

THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Part 2

By Keith Sharp 2016

THE LAND

Agricultural workers have always been among the worst paid and most disadvantaged group in England. The picture of idyllic country life beloved of painters and poets existed only in their imagination. Until the period of the civil war and during the restoration the peasantry were able to supplement whatever they earned from working for the landowners, by working allotments on common land or wasteland. But during the eighteenth century landowners, with parliamentary authority, started to enclose land in order to farm larger units more efficiently, which required fewer labourers; they also enclosed wastelands to turn them into grazing meadows. These “Inclosures” meant that peasants were dispossessed and had no means of livelihood except by working for local landowners and accepting whatever wage they were given. There were, moreover, no career prospects and no skills which could be exported to other industries. In Winfarthing, Norfolk, home to most of the families whose story is told here, the Winfarthing Inclosure Act of 1781 provided “for dividing and inclosing the Lammas meadows, heaths, commons and waste lands within the parish of Winfarthing, in the county of Norfolk”.

The ‘Old’ Poor Law of 1795 relied on the parish as the basic unit of local government and responsible for its poor. The Elizabethan system which had been in force before that allowed relief only to those unable to work through age, sickness or injury. The 1795 Poor Law was more humane in allowing outside relief to those who worked but were on barely subsistence wages; this included all agricultural labourers who came to regard the relief as a part of their income and referred to it as their ‘allowance’. Moreover the overseers disbursing the relief would know the recipients personally and were sympathetic to their needs. Some parishes were more generous than others; the magistrates of the Berkshire village of Speen devised a tariff which allowed for the fluctuating price of wheat, the staple diet of the rural poor, the weekly allowance amounting to approximately three times the price of a gallon loaf of bread for a single man with half as much again for a wife and each child. It became known as the Speenhamland system and many parishes adopted this or modifications of it, but the practice in Winfarthing is not known.

The French Wars were a huge drain on manpower and more women and children had to be employed on the land. Fearful that this would result in reduced yields, landlords raised rents as an encouragement to tenant farmers to increase efficiency. The result was that if a farmer had difficulty paying the increased rents his only means of cost reduction was to reduce the already meagre pay of the farm labourers. This pressure to increase yields with less manpower increased the movement towards enclosure of commons, and also brought the industrial revolution to the countryside with the development of machinery such as threshing machines driven by belt from a steam tractor.

When the Napoleonic wars ended in 1815 and the fighting men returned to the land they found that, even if women and children were laid off, there was not enough work for all; and this surfeit of labour tended to drive down wages even further. This caused a great deal of social unrest leading to more serious trouble in the 1830s when rural workers in the south-east rose in what became known as the ‘Swing’ riots, named after the fictitious signature, Captain Swing, attached to threatening anonymous letters. Many threshing machines were destroyed and hayricks burnt, but after a couple of rioters were hanged and several more transported the rioting died down. Rural folk were more subservient than workers in the cities and it was not until 1870

that they formed an effective union. The government encouraged workers to move from the land to the industrial cities or to emigrate, and increasing numbers did so.

The surfeit of labour after 1815 also led to an increase of claims on poor relief until the ratepayers started to complain of the burden, and as the ratepayers were the voters they were able to influence parliament to look again at the poor laws. The 'New' Poor Law which was enacted in 1834 took a totally different approach; parishes were grouped into Unions so there was no personal contact between those disbursing and those receiving relief. Workhouses were created in each Union where anyone seeking relief was sent and the regime was made as unpleasant as possible to discourage people from doing so. Work was hard and the hours long, sleeping accommodation was in single sex dormitories so that a husband and wife would be separated, and the food was poor, mostly a thin gruel, and inadequate. Only in extreme circumstances would poor people seek help from a workhouse.

Farm workers usually lived in tied cottages so that if they became old or infirm and unable to work they were entirely at the mercy of the farmer who might let them continue to live there or might just as easily turn them out. Children starting work in their early 'teens' would normally live in the farmhouse. Accommodation would be basic, sleeping on straw in a barn, but they would be assured of two good meals a day with plenty of vegetables and, occasionally, meat.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century the normal dress was the smock worn over canvas leggings. When this went out of fashion farm workers would wear trousers and a collarless shirt with, perhaps, a waistcoat for warmth. They also wore heavy boots, but a family budget would rarely stretch to buying shoes for children, who went unshod until they started to work on the farm.

