web-site is at : <http://vard.ccta.gov.uk/cwgc/register.htm>.

Snippets

I'm always grateful for the many snippets of information, as well as the major contributions from people doing their own searching. One of the pleasures in doing the long-term family tree work is getting an unexpected letter or e-mail, either from a known contact, or from an unknown contact. Sometimes the sadness is of hearing news of illness or death in the extended kindred. I couldn't put into this newsletter all the letters and their contents that I get, but I'm trying out here a "Snippets" section, where you get a flavour of some of the many contributions to the overall research.

I'm also a regular searcher of the internet, and you'd be surprised what you can find. Included here are references to people I've found on the internet, and a comment about their activities. I have taken the view that if it is already on the internet, then the people concerned will not mind their inclusion here. Where there may be matters of a sensitive nature, I will exercise my discretion not to include them.

In most cases I know which family these entries refer to, but I have not included these details here.

- It was with sorrow that I heard of the news of the death of Norman Luckraft, in Rochdale, from Ethel, his wife. Norman was 87 years of age, and had passed me material over many years, for which I was grateful.
- Art and Louise Luckraft from New Bedford sent me their annual family update, for which I am always grateful. Louise had heart surgery last year, and we are glad to hear that it all went well.
- Katherine Lucraft e-mailed me out of the blue and asked for details of the way her family linked into the other branches of the family, which I was happy to be able to provide. She updated me on some new details of her family which I did not know.
- John Baker of Southampton e-mailed with the sad news of the death of his brother Alan Baker, and asked to be put on the mailing list himself, being descended from the Broadclyst families.
- An e-mail from Daniel Grendon in Canada sought information about Joseph Lucraft who died in New York in 1893. I've not been able to help him much yet, but hope to be able to do so later.
- Frances and Gordon Bromfield e-mailed me with details of the births of their daughter, Kathryn, and son Richard. Frances is the daughter of George and Hilda Luckraft of Ivybridge.
- John Decker, e-mailed from America. His mother was Lois Leecraft, daughter of the Benjamin Leecraft who moved from N. Carolina to Texas after the Civil War. He wanted to know if I had any information about their believed descent from William the Conqueror. I regret that I don't.
- Juliet Garner (nee Lucraft) e-mailed with news of the family.
- There is always a lot of interest in a Victorian mystery story called "The Case of Mr Lucraft and Other Tales." It was written in 1876 by Walter Besant. Though the Besant family published Benjamin Lucraft's election address, the sites generally say that Besant just chose a

