

The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

Volume 13

October 2008

The Hoop and Grapes

We have known for a long time that a Nicholas Lucraft was a wine merchant at some time in London, even on one record calling himself a “gent”. And we managed to track his descendants down to a family where the oldest members now live near Bournemouth.

But recent research has thrown up a wonderful court case in 1832 which has shed a lot of light on the man and his family connections. In particular it has identified where the wine merchant premises were; at 47 Aldgate High Street, and here is a picture and some of the history of the building from a pubs website. For some time it was also called the Mush Tun, which might suggest that it also brewed beer on the premises in the past.



“In 1666 the Great Fire of London swept through the City, destroying almost every building in its path. The fire blazed with such ferocity because the medieval and Tudor buildings were made of wood and tinder-dry; and so was the Hoop & Grapes, but miraculously the fire stopped just yards away. After the fire wooden buildings were forbidden in the City.

This pub is now the only surviving 17th-century timber-framed building in the City of London. At the time of the fire it was a private house and later became a wine shop. It was converted into a pub about 150 years ago. The front leans at a jaunty angle and would have fallen over had it not had extensive structural support carried out in the 1980's.

the Tower, probably more a tall story than a long one. The rear has been opened out into a large bar and dining area. There is a good selection of real ales and the food is reasonably priced”.

Doe, *dem.* Rew and Others v. Lucraft.

The story is a typical old legal wrangle about who has a right to property when a relative dies. The wills have already been proved, but Nicholas Lucraft feels that the outcome of the various inter-connected wills has not resulted in the bequest to him that he expected. He has challenged the result of the wills and the case is about who inherits if “the issue” of a person do not live until 21.

The story starts in Broadclyst where the Newton family and the Lucraft family have married each other over two generations that we know about. William Lucraft, born 1756 in Broadclyst was married in 1781 to Esther Newton. It is Esther’s gravestone that still stands in the churchyard there. Nearly all the known London Lucrafts were descended from this couple, who are my direct ancestors.

William and Esther had many children and you can see them all on the “Nicholas” tree on the website. One of them, Jane Lucraft, married a John Newton in 1822 at St Bride’s in Fleet Street. We hadn’t known that she had moved to London until we found this court record. It’s not yet clear how her husband was related to her mother, but it’s fairly sure that they were. The court proceedings are about John Newton’s will, and the wills of his brothers, Henry Newton and James Newton.

There are pages of argument, but the gist of it is as follows. Henry Newton was a wine merchant at 47 Aldgate High Street. The first London record we have of him is in Kent’s directory of London and Westminster for 1794, when Henry Newton is listed as a wine merchant at 47 Aldgate High Street. When Henry died in 1819, he left his property to his brother James Newton “for life”, and on James’ death the property was to pass to Henry’s nephew, Henry Newton, son of Henry’s older brother, John Newton. (continued overleaf.)

The Luc(k)raft Newsletter is the occasional publication of the Luc(k)raft One Name Study, © Ian Lucraft.

The One Name Website is at www.lucraft.org. If you have information to contribute, or questions to ask the study, please contact Ian Lucraft on ianlucraft@btinternet.com, or 00 44 114 234 7153, or at 136 Wadsley Lane, Sheffield S6 4EE, UK.

Henry died in 1819 without issue and left two brothers, James, old and also without issue, and John, whose son Henry was Henry's nephew. When John died, his will left the property now in the occupation of his brother James Newton to Arthur Clarke and Mark Ashford who were leasing the premises at the time. (I haven't yet found out who they were.) I think it was given in trust to them and then half was to go to Nicholas Lucraft and the other half to John's daughter Jane.

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CASES IN EASTER TERM

1832.
DOE dem.
REW
vs.
LUCRAFT.

The said *Nicholas Lucraft* was *John Newton's* wife's brother; and at the time of the making the will of *John Newton*, *James Newton* was not nor had ever been married, and was of the age of sixty-five years and upwards.

John Newton died in or about the month of *March 1824*, in the lifetime of *James Newton*, leaving *Jane Newton*, his only child, and without having revoked or altered his will; and the same afterwards was duly proved.

The said *Jane Newton* died in *October 1826*, an infant, at the age of four years or thereabout, leaving *James Newton*, her uncle, her heir at law, her surviving.

James Newton, by his will dated *22d of April 1823*, duly executed and attested to pass freehold estates, after bequeathing certain pecuniary legacies, as to all the rest, residue, and remainder of his estate and effects, of what nature or kind soever and wheresoever, that he should be possessed of, interested in, or entitled to at the time of his decease, and not thereinbefore disposed of, gave, devised and bequeathed the same and every part thereof to his trustees and executors, the lessors of the Plaintiff, to hold to them, their heirs, executors, and administrators, upon the trusts therein mentioned, and appointed them executors of his said will. The testator republished his will on the *21st of July 1827*; died in *October 1830*; and the lessors of the Plaintiff proved the will.

It was agreed that either party should be at liberty, upon the argument of the case, to refer to any part of the said will of *John Newton*.

The question for the opinion of the Court was, whether the Defendant *Nicholas Lucraft* took any and what

We know that Nicholas Lucraft was working as a wine warehouseman around this time, and it is possible that he was working in the Aldgate warehouse.

However, all the legal argument arose because the owners of the lease that Arthur Clarke and Mark Ashford had, thought that they should have the property, because John had had issue, his daughter Jane, and because he had issue, and she had died aged four, the property came to them.

John, in his will had been very explicit about some of the conditions about descendants "attaining 21", but not in the case of his own daughter, and because she had existed, the case for the property going to Nicholas failed.

Nicholas felt that because she had not attained 21 before she died, the will should be read as meaning "issue that survived to 21", and therefore there was no issue to whom the property could go. Because there had been issue, the judges decided that the property could not go to Nicholas, and should go to the owners of the lease that Arthur and Mark had.

There was a lot of legal argument, and you can read it all on Google if you search for the three terms "Lucraft" and "Newton" and "Court of Common Pleas" together. The case itself was also used some years later to explain the precedents for handling the matter of issue who died before the age of 21. The papers do not say how William Pell Rew and Richard Baggullay came to be the owners of the lease, but given that there had been issue of John Newton, Nicholas didn't get the property.

In 1824 Nicholas is described in his daughter's baptism record at Shoreditch St Leonard's as being a "gentleman of Haberdashers Street." Nicholas had a son, William Lucraft, who was a wine cooper in 1850, and son William also had a son William in 1852, who was a wine cooper himself when he married in 1875.

Trial of Richard Nicholson

A connected finding is this Old Bailey court record on 29 May 1828, about a lad who stole some property from James Newton.

RICHARD NICHOLSON was indicted for breaking and entering the warehouse of James Newton, on the 23d of May, and stealing 4 stone bottles, value 6s. and 2 wooden bound casks, value 2s., his property .