The social customs of the rural poor were quite different from those of middle and upper class England. Some social historians have described England as ungovernable, meaning not that there was any threat of insurrection, but that the poor could not afford middle class morality. They could not easily afford the fee for being married in church; moving from being a single person living in the farmhouse to being a self-supporting couple involved a huge drop in standard of living. They could not afford a coffin and the dead were buried covered by a 'mortcloth' which was hired from the church and later retrieved to be used again. And they could not afford recourse to the courts to settle disputes. So they developed an entirely different set of social conventions, almost as if they belonged to another country, and it is quite wrong to judge deviations from middle class behaviour, for example births outside marriage, as improper. It is true that there was some immorality - the tied cottages were generally one up and one down so that children of different sexes past puberty were forced to sleep in the same room sometimes sharing a blanket, and so incest was by no means unknown. But by and large they kept to the conventions which their society had developed.

First children were normally born or conceived before marriage and would take their mothers name and live with her parents. If she later married the father, the child would go to live with them and take the father's name. A couple needed a good many children to contribute to the family budget and to look after them in their old age, and there was a high rate of infant mortality. A couple needed to know that they could readily produce children, which was a good reason to have a child before committing themselves to marriage.

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The progenitor of the family described below was **JOHN NEWMAN** born circa 1767-77 in New Buckenham (based upon his age as noted in census returns and at his death). During this period there is only one baptism recorded of a John Newman, that being the John born on 19 August 1771 and baptised 1 September 1771, the "base child" of **MARY NEWMAN**. Nothing more is known of his parentage or childhood.

MARGARET CRISP was also born out of wedlock, the daughter of **ELIZABETH CRISP**, and was baptised on 13 May 1787 in Winfarthing. John Newman and Margaret Crisp married, after banns, in Winfarthing on 15 October 1805. John then being an agricultural labourer.

JOHN and **MARGARET NEWMAN** had a family of eight known children all born in Winfarthing:

CHARLOTTE, born 31 August 1806. She was living in 1811¹ but no further record of her can be found and she probably died in childhood.

SUSANNA, baptised 7 April 1809, of whom more below.

MARY ANN, born 4 October and baptised 27 October 1811. She was living in 1821 but no further record of her can be found.

JOB, born 18 Mar 1814, his baptism is recorded but without a date. He died at the age of eight and was buried in Winfarthing on 18 October 1822.

NOAH, born 17 November 1816, baptism recorded but without a date, of whom more below.

THOMAS, born 4 November 1818, baptism recorded but without a date, of whom more below.

PAUL, born 10 February 1820, baptism recorded but without a date, of whom more below.

ELIZA, born 26 March 1824, baptism recorded but without a date. She died aged eleven and was buried in Winfarthing on 13 September 1835.

John and Margaret Newman were living in one of the Mill Cottages in 1841 when John was described as an agricultural labourer. In 1851 at the age of 80 John was no longer able to work on the farms and he and Margaret, described as paupers, were living with their son Noah. John died on 26 August that year and was buried on 31 August. Margaret lived for another eighteen years, first with her son Noah, then with her son Paul. Her death does not seem to be registered with the civil authorities² but the parish register of Winfarthing records her burial on 24 July 1869.

SUSANNA NEWMAN had a son named JOHN who was born, out of wedlock, in Winfarthing and baptised there on 30 November 1828. There is no further record of Susanna and it is likely that she died young; the father of her son is not known. Her son JOHN NEWMAN was living with his grandparents in 1841. For the rest of his life he lived with his uncle Noah, and after Noah's death with his aunt Ann. He never married and is variously described as a farm labourer in 1851, a yardsman in 1861, as a pauper in 1871, a shepherd unemployed in 1881, and as a farm labourer in 1891. He died in Winfarthing and was buried there on 4 November 1894.

NOAH NEWMAN was working at Heath Farm, Winfarthing in 1841. So was ANN MOSS who had a baby by Noah in 1837-38 and who they named REBECCA, born in Carleton Rode³ at the home of Ann's parents, JOSEPH MOSS and MARY MS FOSTER. Rebecca was still with her grandparents in 1841. Noah and Ann were married in Winfarthing on 22 November 1842; Noah continued working at Heath Farm. They had four children:

REBECCA MOSS, mentioned above, who after her parents marriage lived with them and was known as Rebecca Moss Newman.

SUSANNA, born 8 September 1841 in Winfarthing, baptism recorded but without a date.

