

# The Luc(k)raft Newsletter

December 1998

Edition 6

*Happy Christmas to all the Kindred!*

## Luc(k)raft One Name Day

This is a special edition of the Newsletter, because we now have firm arrangements for a One Name Day, or rather 24 hours, in May 1999 near Exeter.

Already 28 people have written in with firm bookings for the weekend, and the back page gives all the details of the event.

This extra edition is being sent out to all the names I have on the database, so that everyone gets a chance of hearing about it, not just the regular Newsletter recipients.

We've reserved enough rooms for the people who've already booked, but there are other rooms available, and so if you want to let me know in the New Year, that will be fine.

I can't imagine this event taking place for another ten years, if ever, so now's your chance.

### Have you got any Certificates ?

#### Some Have

Thank you to the two people who responded to my request for **copies** of your old birth marriage and death certificates. They have already made a significant addition to the collection. There must be lots more out there, so please, over the Christmas holiday, look them out and send me **copies** of any that you think might be relevant.

### Possible DNA Testing for Luc(k)rafts

Don't panic, no-one's trying to trip up your family inheritance! The University of London has asked whether I would be prepared to collaborate in a study to test the DNA of about 10-12 males who can trace their lines back into the mediaeval period. Mouth swabs only. Clearly we can't do that in a certain line, only going back to the 1600's.

But as we have a very tight geographic origin, and a very rare surname, it may be that our name is chosen to participate in the study. They are trying to find out the spread and origin of families. They were particularly interested in the fact that there might be African Americans with the Leaycraft name, who might carry DNA from the Luc(k)raft line.

## The Heavitree Family

John Lucraft, baptised 1760, was the grandson of Nicholas Luccroft who we believe was married in Farringdon, in 1691. Farringdon is a little chapel almost without a village these days, though there is a big school nearby. Farringdon is between Woodbury and Broadclyst, just east of Exeter, and Nicholas' son, also called Nicholas, who had been baptised in Farringdon, moved to Woodbury, where he was buried.

Young Nicholas had five children that we know about. The fourth called William, is the source of all the Lucrafts living today that I know about. The youngest child, John, is the head of this tree overleaf.

We believe he settled in Lymphstone, on the Exe Estuary, just south of Woodbury, where he died in 1832. He married first a woman Ann Eastman in Lymphstone, though we believe she too was born in Woodbury.

Life was hard for the family. The first child Joseph, was baptised a couple of months after their wedding, and the lad was put as an apprentice for six years, to Peter Tilman, yeoman, for 2 shillings, in 1796, when he was fifteen according to the records. If the apprentice records are right then he was born several years before his parents' marriage.

The children who followed fared little better. Their mother died in 1806, leaving John with up to eight small children of whom Elizabeth was apprenticed at 13, Ann died when she was 22, William and Martha were apprenticed when they were seven years old, and James when he was eight.

These were parish apprentices, presumably as the father was destitute. We believe however, that James grew up to be a baker in Lymphstone, according to the 1841 census.

Three years after John was widowed, he married again, to Mary Chorley, herself also bereaved of her husband Thomas Chorley. She was born Mary Arthur Newbury in 1774 in Woodbury, and was a lacemaker. Lace was a significant local craft, marketing its product in London and all round the world.

Though I don't know any descendants of the Lucraft lines in this tree, there are descendants of this second marriage of John. His daughter Jane Mary married Thomas Litton, and the Littons in Devon .....

Ann Eastman

John Lucraft

Mary Arthur Ne

baptised ? 1754 Woodbury  
 marr 5 Dec 1786 Lympstone LPR  
 marr 5 Sep 1786 Lympstone IGI  
 died 1806 Lympstone