GEORGE STAKER. I am in the employ of James Newton, a wine and brandy merchant - his warehouse has no communication with the house, and does not join it - it is not a warehouse, but vaults; they are in Aldgate High-street. On the 23d of May, about half-past eight or nine o'clock in the morning, I went to the vaults, and was informed a lad had been taken with some bottles; I found the prisoner in custody with four stone bottles, with master's name on them - there was a space in the vault where four had been taken from - I had not noticed the vacancy the day before.

PATRICK GARVAY. I am a patrol. On the 23d of May, about half-past five o'clock in the morning, I saw the prisoner on Tower-hill, with four stone bottles; I asked if they were for sale - he said they were, and that he had got them from John Williams, of No. 17, Somerset-street; I took him to the watch-house, and went to Somerset-street; no such person lived there; seeing Mr. Newton's name on the bottles, I went there - his cellar is in the City. I know nothing about any casks.

THOMAS OBORNE. I asked the prisoner how he came by the bottles; he said a lad left them with him while he went to look for a shop to sell them, and he lived at No. 17, Somerset-street.

Prisoner's Defence. A lad asked me to mind them while he went down Rosemary-lane.

GUILTY . Aged 17. Whipped and Discharged .

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey Ref: t18280529-42

Rose Lucraft

My father remembers his mother talking about an aunt Rose Lucraft in the 1920's, when he was a small boy, but he never met her, and didn't know who she was.

As we've done the study we found his father had an older sister, Rose, and now Rose's descendants have found the Lucraft Family study and have helpfully shared some of their memories and photos to make this article possible. It's not a full story of this part of the family, but it adds more links and fills out another section of the tree.

To see how it all fits into the main family, look at Tree A2 on the website. Benjamin Lucraft, born 1809, the radical leader, had a son, James Pearce Lucraft, who married Eliza Sophia Barrett. James was a cabinet maker, and he and his family lived in and around Shoreditch and City Road, where his business was. Rose Lucraft, their fourth known child, was born in 1872.



This is the best photo we have of Rose, on the left, with her daughter-in-law, and two of her grandchildren.

Rose's great grand-daughter Nichola Downes saw the website and got in touch. Nichola's mother-in-law, Lilian Buse, married name Downes, is still alive, has a few memories of Rose, who was her grandmother. She remembers her as an older woman, quite a stern woman, with red hair, and quite religious.

Lilian recalls the family story that when Rose was newly married, she was estranged from her Lucraft family, because, as the family thought, Rose had married below her station. Rose had married William Henry Manning, a printer in October 1891 at St Saviour's Hoxton. William and Rose both lived in Gopsall Road; Rose with her parents and William with his, I believe. William's father, also William Henry Manning, was a blacksmith.

William Henry Manning senior had been born about 1838 in Liquorpond Street, Clerkenwell. He married Ann Seymour Hubbard in 1862 in Shoreditch, and they had seven children that we know about: Ann F, Flora, Mary, William Henry, Sarah C, Frank and Archibald.

Their son Frank, younger brother of William, who married Rose, himself married Rose's youngest sister Ruth Madaline Lucraft in 1906. Two brothers marrying two sisters about 15 years apart. When Frank and Ruth married in Hackney Parish Church they were both living at 10 Kenmure Road in Hackney. Frank and Ruth had two children, Cecil and Howard; Howard worked for many years at Hackney Hospital.

Coming back to Rose, we know that although she was cut off from the family after her marriage to William Manning, the family story is that her father, James Pearce Lucraft, came across her one day washing doorsteps for other people as a means of making a few pennies. He was so distressed that he arranged a small allowance for her, to avoid her having to do that. So perhaps, think the family, it was her mother that had taken the hard line with Rose. Certainly her father James was at the wedding and was one of the witnesses who signed the book, so he was there for her on the day.

Rose and William had seven children of their own: William, born 1893; Edith born 1899; Baden born 1900; Flora Rose 1902; Maud, Frank and Ruth.



Here is a lovely photo of Rose. Not often do you find an inside photo like this of this era, showing the stuff of domestic life; though the hat and coat never come off.

Baden is an interesting name and perhaps reflects the fame of Baden-Powell, who in 1899 had successfully defended Mafeking at the famous siege. Frank reflects her sister's husband's name and Ruth her sister.

There is a family memory that Frank married a woman with whom he used to sing outside public houses to get a few pennies to go back in for another drink. My father's parents Henry James Lucraft and Mary Ann Holbrook had both been entertainers themselves, singing in the pubs and halls around Hoxton in the first decades of the 20th century. Here similar activity is going on in his sisters' families.

Nichola Downes is married to a descendant of Flora Rose Manning, who had six daughters, three of whom live today in Cyprus.

William Manning died about 1926, and at some point Rose married again to a man called Mr Ellis.

Rose Lucraft lived to the ripe old age of 91. She went to live with her daughter Maud, and died in 1961 in Dagenham.. She was buried in Manor Park Cemetery.

The long wedding picture shows the marriage of Shirley Buse, one of Rose's great grandchildren, in September 1961. Rose is at the right of the picture and just a month later she will be dead. But here at her great granddaughter's wedding, she is surrounded by her family, including three of her children, Flora, Frank and Maud.

Her eldest son, William, had gone to live in America later in life, to be with his daughter who had moved there.

Also in the photo are Rose's daughter Florence Rose, to her right in the photo, with a child in front; Lillian, immediately behind her on the right with a white hat. Catherine Buse is the bridesmaid on the left in the picture.



In the close-up of the wedding photo you can see Rose, with her son Frank on the left of her, and her daughter Maud on the left behind him. Anne Buse is in the white hat to the left of Frank.

Rose, on the far left in this beach picture, is the only



person on this photo that can be identified. Hats kept on at all times!

Captain Charles Moore Luckraft RN

Gordon Wise emailed me out of the blue, having found the Luc(k)raft study on the web. His son-in-law's father has come into possession of a very large oyster shell which was apparently found on a beach on the Scilly Islands. The man had actually received the shell in a swap for some comics, and unfortunately he is quite attached to it and doesn't want to sell it to me! On the shell is a very careful carving of a funeral procession which shows sailors and marines in dress that indicates the late 1800's. The ornate hearse portrays a very elaborate funeral. Around the bottom of the shell is this inscription:

*In memory of C M Luckraft Lieutenant HMRNS
CORMORANT
age 32 Spirito Santa Island 16 Mar 1882*

Charles Moore Luckraft has featured before, and if I get a photo of the shell I will insert it into the newsletter. I knew about his death from this report of Charles Moore's Luckraft's death on Santa Spirito Island. It is an article from the Wanganui Herald of 1882. He had been born in 1850, and his father, Commander Charles Maxwell Luckraft, had probably named the young Charles after Captain Moore, who had been Charles Maxwell's captain in 1845. Charles Moore Luckraft married in 1881 in Greenwich, shortly before he was killed.

THE MURDER OF LIEUT. LUCKRAF (REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

SYDNEY, April 3.