SARAH, born 8 October 1845 and baptised 9 June 1861 in Winfarthing.

JANE MAY, born 29 April 1863 and baptised 2 August 1863 in Winfarthing.

Noah worked all his life as an agricultural labourer and was buried on 5 May 1883 aged 67. Ann was still living in 1891 aged 79, her date of death is not known.

REBECCA MOSS NEWMAN was living with her parents in 1851, aged 13, but thereafter disappears from the records and no more is known of her.

SUSANNA NEWMAN more familiarly called **SUSAN** was, at the time of the 1861 census, working as a dairymaid at Marsh Farm, Thrandeston. On 3 July 1867 she had a baby who was named **ROSA FLORENCE NEWMAN**, at the time of the 1871 census, was working at The Hall, Attleborough as a cook. Whether she moved before, after, or because of having the baby is not known. Also working at The Hall, Attleborough was **EPHRAIM KNIGHTS**, a groom. Ephraim had been born in Attleborough in 1844, the son of **WILLIAM KNIGHTS** and **MARY ANN MS TAYLOR**. He soon after became landlord of the Chequers Inn, Thetford where he also ran a butcher's shop, and he and Susanna were married at the parish church of Attleborough on 11 January 1872. He took his bride back to the Chequers Inn where they remained for the rest of their lives. There were no children of this marriage. In 1881 Rosa was still living with her maternal grandparents, Noah and Ann Newman, in Winfarthing under the name **ROSA NEWMAN**, which suggests that Ephraim was not the father. In 1891 she was living with Ephraim and her mother at Thetford and the census lists her as Rosa Knights; but this is probably an enumerator's error, he supposing that Susanna's daughter must also be Knights. At the end of 1894 Rosa, with the name of Rosa Newman, married **SAMUEL DORLING**, a farm bailiff. In the census of 1901 Samuel and Rosa Dorling were living in the village of Sporle, near Swaffham, with three children: **WALTER** aged 5, **DERRICK** aged 3, and **ALEC JOHN** aged 1.

SARAH NEWMAN had a job in Sydenham, Kent in 1871, as a domestic servant at a girls' boarding school at West Hill, Longton Grove. Early in 1872 she married in Southwark, **JOHN WILLIAM PANTING**, a gardener, born in Ramsbury, Wiltshire, son of **EDWARD** and **TABITHA PANTING**. In 1881 they were living at 14 Malham Road, Forest Hill with four children: **MARGARET** aged 7, **GEORGE** 6, **ISABELLA** 2, and **WILLIAM** 1 month. Sarah died at the end of 1889, and in 1891 John Panting was still living at the same address with his eldest daughter Margaret keeping house, and three more children: **JOHN** aged 8, **ALBERT** 7, and **CHARLES** 4.

JANE MAY NEWMAN is a bit of a mystery. Her birth certificate records her as Mary Jane Newman, but at her baptism and in every record thereafter she is called Jane May. There is a big gap between the birth of Sarah in 1845 and Jane May (Mary) in 1863 when her mother, Ann, would be aged 41. But both the baptismal register and the birth certificate record her as the daughter of Noah and Ann Newman, so there would seem to be no doubt about her parentage. But she cannot be found living at home with them; at the time of the 1871 census, aged 8, she was living with her maternal grandparents, Joseph and Mary Moss, and in 1881 with her sister Susanna Knights at Thetford. On 2 December 1885 she married **HENRY WILLIAM FIDDAMAN** in the parish church of Brancaster, the home of the Fiddamans. At no time has Jane a recorded occupation. William, as he was always called, was baptized on 1 February 1863, the son of **MATTHEW FIDDAMAN** and **HARRIET MS GROOME**. He was described as a labourer on his marriage certificate but, as his father was a small farmer of 33 acres, this probably meant that he worked on the farm. By the time of the 1901 census he and Jane were living on Main Road, Brancaster, William then a butcher, and Jane looking after her family of eight children, **MAUD** aged 14, **MYRTLE** 12, **SIDNEY** 11, **FRANK** 9, **VIOLET** 8, **MAY** 6, **AGNES** 4, and **MATTHEW** aged 10 months.