- name at random. No reference is made to Benjamin. Perhaps the researchers aren't aware of the political side of the Besant family work.
- Jim Lucraft, who is an engineer in a family data-cabling business has been working for UUNET UK, which handles major internet and data connections during his degree course, e-mailed me.
- Stephanie Lucraft, who was studying at Herts Uni, lists her ice-skating and Gilles Villeneuve interests.
- Peter Lucraft has an e-mail address in Japan, where he was working.
- Linda Luckraft has been studying at Hull Uni.
- Ronette Lucraft has working for BT as a Business Development Manager
- John Lucraft is a travel writer in Australia.
- There are two roads named Lucraft, that I have come across. One is Lucraft Gardens in Perth, Australia, named after the surgeon in one of the Australian Lucraft families. The other, Lucraft Road, Brighton is named after a Lucraft who was once mayor of Brighton.
- Andrew Luckraft worked (1998) for a Computer Services Bureau in Oxford.
- Marilyn Luckraft is the director of the Child Development and Learning Centre at Prince of Peace Lutheran church in Bunesville Minnesota. CDLC is a nationally accredited half-day pre-school serving 350 children aged 3-5.
- Mike Luckraft is at Bunsville High School in Minnesota.
- All Luckraft is a keen golfer in Minnesota.
- Jennifer Luckraft works for the St Paul Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, USA.
- Michael Luckraft is a real estate agent in Falmouth, Cape Cod, USA.
- Kate Lucraft is a student of landscape architecture in Australia.
- Dorothy Luckraft is the editor of "Black awareness: Implications for Black Patient Care" published in New York in the American Journal of Nursing.
- Rebecca Luckraft is busy writing web-sites for bands and music groups.
- Ian C Luckraft writes on image processing at Cranfield University.
- Doug Luckraft is an International Bowls umpire in Australia.
- James Luckraft was a supervisor at Ocean Spray Cranberries in Massachusetts; where we get our sauce from.
- Bob Luckraft has a photo on the web of himself sailing his 24 ft sailing boat in America.
- There are several sites mentioning a class of sailing boat called "Lucraft" One reference is to a 17ft V hull Lucraft.
- There are lots of sites with a mention of Howard Lucraft, the band leader and music critic, living in the US for decades. Some sites refer to "Lucraft Decca Guitarist," which relate to his work as a jazz guitarist.
- Nigel Lucraft's wooden organisers and address books, made by him at his company in the South West, are advertised on the website of "Burford Woodcraft" in Burford, Oxfordshire.
- Christine Lucraft has an e-mail address at the University of Massachusetts.
- Anne-Marie Lucraft stood as a Liberal Democrat candidate in 1997 in the Lindfield constituency in Sussex for the West Sussex County Council. She put up a very good showing against the Conservative winner.
- Louise Luckraft in the UK plays in the Lipson Ladies Volleyball Team.
- Jennifer Luckraft appears in many listings as an actress, with credits for her work, including appearances in Drop the Dead Donkey, City Central etc..
- Jamie Lucraft appears in many listings as an actor, mainly because of his role in the Vicar of Dibley.
- Paul Luckraft is listed as a contributor to "Prophecy Today" in the UK.
- Joan Luckraft is an Asthma Educator at the Jamestown Medical Centre in Australia.
- Frances Phillips from Cornwall answered my request for more information about her Grandma Jeanett Lucraft's origins. We've not been successful yet in tying things together. Jeanett is believed to have been a granddaughter of Benjamin Lucraft.
- I tried to follow up, without success, a reference on an Australian website about the early Anarchist Movement in Australia to a Miss Lucraft, said to be a relative of a member of the First International. The site outlined the radical politics of the 1880's in respect of sex, marriage and women's roles. The relative was clearly Benjamin, but who is the Miss Lucraft in Australia? Any ideas would be welcome.
- Hebe Lucraft, in the UK I think, has been sharing in writing and researching on violence to women.
- Martin Owen of Surrey, UK, saw the web-site and wrote with details of his ancestor Elizabeth Luckraft, who married George Parnell in Newton Abbott in 1851. Elizabeth's father was Robert Luckraft. Copy of certificate and copy of his trees made a welcome bundle!
- Robin Holmes, with whom I first corresponded in the early 1980's wrote with a full listing of his Luckraft events. He was seeking information about another Robert Luckraft.
- Mary South wrote with details of her research work in Reading Univ. about 18th century medics; there were two references to Richard Luccraft; one of 1735 and one of 1783. (Same person or not?) No further details yet.
- Paul Mansfield provided details about Lieutenant Luckraft's marriage to Miss Staple in Plymouth in 1812.
- Greeting e-mail from Hollie Lucraft, on Vivian Lucraft's e-mail.
- Mark Lucraft, a barrister in the UK, writes on Road Traffic Law and Practice.
- Brian Luckraft in South Africa e-mailed with news, and told me that he had discovered that a long-time acquaintance of his, Bill Young, was married to a woman with a maiden name of Luckraft. Mrs Young's roots are in Bigbury-on-sea.
- Linda Luckraft, married into the Aveton Gifford branch, writes that some years ago a five year old asked "Can I go to the toilet, please Mrs Hovercraft?"
- An invitation to visit Wendy Luckarift and her family in Barnsley; another pleasure delayed for want of time. Sorry Wendy.

What an amazing miscellany of activity and news from family members and from the abstruse corners of the internet. Thanks to everyone.

Blacksmith's Bill 1841-42

Andrew Hingstone, has come across this bill from John Luckraft, the blacksmith in Aveton Gifford, to the Hingstone family for ironmongery and services for their farms. He has also researched the definitions below. I am grateful for its use which is published in the Hingstone archives on the web at www.amhinja.demon.co.uk/archive/index.htm. Obviously credit was for more than 30 days. Who'd be a small business-man?