The following further intelligence regarding the recent murder of Lieut C. M. Luckraft of H.M.S. Cormorant is to hand. At the time of the occurrence the Cormorant was visiting Espiritu Santo Island, one of the New Hebrides, for the purpose of punishing the natives concerned in the massacre of a boat's crew of the labour schooner Isabel, with whom was the late Mr L. H. Mair, Government agent, in November last. Lieut Luckraft had landed with a party of seamen, and successfully arrested one of the natives who had taken part in the outrage, but, while he was being taken under guard to the boat, a native struck one of the seamen, who retaliated and killed him. A fight ensued with the islanders, in which Lieut Luckraft lost his life. The Sydney Evening News, in to-day's issue, states that nine of the seamen who were with Lieut Luckraft at the time of his death have been placed under arrest.

April 4.

The statement of the Sydney Evening News regarding the arrest of nine sailors of H.M.S. Comorant, in connection with the death of Lieut Luckraft, at Santo Island, is now declared to be without foundation, beyond the fact that a strict investigation has been ordered. Nothing further has transpired. The reticence of the officers is being severely criticised by the press of this city.

The most complete record that we have easily available of these events is in John Bach's famous book about the Royal Navy in the South West Pacific, from 1821 to 1913. The book is called "The Australia Station" which was the name the Admiralty in London gave to this part of its area of activities. I was able to get a second hand copy from a bookseller in Australia, and below is the extract from the book after a bit of context.

During the 1870s the Navy have been arguing about the powers to punish sailors, citizens and "natives" in the colonial areas where the Navy often had to act on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner who could be hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away.

"This dilemma was highlighted in 1882 when a native held guilty of the murder of a European was brought to Fiji by [HMS] *Cormorant*. It was immediately evident that no-one knew what to do with him, it being suggested that a special ordinance was needed to allow him to be detained as a prisoner of war instead of being freed as had been his predecessor in 1880. [This was after a punitive action against natives by Captain Maxwell responding to events when six sailors had been massacred, that had caused a great deal of controversy.] On this occasion the idea of an ordinance was rejected on the grounds that it would both exalt the status of the prisoner and detract from his being recognised as a common murderer. It was nevertheless equally inexpedient to release him without any punishment.

"In the event the prisoner, 'in a state of fear and apprehension' died in Fiji, just at a time when another captain was producing evidence that would have exonerated him, as well as his original fellow prisoner who had been killed in a fight on the deck of *Cormorant* soon after his capture. Although Erskine [Commodore] disagreed with the claim that the Fijian was innocent, he nevertheless wrote to Gordon [Sir Arthur, Governor of Fiji] that the 'unfortunate and lamentable occurrence' emphasised the possibility of innocent individuals being wrongly punished, a fact which if true would only encourage the natives 'to take vengeance on the first white man available'.

"This entire affair of the *Isabella* Massacre at Santo in the New Hebrides in November 1881 became a matter of great importance to the Navy since it revealed clearly the problems it was facing. After hearing of the murder Erskine had ordered Commander Maxwell in *Cormorant* to proceed against the natives, once identified, by an 'act of war', although there was to be no indiscriminate slaughter nor wanton destruction of fruit trees. During the subsequent landing Lieutenant Luckraft was killed by a native shot.

"Maxwell originally took on board two prisoners, but one was killed during a night-time scuffle on deck, the exact details of which never emerged, despite an enquiry. The commander decided to bring the survivor to Sydney against his orders, because he thought any punishment inflicted by him on the spot might appear to the natives to be no more than revenge for Luckraft's death. Furthermore, being technically a prisoner of war, no

significant punishment could have been inflicted on the culprit once in custody.

“The commodore lamented the death of his officer as:

‘.. another in the long list of those who have fallen in the performance of a duty which is constantly forced upon naval officers on this station, but which, however distasteful and hazardous, they would the more cheerfully undertake could they believe that this duty was necessary in the protection of a well regulated and important traffic, and that the sacrifice of their lives would tend in any way to improve the condition of the native races – or to help us to establish better relations between them and the white traders and others who visit their islands.’

“Cormorant’s people had already been involved in the punishment of Lieutenant Bower’s murderers at Florida Island in the Solomons, where they had executed three natives. When Luckraft was killed ashore, the officer assuming command of the party had great difficulty in restraining his men from taking vengeance on all at hand, understandable in the circumstances. The death therefore of one of the two prisoners on board Cormorant was thought perhaps to be a delayed revenge by seamen whose morale was severely damaged by experiences with natives over the past several weeks. It was doubly unfortunate that the possibility of both prisoners being innocent was discovered.

“It was partly because of the sense of guilt caused by this mistake that Erskine’s suggestion made in October 1883, that the chief who instigated the Isabella murders should be found and executed, was rejected by the First Lord who wrote privately to the commodore that given the lapse of time and the unfortunate incident on Cormorant, ‘it will hardly be wise to pursue the course you indicate’. It was a view that was not entirely shared by their lordships, one of whom argued that since the islands were lawless and their inhabitants barbarous, the normal scruples about confusing ‘justice’ with ‘might’ seemed ‘somewhat strained and misplaced’ and prevented justice from being done.”

Boer War Roll of Honour

The Devon Heritage website has this record of a soldier of the Boer War:

Private James Lucraft of the 2nd Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment. Son of William and Elizabeth Lucraft. Born in Bridgewater, Somerset in the March Quarter of 1866. Enlisted in 1886. In Ladysmith during the siege. Wrote a letter published when he was 34.

James can be seen on the Michael Lucraft tree on the website, where it records the family group memory that he died of flu in 1919.

<http://www.devonheritage.org/Nonplace/DevonReg/BoerWarRollOfHonourJtoL.htm>

William Luckraft of Preston

Every year I get a lovely friendly update from Art and Louise in Mashpee, Massachusetts, with details of all the family events in the previous year. And often the letter comes with a photo.

Here is one of the most recent, and it shows William Luckraft, born 1869 in Preston, England, who married Julia Thompson and moved to Massachusetts.

William served in Army during the Boer War, and this picture shows him with a letter in his hand and thinking of the woman superimposed on the photo. I assume she is his wife, Julia.



He is about 45 in this picture, though like people of that time he looks about 60.

It could be that the woman is his mother who died in England in 1911.

Great Western

Railway Shareholders 1835-1910

The Find My Past website now has the listings of the shareholders of the GWR. There is one name of interest to us; Zeligie Virginie Anne Luckraft is listed as a shareholder. The records show that her father, Alfred Luckraft (see Naval tree on our website) was her executor, and there was a change of ownership of the shares as a result of her death on 4 August 1871 in Southsea, Hampshire.

Peter George Sidney Lucraft

It was with sadness that we heard the news of Peter’s death in August, aged 89. You can find him on tree C: George Seeley Lucraft on our website. Our thoughts are with Ann, Pat and Debbie, his daughters. And thanks to Garland and Hilary Luckraft, who sent me the entry in the local paper about the funeral in Barnstaple.

The struggle for libraries in Islington

This is an extract from a paper about the history of Islington Public Libraries, published at the 2007 centenary.