baptised 6 Apr 1760 Woodbury  
 died 3 Jun 1832 Lympstone

bap 1774 Woc  
 marr 26 Feb 18  
 Lacemaker  
 died 1852 Lym

Jane Mary  
 Lucraft

Thomas  
 Litton

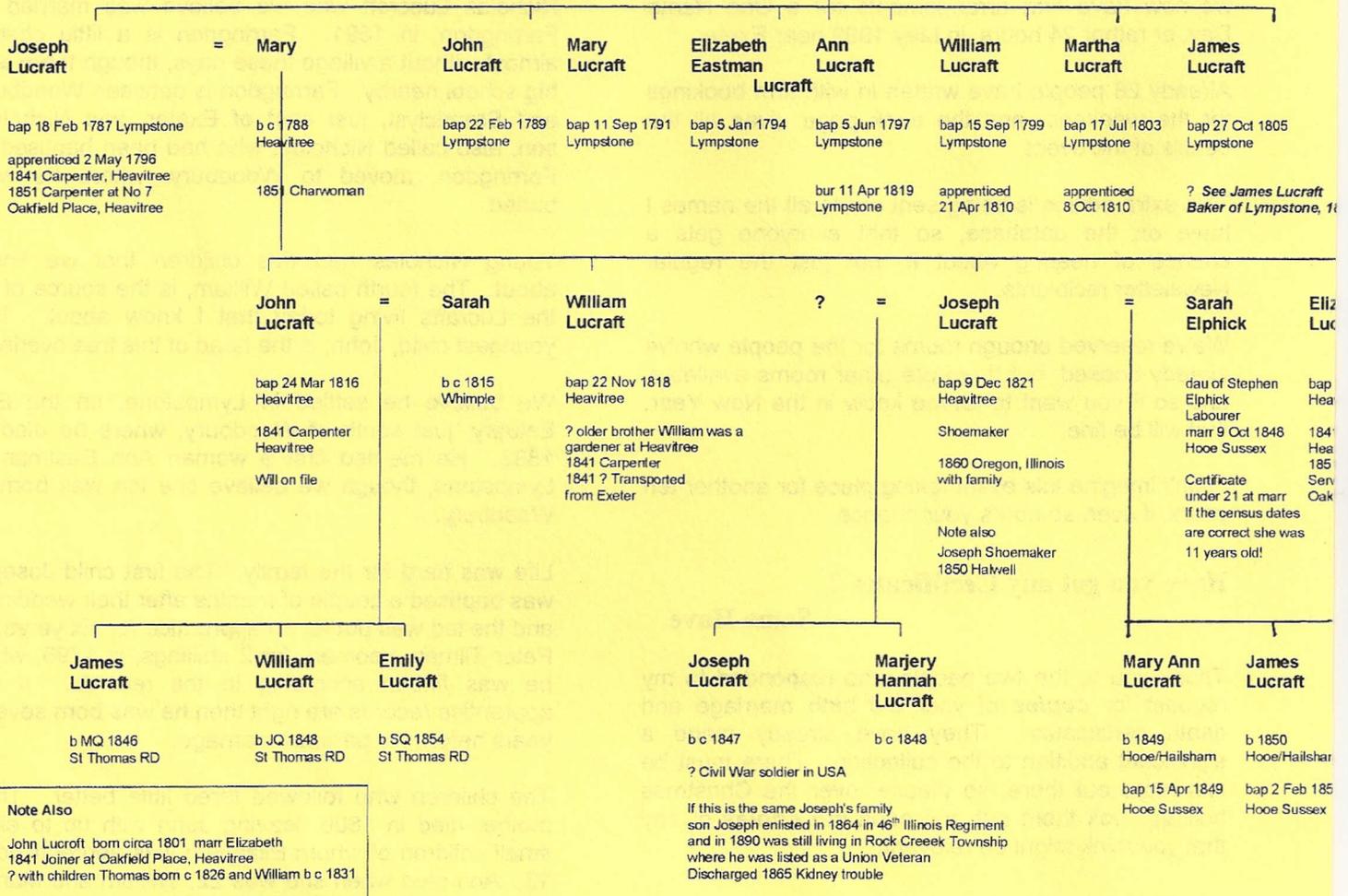
bap 16 Dec 1810  
 Lympstone

bap 26 Jul 180

bur 27 Apr 1866  
 Lympstone

marr 14 Mar 18  
 Lympstone  
 bur 30 Sep 18  
 Lympstone

See Litton Tree, for descent to pi



have been very helpful over the years. Diana Lewis, daughter of Nancye Litton is the librarian of the Devon Family History Society.

The Littons have provided me with extracts from the Lympstone Poor Book and Vestry Book, which show how the Parish System helped this family. As early as 1799 they were paying John a wage supplement of 4s a month. On 31<sup>st</sup> May 1801 they paid 2s5d to John for a journey to buy potatoes. The Parish paid the indentures money for the children, and when Ann was ill in 1819, they paid 2s for her "being a very ill person for wakening" Is this someone to sit with her?

Before Ann was buried, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April, the Parish agreed on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March to pay for three packs of bran for Lewcraft, 1s6d, and 15s for his daughter's coffin. Even those in poverty were

accorded the basic trappings, because the Parish also paid for the bell to be rung and the grave to be dug, which cost 3s.