THOMAS NEWMAN, born 4 November 1818, worked as an agricultural labourer and lived with his parents until he got married on 21 March 1838 to **PHYLLIS PARKER**. Phyllis, daughter of **PETER PARKER** and **ANN GODBOLD**, was born on 25 March 1815 in Weybread, Suffolk. Thomas and Phyllis had a son named THOMAS born in Winfarthing on 14 April 1838 but who died in infancy and was buried on 1 July the same year. Their second son, born in Winfarthing on 24 November 1839, they also named THOMAS. It was quite usual for a child to be given the same name as a sibling who had died. Thomas senior lived barely four more years, dying of consumption on 22 October 1843, a fortnight short of his 25th birthday.

PAUL NEWMAN, Thomas's younger brother, started work as an agricultural labourer living in at Heath Farm. When his brother Thomas died he set up home with Phyllis by time-honoured custom⁵, and Thomas junior was brought up to regard Paul as his father. Paul and Phyllis had a son who they named **GEORGE**, born on 8 October 1844 in Winfarthing.

In the census of 1851 they were all together, Paul, Phyllis, Thomas junior and George. Paul, together with Thomas who was then aged ten, were working as agricultural labourers. But work was getting scarce and pressure to move away was growing. By the time of the 1861 census Paul and Thomas were still working as agricultural labourers, Paul's widowed mother Margaret living with them; Phyllis was ill and in the Norwich Infirmary, and young George, the first to leave the land, had been apprenticed to James Bennett, a boot maker, in the village of Moulton. Phyllis died back at her home in Winfarthing on 12 February 1864 of "pelvic and lumbar abscesses". Margaret, as stated above, died in 1869.

THOMAS NEWMAN junior was married, before his mother died, to MARY GREY on 14 October 1863 in Tibenham parish church. Mary Grey, born in about 1841, was the daughter of JOSEPH and BETSY GREY, farm labourers in Winfarthing. Thomas and Mary Newman emigrated, in the late 1860s, to America, and are the family shown in the United States census of 1870 living in the town of De Kalb, St Lawrence county in the state of New York. The census of 1880 shows them still living in De Kalb, Thomas working on the railroads. They had four known children:

- THOMAS, born 3 January 1864 in Winfarthing
- ELIZABETH, born 2 November 1865 in Winfarthing
- GEORGE, born ca. 1873 in De Kalb
- WILLIAM, born ca. 1876 in De Kalb.

In the 1880 census Elizabeth is called Lydia. A possible reason for her change of name might be that in 1869 an English burlesque actress named Lydia Thompson had arrived in New York for a six-month engagement and had taken the country by storm. Appearing as Lydia Thompson and her British Blondes, she filled theatres wherever she went and her six-month engagement extended to almost six years. It is not unlikely that an impressionable young Elizabeth wanted to be called after her.

GEORGE NEWMAN, son of Paul and Phyllis, was married in 1864 to **EMMA ELIZA WRIGHT**, but of them more below.

After Paul's wife and mother had died, Thomas had emigrated and George moved away, he is recorded living with a housekeeper named Sarah Kemp in 1871 and 1881. Through these years he continued as an agricultural labourer. Towards the end of 1888 Sarah Kemp married George Keely, a bricklayer, but Paul Newman continued lodging with them and in 1891 aged 71 he is recorded as a general labourer living in their household. Paul died of old age on 21 October 1897 aged 77 in Winfarthing.

In the same period that John Newman and Margaret Crisp were born, there was also born in another family of agricultural labourers in Winfarthing, **JOHN ELIJAH WRIGHT**. Neither his date of birth nor parentage can be established; his baptism is not recorded⁶ and the ages noted in census records and on his death certificate vary to such an extent that not even an estimate is possible.

JOHN ELIJAH WRIGHT married first, **RACHEL WOODWARD** who was born in South Lopham on 2 January 1787, the daughter of **JOSEPH** and **MARY WOODWARD**. They had one son, **EDWARD**, born on 7 January 1814 and baptised on 23 January 1814 in Winfarthing. Rachel died a year later and was buried in Winfarthing on 11 May 1815.

ELIJAH, as he was always known, married secondly **REBECCA WOODS** (whose birth and parentage like her husband's cannot be determined) in Winfarthing on 10 September 1816. They had five children:

MARY, born 7 October 1818 in Winfarthing

HENRY, born 24 September 1821 in Winfarthing

ELIZA, born 14 August 1824 in Winfarthing

SOPHIE or **SOPHIA**, born 7 August 1827 in Winfarthing, died on 27 January 1848 of a "continued fever" of unknown cause.

RUTH, born 1 August 1830 in Winfarthing

All five children were baptised together on 29 August 1830.