In 1855, ratepayers of St. Mary's, Islington met at the Parochial School Room, Church Street and in a stormy session voted down a motion in support of the Public Libraries Act. In 1870, another meeting adopted the motion by 76 votes to 66, but this was below the two thirds majority needed to pass. A year later the political activist Benjamin Lucraft took a petition with 43 signatures, from St Mary's ratepayers, to the Vestry.

The petition said that free Public Libraries and Museums would help to improve people, leading to a "higher pitch of morality and industry" and "a more wholesome and pure source of recreation." Lucraft lost. In 1874, Lucraft (below,) and Professor Leoni Levi



organised a further campaign to adopt libraries. Levi published a pamphlet called "A plea for a public library at Islington" in which he argued libraries would help adults develop their knowledge. The Islington Gazette agreed, saying that libraries could help reduce popular ignorance, crime and poverty.

Over 2,000 people attended the noisy meeting at the Agricultural Hall in November of that year, but only 338 voted for the motion and 1,435 against. "Howling roughs" and the "disordered pipe-smoking clique" reportedly shouted down the supporters!

A further request in 1887 was rejected by a two to one majority. The following year, Dr Levi and Major Robert Holborn were reduced to offering money and at least £300 worth of books to try to encourage people to vote for libraries. The strategy did not work, with a massive vote against in 1891. Unlike Islington, however, Clerkenwell did adopt the Acts, so Holborn gave part of his personal library to Clerkenwell.

In 1896, Mr. John Passmore Edwards (right, in a caricature from 'Vanity Fair') offered £10,000 if the Parish adopted the Acts, with £5,000 for a Central Library and £2,500 each for two branches. However, the Islington Public Libraries Rejection Association



said that ratepayers did not want to adopt the Act, while the annual maintenance would soon outweigh Mr Passmore Edwards' "bribe", which was only to build libraries. They felt that public libraries were unlikely to succeed when evening education classes at Board Schools were poorly attended.

One ratepayer wrote:

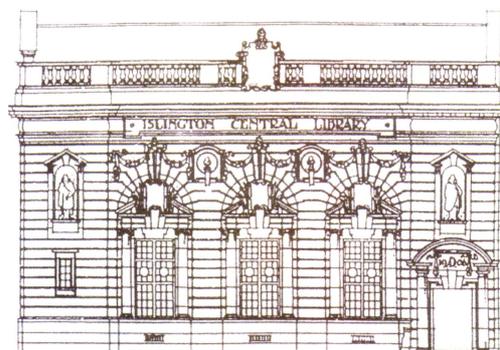
"I read that one of our 'new philanthropists' had offered to give the people of 'Merry Islington' a building for a library on condition that they maintain it as a going concern for all time... Personally I have a strong objection to have even a penny rate taken out of my pocket by force in order to provide Mary Jane with novels, or her friends with newspapers."

Another person wrote:

"It is a place where you can arrange to meet your young lady instead of waiting about in the street and catching cold... let us have literature of the best kind. In my humble opinion the reading of novels and 'bitty' papers is a delusion and a snare and they have much to answer for in the present style of living!"

Uniformed policemen delivered voting papers to ratepayers for the January 1897 poll, where 14,416 voted against adoption and 11,341 for. Local Government was reformed in 1899, with metropolitan boroughs replacing the old vestries. On July 29th 1904, Thomas Lough and the Islington Libraries Promotion Committee presented a petition that was signed by 796 ratepayers supporting the Public Libraries Act. Alderman George Elliott (who felt libraries were a "curse") said it was unconstitutional, as it was not in the Council's Election manifesto and Islington ratepayers had always rejected adoption.

Nevertheless the Mayor, Andrew Torrance, a friend of Andrew Carnegie, moved to adopt the Public Library Acts and to limit the rate charge to 2d. The vote was carried by a show of hands and, in a division, was carried 36 to 19 and Islington finally became a Public Library authority - 50 years after the original Parliamentary bill was passed!



The

full
article

can be found at :

https://www.islington.gov.uk/DownloadableDocuments/LeisureandCulture/Pdf/100_years_central_library_booklet.pdf

Okinawa 1946: Forgotten Underside of Victory

by [David Cates](#)

This is an extract from David's website. David was 19 when he was at Okinawa and when he wrote this for his website he is in his 80's.

My introduction to the Chinese underworld came when I ran out of money and had to sell ten cartons of cigarettes before I could eat, much less buy silk. This is dangerous, because you don't want to get caught.

Lucraft said he'd go with me, and we went to the city with a bag of poorly disguised cigarette cartons, which fooled no one. We were followed by a crowd of small boys and cigarette agents. We impatiently told them we were carrying toothbrushes. Finally a man sidled up and offered us \$3 a carton, the going price. By this time I'd noticed an old man with suspicious eyes, a long, thin beard and a mustache which drooped Chinese fashion. He stood quietly by, followed us everywhere, occasionally coming close to peer at the figuring we were doing. We were coming to the agent's house where behind locked doors I sold the cigarettes. There was an anxious moment when through the window I perceived the suspicious old man.

By this time we thought he might be Shanghai secret police and that we would be apprehended and taken to jail for "questioning." Lucraft went out and shooed him away. When the deal was concluded and we had climbed over little boys and old ladies with bound feet eating rice with lightning chopsticks and had entered the dark alley once more, there in the shadows stood The Evil-Eyed One. We demanded to know what he wanted. He babbled a little and seemed quite frightened. Looking stealthily from side to side, he moved closer.

Them, just as we expected a police cordon to in around us, he took a little envelope from a fold in his robe. Looking quickly around once more, he pulled from the envelope a collection of "feelthy pictures!" That was too much. We laughed all evening.

I don't know which "Lucraft" he means, I'm trying to contact him to find out, but you can read the whole memoir at <http://www.eclectica.org/v11n1/cates.html>

Eileen Lucraft 1922-2008

Many of you will remember meeting my mother at some time, mainly at the Exeter weekend, and will want to know that she died on 25 January 2008, after a long struggle with dementia and a failing body. She was wonderfully cared for her by her daughter Janet and her grand-daughter Sarah, and other members of the family. We shared an unforgettable funeral service where we remembered all her wonderful attributes and the work and contribution she had made for a better world.

Llanelli Public Library (Athenaeum) & Nevill Memorial Hall



By chance a second library article appears in this issue.

In 1850 the Public Libraries Act of Parliament was passed that allowed the people of a parish, however small to levy a rate of one penny in the pound to provide a library building. Not all local authorities took advantage of the new legislation and Llanelli was one of them. This lack of interest was probably because the new Board of Health had enough problems to cope with including, lack of proper sanitation, bad roads, inadequate markets, a poor water supply, the need to light the town, to mention just a few.

During 1854 plans were submitted for a new building to house the proposed new library and three sites were considered by the committee set up to oversee the project. A site adjoining the South Wales Pottery, on land belonging to William Chambers was one of the three sites considered by the committee and the rates were reported to be £20 per acre. The committee reported that plans and drawings had been received from the architect and there was every possibility that the matter would proceed immediately. Funds were raised by public subscription to build a literary, scientific institution, which became known as 'The Athenaeum'. The original Llanelli Athenaeum Trustees included: Richard Thomas Howell; James Buckley; John Pasley Luckraft; William Thomas and William Henry Nevill.