**Other snippets include:**

- Feb 1824 Joseph Lewcraft ill at Heavitree 3s
- Feb 1825 Mr Fley for journey to Exeter Castle in regard to the Summons by the Parish of Pinhoe respecting Martha Lewcraft. Martha was 22 at this date, so perhaps she had a child to support.
- 23 Apr 1830 Ann Lucraft, for lodging of a poor woman, taken ill on the road, 5 days and nights, 5s
- From 1833 a Mary Lucraft, (is this John's second wife?) was having trouble with her leg, and was being supported financially by the parish. In June 1835 she went to the Poorhouse.

(continued overleaf)

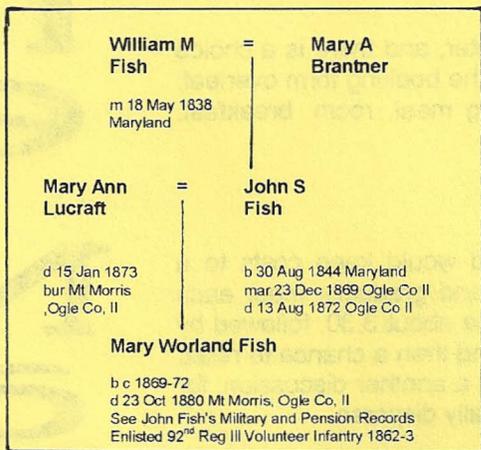
Woodbury = Thomas Chorley

Woodbury  
1709 Lympstone marr 26 Apr 1795 Woodbury?

Lympstone  
**Martha Newbery  
Lucraft**  
bap 11 Dec 1815  
Lympstone  
bur 4 Nov 1819  
Lympstone  
present day

1841  
**Elizabeth  
Lucraft**      **James  
Lucraft**      **Thomas  
Eastman  
Lucraft**  
bap 30 Jan 1825  
Heavitree      bap 20 Jan 1828  
Heavitree      bap 7 Oct 1832  
Heavitree  
in service  
Heavitree  
1851 Gardener  
Oakfield Place

**Sarah J  
Lucraft**  
b c 1859  
Hooe/Hailsham



## Heavitree Family travels to America

The tree above shows the family of the eldest boy, Joseph, who was baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1787 at Lympstone.

We saw Joseph being apprenticed in 1796, and at the first main census, he is a carpenter in Heavitree, on the eastern outskirts of Exeter, where his eldest son, John, is also listed, as a gardener. In the 1851 census we see Joseph is listed at No 7 Oakfield Place, Heavitree. At the same census, his daughter Elizabeth is in service at the same house, and his son Thomas is a gardener.

A recent discovery is the listing of a William Lucraft for transportation from Exeter Assizes in 1841. The only possible William Lucraft I've so far got looks like

being Joseph's son, who was also a gardener at Heavitree. This needs more following up. Volunteers please?

The life of Joseph's son, also called Joseph, was more travelled, which has made research more tentative. There are no GRO Index records of a Joseph bc 1847 England or a Margery Hannah, b c 1848 England, or at least I haven't found them. But in the American records, there is a Joseph Lucraft, with these two children, married to Sarah, born about 1837, in England. They also have three children named Mary Ann 1849, James 1850 and Sarah J 1859.

It seems Joseph, a shoemaker, moved to Hooe, near Hailsham in Sussex, perhaps after the death of a first wife, and there married Sarah Elphick in 1848. If the American Census dates are right she was only 11 years old, but they can be several years out. She was listed as a "minor" on the certificate.

Then Joseph and his second wife, and the children from both marriages, turn up in Ogle County, Oregon, USA.. The youngest child, Sarah J, is listed as born in Illinois. Joseph's son Joseph enlisted in 1864 in the Illinois Regiment during the Civil War, though he was discharged with kidney trouble a year later. By 1890 the census lists this Joseph as living in Rock Creek Township, Jefferson County, Nebraska, as a Union Veteran.

The US Military Pensions Records show that a Mary Ann Lucraft was married to John S Fish, and that his mother made a claim for a pension based on the death of all the family members. John Fish was also in the Civil War, in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Regiment. He died of consumption and dropsey of the bowels, "chronic diarrhea contracted since enlistment".

Though there is no proof, I know of no other Lucrafts in the US at the time, and Joseph's daughter, Mary Ann was born in 1849, which makes her a prime candidate for a marriage to John Fish on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1870. Mary Ann died on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1873, and their daughter, Mary Worland Fish died on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1879.

## Testaments from London Plague in 1660's ?

I've got copies of two wills of Thomae Luckcrofte, 10<sup>th</sup> October 1665, and Ellenae Luckcrofte, 13<sup>th</sup> October 1665. Ellen made her brother, Benjamin Winch, and her sister's daughter, Ann Gooker, her executors, leaving all her estate to Anne. They were both in Stepney.