Mr Hingstone Dr to J Luckraft

		s	d	
1841				
July 17	2 pins & chains	0	- 7	barker - 'one who strips bark' [OED] hence possibly a tool for stripping bark from cut timber and poles
26	made rods for a bed 2 stapels & a hasp	0	- 8	bidax(e) - West country dialect variant of beat-axe. 'Where a man of York or Kent would employ a shovel or a spade, a Cornishman uses a bidaxe' (1806 R Polwele - History of Cornwall). From <i>to beat</i> , 'to slice off the rough sod from uncultivated or fallow ground in order to burn it'. [OED]
31	½ L of nails & 2 stapels	0	- 7	bolt - probably a fastening, but has an additional meaning of a flour-sieve [OED]
August 10	a hook 2 eyes qr L of nails	1	- 1½	cog - a word with a multiplicity of meanings but including 'one of the short handles of the pole of a scythe' (dialect) [OED]
13	a haps 2 stapels ½ L of nails	0	- 9	hame - 'each of two curved pieces of wood or metal placed over, fastened to, or forming, the collar of a draught horse' [OED]
16	2 brace eyes ½ L of nails ironwork for a snead	2	- 5	haps - 'obsolete form of hasp' [OED] Probably in the primary meaning of a metal clasp.
17	2 eyes a stapel ½ L of nails	1	- 4	hasp - also 'an instrument for cutting the surface of grass-land, a scarifier' [OED, from Webster]
18	a haps 3 stapels ½ L of nails	0	- 9	horse-comb - 'an instrument for combing the hair of horses' [OED]
20	repair 2 chains	0	- 7	L - abbreviation for a pound avoirdupois
23	mend a tea kittel fountin & ladel ironwork for a snead	1	- 7	linch - 'a linch-pin' (obsolete) [OED]
29	steel a bidex 2 neraways	1	- 2	pound - an enclosure for animals or for fish [OED]
30	mend a pan qr of nails	0	- 7	scutch - 'one of the pieces of wood which in a thrashing mill beats out the grain' [OED]
31	6 spicks ½ L of nails & a barker	1	- 1	scute - 'a metal heel or toe-plate' [OED]
September 3	a haps & 2 stapels	0	- 4	snead - 'the shaft or pole of a scythe' [OED]
6	4 pigsprings Sharpe 3 wages mend a hams	1	- 0	spick - 'a spike-nail' [OED]
13	½ L of nails	0	- 5	staple - a fastening; but also a snout-ring (for pigs) [OED]
22	a bolt & lince haps 2 stapels qr L of nails	0	- 10½	steel - to overlay, point or edge with steel; to sharpen (a knife) with the steel [OED]
24	repair a pair hamses a haps 2 stapels ½ L of nails	1	- 4	wage - 'obsolete form of wedge' [OED]
25	cogs & linces for a pound	0	- 6	whip - 'to bind about' [OED]. The OED does not have cornwipper, but it is presumably a corn-binder. US readers should note that corn in England was usually wheat (or oats, barley, rye, etc) never maize ('Indian corn')!
28	½ L of nails 6 rivets	0	- 6	
October 5	repair a net of a pound	1	- 4	
6	3 bars for a cornwipper	3	- 8	
7	½ L of nails	0	- 4	
8	a pair scuts [] of holy	0	- 6	
11	mend a bolt & crook & 16 spicks	1	- 0	
15	a new bidex & Steel a bidex	2	- 4	
18	¾ L of nails & whoop a gag	1	- 0	
21	100 of nails & 20 Spicks	1	- 4	
22	300 ½ of nails & a Stapel	2	- 8	
23	qr L of nails scute & nail a pair of Shoes	0	- 6	
30	4 pigsprings qr L of nails	0	- 6	
November 3	4 crimps a Stapel ½ L of nails	1	- 6	
6	2 Stapels qr of nails	0	- 4	
9	a horscome 3 wipper Stapels ½ L of nails	1	- 6	
15	Sharp a bidex & 2 Stapels	0	- 4	
18	2 gates eyes 2 Stapels	1	- 0	
20	a paddel shovel ½ L of nails	0	- 10	
23	a pigspring 2 stapels foot to divit	0	- 9	
December 1	½ L of nails	0	- 5	
8	mend a chain qr L of nails mend a hams	1	- 0	
13	a new grate shovel	3	- 0	
15	2 hooks	0	- 4	
22	mend a bittel ring sharp 4 wages mend a cover	0	- 8	
1842				
January 3	point wing to shear sharp a cutter qr L of nails	2	- 9	
	Half year shoeing 6 horses	£1-	4 - 0	
		3-	11 9	
		-	-	
	a new turnip knife	1	- 8	
	settled John Luckraft	3-	13 5	