John Pasley Luckraft was the uncle of Charles Moore Luckraft who is honoured in the oyster shell reported in another article in this newsletter. You can see them both in the Naval Tree in the Luckraft trees on the website.

You can read the full article on the Llanelli website at : http://www.llanelli-history.i12.com/buildings_athenaeum.htm

Thank You

..... to everyone who lets me know of new bits of the family history, ancient and modern.

Lucraft and Westcott

I had an enquiry last year from Robert Gardner who is writing a book about the companies who made aircraft propellers in World War 1. He runs a company that find and sells old aircraft parts for collectors; they cost a lot, and are mainly propellers and clocks and compasses, including the old RAF station clocks.



This picture shows a Handley-Page O/400 bomber with the four-bladed propellers. The picture was provided to the edinphoto.org.uk website, by Ian Hawkins of Leicester, whose grandfather is "dead centre" in the picture, which was taken about 1918, probably at Hendon.

He had found that one of the companies listed was Lucraft and Westcott, about which we have reported before. It was the company originally founded by George Seeley Lucraft, son of Benjamin Lucraft, and in later years Westcott had become one of the directors and owners.

The company is listed in War ministry procurement records as having supplied propellers for the Handley Page O/400, one of the largest long-range bombers of the first World War. The four-bladed propellers were numbered AD 575, and were fitted to the Rolls Royce 5 and 6 engines supplied for the Handley Page.

Robert was enquiring because he had seen from the Lucraft website that Nicholas Lucraft had married Margaret Westcott in 1691, and wondered if the connection between the Lucrafts and Westcotts went back all that way. (I suspect that would have given the company the world record for two families collaborating in business!) I had to tell him that there was no evidence of anything other than a coincidence, though it is not impossible that the two families knew each other in Devon and members later knew each other in London.

The company became known as one of the leading art furnishers of the turn of the century, making furniture for the major stores and for the trade. Copies of their designs were published in the trade press and Benjamin himself was introduced to Queen Victoria with one of his chairs at the London Exhibition.

By the turn of the century the company was in the hands of George Seeley Lucraft's son, George Edmonds Lucraft who then went into business with Frederick William Westcott, who was a furniture designer like George Edmonds. In 1911 G E Lucraft and Westcott, Furniture Designers and Manufacturers who were carrying on their business at 101 Worship Street, sold their business to a new company named Lucraft and Westcott, who set up business at 17 Rushden Street, where they remained through the first World War, moving to Albert Works, Albert Road, Wood Green, between 1917

June 1st, 1882.] THE CABINET MAKER & ART FURNITURER

G. S. Lucraft & Son

ART CHAIR,
Cabinet Manufacturers
AND
UPHOLSTERERS TO THE TRADE.
79, CITY ROAD,
AND
29, TABERNACLE ROW.
FACTORY—PARK PLACE, GOWPER ST., E.C.
Large stock of Wood Chimney Pieces and Over
Mantels.
Specialties in Early English, Sheraton, Adams,
Japanese, Louis XIV., XV., XVI. and other styles.
Designs and Estimates forwarded on application.

MORRISON & A
CABINET MAKERS. UPHOLSTERERS. WHOLESALE LOOKING-GLASS and

RIDLEY,
46 & 47, N
Manuf.
SIL
(THE
Oil Table Cov
PAPER

and 1919.

In 1915 the company minute book of Lucraft and Westcott showed that they had approached the company's bank, the Capital and Counties Bank, for a loan of £350 as an overdraft in order to "carry out the War Office's contract for 100 air screws." All that skill in chair carving would be valuable in carving of the complex counter-curves of the four-bladed propellers for the Handley-Page's Rolls Royce engines.

A survivor of those days, Jack E Lucraft, a young boy in the family then, can remember going to the factory in Bounds Green, and seeing the propellers being made. He believes that somewhere in the family there is a model of one of them, and says he will ask around about it.

Joseph and Sylvie Lucraft of Iowa

We have reported in previous newsletters (especially no. 10) about Joseph, a “cordwainer”, or shoemaker from Heavitree, Devon, a descendant of the Broadclyst families, and his wife, Sylvie Elphick from Hooe in Sussex. They moved to Iowa in the 1850’s or 60’s we think, and settled there with the children born in England and other children who followed later in America. The Heavitree tree on the www.lucraft.org website is a very old version, but it shows the people at an early stage of the research. We actually printed a copy of a very faint old photo that the family descendants think is of Sylvie. Recently I came across a collection of photos, posted by the Brekke family in the Ancestry website for genealogists, which showed many of the family members. I’m sure this new family will have some interesting stories to tell. In the meantime, and before the tree is updated, here are some of the photos. The first shows Joseph Eastman Lucraft, born 1821, sitting in the back of a car in Scranton Iowa about 1904, with George Henry Millington, born 1850.



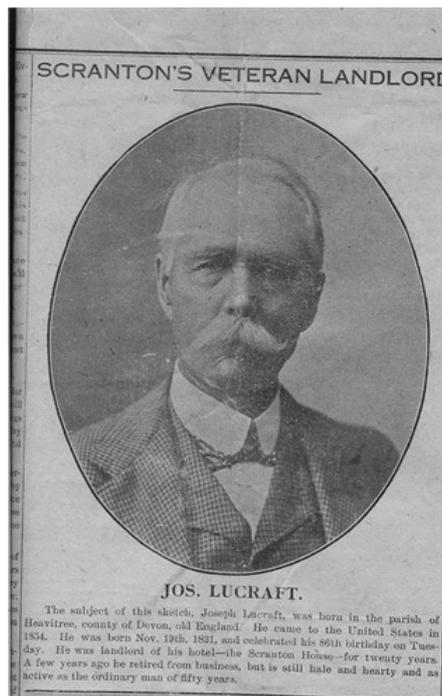
The five daughters on the right are (l to r):

- Sarah Jane Lucraft, born 1859 Hooe, (m Rust),
- Lydia Alice Lucraft, born 1857 Whitewater Wisconsin, (m Millington),
- Florence Belle Lucraft, born 1866 Oregon, Illinois, (m Pringle),
- Elsie May Lucraft, born 1868 Illinois , (m Cressler),
- Kathryn Leora (Kate) Lucraft, born 1871 Illinois (m Hall).

There were other children, some of whom died in childhood, and some of the children may have been from a previous marriage of Joseph’s which may explain some inconsistencies in the dates.



Here is Joseph Lucraft’s birthday note from the Scranton, Iowa, newspaper in 1907.



It says:

The subject of this sketch, Joseph Lucraft, was born in the parish of Heavitree, county of Devon, old England. He came to the United States in 1834. He was born 19 November 1821, and celebrated his 86th birthday on Tuesday. He was landlord of his hotel – The Scranton House – for twenty years. A few

years ago he retired from business, but is still hale and hearty, and as active as the ordinary man of fifty years.