Thomas, as his wife was still alive, left her as executor. I'm not very good at the indistinct old Latin, but I think they both then died. Were they suffering from the plague?

There was at least one extended family in and around the city at the time, with spellings from Luckcrofte to Luckraft and Lucraft.

**We're on for 1999 !**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1999**

There are 28 people already booked for the weekend, so it will be worthwhile. For me personally I shall be keen to meet in the flesh some of the people I have corresponded with over 20 years. Most of the people coming are needing accommodation, and so there is a booking form on the back page. Please return it to me as soon as possible.

Some people, who live in and around Exeter, will be joining us but not staying the night. That's possible too, if it applies to you. There will be a modest charge by the centre for your catering, but it will broaden the number of people able to come. Perhaps we might include a special hour or two for those who are not with us all the time.

**Activities Requested**

**Most popular requests**

Exhibition of family trees and records for the different branches	9
Time to meet informally	8
Brief introductions from each family group	8
A Talk on : Devon Origins	8
The Fighting Naval Luckrafts of Plymouth	8
Early American Emigrants	6
Benjamin Lucraft and the London Families	5
Preston migration from Dean Prior	4
How to take your family history further	4
Visit to County Records, (if in Exeter)	3
Hands-On Internet session	2
Coach trip of about 3 hours round related local venues	1

The highest three option activities can easily be arranged, as a background theme to the weekend, and we can select as many of the short talks as we think fit. One or two people have offered to do a short talk on their branch of the family. I mean **short!**

**Location**

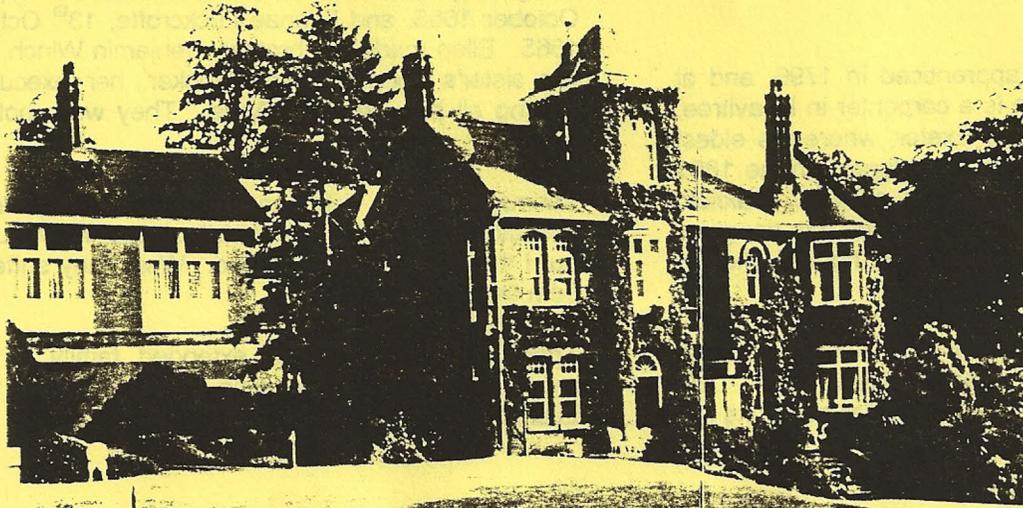
Crossmead House is the Conference Centre for the University of Exeter, and there is a choice of rooms, either en-suite or not, double or single. The details are on the booking form overleaf. The price includes tea and biscuits on Saturday afternoon, evening meal, room, breakfast, morning coffee and Sunday Lunch

**Schedule**

The planned schedule, which most people thought about right, and would keep costs to a minimum, means we would arrive around 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, and gradually meet each other. Only one or two of the respondents have ever met before. Tea about 3.30, followed by the brief introductions before dinner. After dinner perhaps one talk, and then a chance to relax. In the morning, after breakfast, a couple of brief talks, coffee, time for another discussion, for whatever we want to do, leading up to lunch, after which we will gradually disperse.

Though almost no-one wanted to do the coach trip, I shall want to re-visit Farringdon and Broadclyst, just east of Exeter, by car on the way home. This is where all the Lucrafts originate, and I'd be happy to show anyone interested the exquisite little chapel in Farringdon where Nicholas Lucraft was married in 1691, and the village of Broadclyst, where Benjamin's family lived. Esther Lucraft's grave still stands, from her death in 1881.

Crossmead House



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