I have now heard from the Brekke Family and there will be work to do on bringing the details together.

Ted Brekke who has replied, says that the photos came from albums owned by Florence, in the middle of the photo below, but there is a degree of uncertainty about who is who in some of the photos. Maybe we can help with the records.

The Radnall and Houston family connection

Finding an Estate

Margaret Lucraft, (nee Roberts) aged over 80, wrote to me recently with a wonderful story to tell. Margaret and her husband Hedley George Lucraft are on the G:George tree on the website, because Hedley's great great grandfather was George Lucraft (born 1830 in Taunton, Somerset), the son of Benjamin Lucraft and his wife Mary. George was the youngest of their sons, and so the youngest brother of the famous Benjamin Lucraft, radical 19th century workman's leader and politician. Margaret is a feisty and active campaigner on behalf of her own village and here is a tale in her own words that makes great reading.

"On 3rd March 1993 there was an announcement in the Daily Telegraph telling of the death of Doris Sullivan, nee Lucraft. [Doris was Hedley's older half-sister who had married Henry Sullivan. Doris and Hedley shared the same father, George William Lucraft. IGL] About 10 days later Hedley received a phone call from Frazer and Frazer genealogists and probate researchers. Hedley had had a stroke, and so I dealt with them. I asked them what they wanted and they told me it was about an inheritance and that the Treasury Solicitor was looking for any surviving relatives of Doris Sullivan.

"Hedley told them that he was certain he wasn't the person they were looking for. But they said they had the Lucraft family on micro-fiche and it was a very small amount of people. [I suspect they were reading the Lucraft Family History material. IGL] He told us that Doris was the daughter of Elizabeth Mary Pearce and George William Lucraft. As this was Hedley's father's name I asked him the date of this marriage. He made his mistake and told me the date. And I knew with that scrap of information I could research it myself.

"The Telegraph announcement said the estate was worth about £35,000. I asked him who asked him to search, and he said they always checked the newspaper adverts. I asked who was paying them and he said the estate would eventually pay them 25% of the estate plus VAT. He said there was property, cash, and investments.

"So it was time for 'Goodbye Mr Melchett' of Frazer and Frazer from these Lucrafts. Little did I know how complicated it all was, and how many secrets would creep out of the cupboards. But with two fingers, an old typewriter, and the help and support of The Probate Service and various Register Offices, not forgetting my daughter Suzanne, who diligently searched Registries, we were finally able to wind up the estate and pay all the remaining surviving relatives the proceeds of the estate."

Poppy Houston

Margaret told me also about the Radnall connection. I had known of it, but not where it led. Hedley's grandfather, George Thomas Lucraft, (born 1856 Shoreditch) married a young woman called Louisa Radnall in 1877. Louisa had grown up in a London family and her family had cared for her cousin, Fanny Lucy Radnall, at their own home.

Fanny Radnall was also born in London, in 1858 in Lambeth, we think. Her father and Louisa's father were brothers. Fanny's parents, if the research is right, were Thomas and Maria Radnall. They were working people at first, but Maria was living a comfortable life at the end of her life, probably supported by her daughter. Thomas was a warehouseman in 1841 in the City. In 1861 he was a woollen draper in Newgate. In 1871 he was a picture frame maker employing two people. He dies in 1876 in Lambeth. Maria is on the 1891 census in Putney and in 1901 in Isleworth, 'living on her own means'.

Fanny became a dancer in her teens and later one of the most famous women of the first 30 years of the 20th century. She married a succession of very rich and titled men and became eventually Lady Houston and the richest woman in England. It was she who paid £100,000 to enable Supermarine to run the race which the Supermarine flying plane, designed by Mitchell, won, before it was re-designed as the Spitfire.

She was famously eccentric, owning the Spectator and haranguing the government. She ran her yacht, formerly owned by Pulitzer, at full steam around the Solent and elsewhere. She was rabidly right-wing, a supporter of Mussolini and Hitler. She left no will and there are various stories about what happened to the money.

There are several links on the internet to material about her; the Wikipedia entry summarises it all very well.



Members of the 1931 RAF High Speed Flight with Lady Houston, onboard her yacht The Liberty; Mitchell is standing on the right

RE DISCOVERY

Gwen Luckraft's Illustrations

I managed recently to buy an original pen and ink drawing by Gwen Luckraft, who was born in 1899 in Colebrook, Plympton.

Her full name was Marjory Gwendoline Luckraft and she was the 13th daughter of Edwin Luckraft, a second-generation pawnbroker whose only son, Edwin, went to Eton.

Gwen went to Newton Abbott School of Art and became a children's illustrator. I have a couple of books illustrated by her; they were standard school books in the pre-war years.

You can see all the family on the John Martin Luckraft tree on the website at www.lucraft.org.

But here on eBay was the original artwork for a short story about opal miners in Australia.

It's a shallow boys' own type story, by Robert MacDonald of Pitlochry in Scotland. (Apparently he has also written a book called "Opals and Gold")

There's no point in copying the text of the story, but interestingly the papers also contained a photograph which appears to be guidance from the author to the illustrator.

On the back of the photo is written "Sinking a shaft for opals in Queensland"



Captain Luckraft of HMS Hastings



Destruction of the Sailor's Home and loss of life

Daily Post : Monday April 30th 1860

Terrific fire in Liverpool

Destruction of the Sailor's Home and loss of life.

[This is a heavily edited extract from the Old Mersey Times website at www.old-merseytimes.co.uk, and the photo is from the collection of the Liverpool Records Office]

Early on Sunday morning a fire broke out in the Sailor's Home, one of the finest public buildings in Liverpool, and left it a complete ruin. We regret two lives were lost during the course of the conflagration, a police officer and an official connected with the home, while both were rendering assistance. It is also feared some of the inmates may have met with an untimely death, in not being aroused until hemmed in by the flames, and all escape was hopeless.

The foundation stone of the Sailor's Home was laid by Prince Albert, amidst great pomp, in July 1816. The building was very spacious, about six storeys high, the style combined many features of the Gothic with the Italian. The interior was of novel character to imitate that of a man-of-war, the sailor's department was in the form of an amphitheatre, the ground floor an assembly room, whilst the rows of galleries at every 10 or 12ft were set apart as dormitories, each man having a small room, something like a cabin.

At the west end where spacious rooms for the Local Marine board, the Sailor's Bank and shipping offices etc, at the same end on the upper storeys were very

large dining and reading rooms. At the east end where apartments for officials also classrooms and examination rooms for training ship's officers, The roof was formed of wood and covered in asphalt, might be used as a promenade and was surrounded with a stone balustrade. The stairs and passages were of stone and iron, but the dormitories and floors were of pitched pine.

As to the origin of the fire no two statements agree, Mr BARRATT, Superintendent of the West England Company states the alarm was raised at 12-15 and he was at the spot soon after, when he saw about 25 people on the roof of the building on the Hanover St side, crying out for help to those below. He and others forced the door in the Custom's House arcade and went up with a hose, they found a passage for those on the roof to get down. Residents in the immediate locality state the flames were visible at 12-15 in the centre of the top storey on the arcade side.

A reel from the Salthouse station was on the spot in a few minutes, then followed a reel from Seel St station and the Brigade under Mr Supt HEWITT from Central station, in a short time 25 pipes were at work in all parts of the building. Great daring was manifest by various officers in an attempt to restrain the fire, several gentlemen of the Volunteer Corps came up on the alarm being raised to render assistance, most were drenched through early in the night, but continued at their posts.

Capt LUCKRAFT of HMS. HASTINGS arrived at 1-30am with seamen and marines to render assistance.

Volunteers tried to save books and other property of the Bank, on the basement floor, Capt LUCKRAFT. R.N with his marines and seamen were active in trying to save property of all descriptions.

At about 3am a mass of stone work fell from the north west turret bringing down a mass of debris and the floor of the dining room on the 2nd storey, forcing it to the basement floor, on which is the bank, where so many men were employed in supposed safety. The people in the bank had but with one exception, hair breadth escapes. The force brought most of them off their feet. Capt LUCKRAFT had a marvellous escape, a beam fell close by him and his cap was carried away, Mr HANMER, the secretary likewise was within an inch of being crushed in the ruins. A seaman named CLARKE from the North of Ireland who had for some time been employed as a steward at the Home was not as fortunate, he was forced underneath the staircase and was wedged there from the feet up to his chest, the cries of the poor fellow was heart rendering, for he was not only crushed but, burnt and scalded by the hot water continually falling on him, he appealed to those around him to release him and put an end to his existence at once.

Capt LUCKRAFT sent for two screw jacks thinking they would force the weight pressing on him, but, it was in vain. They next commenced excavating the debris from around him, it took three hours to release the poor man. When the crowds outside heard he had been released they set up a cheer, which will not be forgotten by those who heard it. The poor man was removed in a car to the

Southern Hospital and the surgeon Dr DOWNES described him as being in the most lamented condition, he ever saw of a human being. His clothes broke off although he was saturated with water. One eye had been destroyed with the heat, the upper portion of his body was as black as coal, one of his thighs was fractured, one of his toes completely smashed and one of his arms completely scalded. He was unable to speak but made motions for a drink continually, he died within an hour of his admission.

The firemen were unceasing in their exertions till 6am when the flames subsided, at 7am they began to rest from their labours and the building now stands a skeleton of walls.

Winifred Simmons (nee Lucraft)

I found the entry for Winifred Simmons on the Ancestry website, put there by her gt gt niece, Janine Alidjan. We already know quite a bit about this family from the talk at the Luc(k)raft one name day in Exeter in 1999, and you can see the family on the John Newton Lucraft tree on the website. Several members of this tree are on the mailing list!

Winifred Lucraft, born in 1887, married Frederick Charles Simmons. In 1907, Fred Simmons had been working as a steward on the SS Clyde, with Winifred's father, John Martin Lucraft, who was also a ship's steward.

Fred died on the Titanic, where he was a First Class Saloon Steward, and his body was never recovered. Winifred re-married in 1920, to Robert Baker.



Winifred Simmons with her son Edward.

Private Collection

This photo shows Winifred with her son Edward, one of two children she had with Fred Simmons; Robert, born 1910 died as an infant, and Ted (Edward), born 1911 just a year before Fred died on the Titanic.

Ted looks about 4 or 5 here and so this was about 1915,

Winifred had four more children, and lived until 1967.

Walter Luckraft Peters

I had a lovely friendly email out of the blue from Jane Heslop, whose gt. gt. grandparents were John and Elizabeth Luckraft of Oldstone Farm in Blackawton. We have included their story in an earlier version of the newsletter, and they appear on the Blackawton tree on the website. I thought I would include these edited emails, as they give the flavour of some of the queries and gifts of information that I get. Often the story of a family that have Luc(k)raft as the middle name is very hard to tie down.

Hello Ian

I have been looking at your website with interest. I did look at it some years ago when I was only just starting out with computers and my research. I am a lot more confident now and have found out so much.

Firstly my great grandmother was Susanna Luckraft daughter of John and Elizabeth from Oldstone Farm Blackawton. Like you I have recently visited the area and seen John and Elizabeth's grave, also Jane Luckraft's grave, Susanna's sister who never married, so it was easy to find. I have made contact through the Blackawton Beacon with Ursula Khan who has sent me some papers she had about my ancestors. I also visited Oldstone and spoke to the owner of the farm who has two holiday caravans on site. He told me the lodge where my family lived is now part of the holiday village/leisure park you mention, although they did live in the farmhouse at one point.

My great grandmother married my great grandfather John Peters from Brixham which is where they lived and had eight children. My grandfather Frederick was the youngest. The eldest son was named Walter Luckraft Peters. He and the eldest girl Elizabeth were born at Blackawton. At some point after 1901 they moved to Devonport where John carried on his trade as a shipwright. My grandfather became a Grocer's apprentice after he finished his four year apprenticeship he joined the army. Sadly John died as the result of a tragic accident whilst working on a launch in Devonport. Within 10 months Susanna was also dead of a brain haemorrhage; Walter was with her. I know Elizabeth married a Sidney Courtier from Brixham and they were living in Devonport and had a daughter Ethel. Also another sister of Fred's, Lucy married an Allery and I think stayed in Brixham. One of the sisters married and moved to Hull but I don't know which one. Walter was in Devonport also.

I wrote to David Cousins and got a reply from his wife who told me sadly he had passed away as we were definitely related. I have written to his son but not had a reply. I have recently been contacted through Genes Reunited by Marion Tucker in Australia whose ancestor was William Tucker born 1800 in Dartmouth; he married in the Channel Islands to Susanna Full. I have more info on this. I have more but will close now. Hope this is of interest to you. I will keep up with your site now.

Regards Jane Heslop ; (nee Peters)

Fire claims Benjamin's £5 note

(Central Criminal Court proceedings 1839 Case 181)

CHARLES BARTLETT was indicted for stealing, on the 20th of November, 1 5l. Bank-note; [one five pound bank note ed.] the property of Benjamin Lucraft, from his person. – 2nd count, calling it a half of a 5l. note.

BENJAMIN LUCRAFT. I am a cabinet maker, and live in Mansfield Street, Kingsland Road. On the 20th of November, I was at the Dun Horse public-house, Kingsland Road, about half-past ten o'clock at night, I had two 5l. Bank-notes in my pocket – I called for a pipe of tobacco, and took one of the 5l. notes from my pocket in mistake, thinking it was a bit of paper – I broke it in two, and gave one part of it to the boy to go to the fire to get me a light – he did so, and I could not light my pipe with it – I then gave him the other part of the note, he took that to the fire, and then he said it was part of a 5l. note – I directly put my hand to my pocket, and found I had taken the note in mistake – I took the part of the note and gave it to a man named Reynolds – he saw what number it was, and gave it to me again – I was looking to see the number, and the prisoner who was sitting there came across the room and said, "I can read, I can tell you the number" – he made a grasp at the note, took it out of my hand, and put it into his pocket – I took hold of him and there was a noise – the landlord came in and sent for an officer – I gave the prisoner into custody – the note has not been found.

Cross-examined by Mr. Chambers. Q. The prisoner was almost as tipsy as you, was he not? A. I think he had been drinking – it was the upper part of the note that was left – I tore it lengthways – the part that was left had not the large "five" on it – I am sure it was one of my 5l – I took notice of the number after the boy brought it back.

WILLIAM PARNELL. I am the pot-boy – the prosecutor gave me a piece of paper to light his pipe with – I gave him a light, but before he had lighted his pipe, the paper was consumed – he then gave me another piece of paper – I took it to the fire, and saw it was a note – I took it back and gave it to the prosecutor – he showed it to Mr Reynolds, who gave it back to him, and then the prisoner came and snatched it out of his hand.

Cross-examined. Q. You do not know if it was a real note or *flash* note? A. I do not – I saw the picture at the top of it, and that led me to look at it – I took it back, and Mr Reynolds took the number of it – the prosecutor was rather intoxicated – the prisoner did not run away, he sat down by the prosecutor after he had taken hold of him.

JOHN BLYTHE. I was at the Dun Horse public-house – the prosecutor gave Parnell a piece of paper to light his pipe – he took it to the fire, and I saw what it was – I

saw the number on the note – the prosecutor gave it to Reynolds, who looked at it and gave it him back – the prisoner came and snatched it, and put it into his pocket – they sent for an officer – they found some pieces of paper on the prisoner, but no note – there were five men and a woman and a child in the room – the prisoner was a little *fresh*.

NOT GUILTY.

It's hard to know what to make of this story. It's November 1839, and so far as we know about Benjamin, the future labour leader, born 1809 who moved to Kingsland Road, London, in about 1833; so he would have been about 30 at the time of this incident. His son, Benjamin, was only three at the time of the incident, so it can't be him, and I can't find any other candidates. More to the point, £10 in his pocket!?! And he mistook that nice old crispy white large piece of bank note, for a piece of paper you would write on or burn. Assuming it was not a scam, he must have been well oiled. During that period of time, it was possible to buy out a term of enlistment for about ten pounds. How much was ten pounds (£10) worth in 1840? Ten pounds then had the buying power of about £500 today, but an Irish labourer earned only 4 to 8 pence a day; women earned even less, and steady employment for either was hard to find.

(continued from page 16)

*Arthur Neal Leecraft was born in South Carolina in 1866. The Leecrafts moved to Sherman, Texas in 1870. Benjamin Leecraft III died in 1880 when Arthur was only 14 years old. Arthur later became Colonel Leecraft and was very active in governmental and civic affairs in the state of Oklahoma.

**Confederate swords carried by Captain Leecraft and Colonel Stowe became treasured possessions to Brigadier General Walter Alexander Dumas, grandson of Benjamin Leecraft III. Walter Alexander Dumas was the son of Bessie Holland Leecraft and DeBerry Glenn Dumas.

***This photograph of Benjamin Leecraft III, at the top of this post, taken in Dennison, Texas, was found in "Miss Jessie May's" antique shop in Santa Cruz, CA. "Benjamin Leecraft, Edwina's grandfather" is written on the back. Edwina Leecraft Moody was the child of Daisy Leecraft, daughter of Benjamin Leecraft III and Susan Stowe Leecraft.

Much of the information below was paraphrased from an article about Arthur Neal Leecraft* born in 1866, written by A.H. Ferguson in *Oklahoma Historic Society's Chronicles of Oklahom*, as well as - especially Ian Lucraft's *Lucraft One-Name Study*.

The Leecraft houses in Beaufort

I had an email last year from Mary a writer and painter in Beaufort North Carolina. She told me about the houses in old Beaufort. An old photo of one of the houses was printed in an earlier Luc(k)raft newsletter. Now she could tell us a bit more about the houses and about Benjamin Leecraft, about whom we have reported in earlier editions. She sent me the article she had written for local history interests.

Benjamin Leecraft I,II and III



Benjamin Leecraft III***

Though the Leecraft ancestry can be traced back over 1000 years, Leecrafts are listed as members of the Virginia Company that helped colonize Virginia and Bermuda, as well as settlements north of Virginia on the Atlantic coast.

A Leecraft was Governor of Bermuda under George III when many became discouraged by their lack of independence. Some of the Leecrafts moved south to the Caribbean—Barbados, Antigua and Martinique, to continue commercial shipping using their fleet of ships to cargo to ports along mainland America.

Around 1780 several Leecraft brothers came to the colonies. It is believed that two settled in New York and one in Beaufort, South Carolina. The fourth brother, Captain Benjamin Leecraft I, born in 1753, arrived in the Beaufort, North Carolina area on his own ship. He married Susannah Elizabeth Bell, daughter of Colonel Malachi Bell and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of a Colonel Coale.

During the Revolutionary War, Captain Leecraft "I" joined with a Captain Biddle of Philadelphia as his mate in shipping - on the ship *Active*. In 1781 he received his Commission and also applied to the Continental Congress for a Certificate of Marque as a Privateer. These applications evidently noted Leecraft as 5' 8" tall with brown hair and brown skin.

In 1784 Captain Leecraft was Master of a schooner- the *Sea Flower*, trading out of Turk's Island for importer William Fisher. He was killed in 1799 in a sea battle off the coast of Bermuda and was buried at sea.

His widow and children remained in Beaufort. His sole surviving heir, Benjamin Leecraft II, born in 1795, married Mary Polly Fuller, descendant of the Mayflower Fullers, and daughter of Belcher Fuller and Zilphia Gutherie. Benjamin Leecraft II built this 1850 house and other Leecraft houses next door on Ann Street - perhaps for two of his daughters. In the 1850 census he is shown with his wife and six children with real estate valued at \$5,000. He died about 1855.



This Greek revival style home, and others built by Benjamin Leecraft II, have features taken from books on architecture by Asher Benjamin.

Benjamin's influence is seen in its wide hall, broad staircase, large rooms with high ceilings, and distinctive woodwork.

The above 1862 *North Carolina Collections* photograph of 307 Ann Street shows mounted orderly Lt. C.M. Dusher. Below that is a Warshaw painting done in March of 2002.

Benjamin Leecraft III was born in 1820. In 1845 he married Mary Elizabeth Arendell, daughter of Sarah Fisher and Bridges Arendell. Mary Elizabeth died



in 1858. Captain Benjamin Leecraft served in the Confederate Army, 2nd Regiment, North Carolina Artillery.** He married his second wife, Susan Elizabeth Stowe in 1866 in Yorkville, South Carolina. Susan was the daughter of Colonel Samuel Neal Stowe, M.D., who had served on the staff of General Robert E. Lee. (continued on page 15)