Elijah Wright worked all his life in Winfarthing as an agricultural labourer. In 1821 he lived at Coppins Houses, in 1841 he and Rebecca were at 'Shore' Green (correctly - Short Green), in 1851 they were at 114 The Street and described as 'paupers', which simply meant that they were receiving some poor law assistance, and in 1861 they were at 19 Short Green. Rebecca died on 18 April 1863 of unknown cause, there being no medical attendant present; Elijah died on 2 April 1866 of bronchitis.

EDWARD WRIGHT, son of Elijah and his first wife Rachel MS Woodward, also spent his life as an agricultural labourer, living at Short Green and working at Heath Farm. He was married on 13 October 1843 at Winfarthing to **ELIZABETH GARROD** daughter of **JONATHAN GARROD**. They had three children all born and baptised in Winfarthing:

RUTH, born 19 Oct 1846 and baptised 8 November 1846. She was living with her parents in 1851 but thereafter disappears from the record.

SOPHIA, born August 1849 and baptised 5 December 1852, of whom more below.

CAROLINE, born 24 October and baptised 5 December 1852. She was living with her parents in 1871 but thereafter disappears from the record.

SOPHIA WRIGHT married **JOHN NEWSTEAD** (who had been born in Bressingham) on 1 June 1870 and the census of 1871 shows them living in Hall Lane, Fersfield in shared accommodation. Ten years later they were in Short Green Winfarthing, John Newstead still working as an agricultural labourer. But John was an able and enterprising man and the 1891 census shows him, still living at Short Green, but now a "Grocer and Dealer", and by 1901 he had rented Church Farm, Winfarthing and was working as a farmer and employer. John and Sophia had seven children, all born in Winfarthing:

WALTER HERBERT, born in the first quarter of 1871

EDITH ELIZA, born in the third quarter of 1874

FREDERICK GEORGE, born in the last quarter of 1875

ARNY (or **ARNOLD**) **FRANCIS**, born at the beginning of 1880

ERNEST, born about 1881

KATE, born at the beginning of 1883

FLORENCE, born in the third quarter of 1885

Little is known of any of the children except that in 1891 Edith was a general servant on Darrowood Farm, Aylsham; Frederick was a farm servant living in Wash Lane, Old Buckenham, but in 1901 he was a policeman with the Metropolitan Police stationed at Barnes; Ernest, in 1901, was farming with his father, and Kate and Florence were still living at home. Florence may be the Florence Emma Newstead who married James William Thompson locally in mid-1904.

Of Elijah's children by his second marriage to Rebecca Woods:

MARY was with her family in 1841. On 25 October 1843 she had a baby girl, born in Kenninghall workhouse, named **EMMA ELIZA**. The father was **WILLIAM NEWTON**, a shepherd, who had been born on 30 April 1815 in Rickingham, Suffolk but was then working at Heath Farm, Winfarthing (where Noah Newman was also working). Emma Eliza, following tradition, lived with her grandparents, Elijah and Rebecca. She was baptised on 15 September 1844 along with her cousin Mary Ann (see below).

Mary disappears from the record after the birth of her daughter, which is most unfortunate as she is a direct ancestor of the family here described. There is no identifiable death or marriage indexed, and she cannot be identified in any subsequent census. It is a matter of speculation why she had her baby in the workhouse. It may be that she needed medical attention, and there were doctors appointed to look after the welfare of those in the care of the Poor Law Unions. If she had fallen out with her family or something else had gone terribly wrong, it was very easy to disappear by simply changing your name and going to work in a town where you were not known.

HENRY WRIGHT worked all his life as an agricultural labourer in Winfarthing and never married. In 1871, after his parents had died, he was living alone. In 1881 and 1891 he was living with different relatives. He died at the beginning of 1897 aged 75.

ELIZA WRIGHT was with her family in 1841. On 10 January 1844 she had a baby daughter by **ELLIS BOBBY**. It must have been a private joke between her and her sister Mary to name their babies after each other and to have them baptised on the same day! Eliza named her daughter **MARY ANN** and, together with Mary's daughter Eliza, had her baptised on 15 September 1844. Mary Ann also lived with her grandparents.

Eliza cannot be located in the 1851 census, but on 20 April 1852 she was married to **JOHN COOPER SMITH** at Norwich Register Office. John Cooper Smith was a gardener, variously described as a Gardener-Domestic and a Market Gardener. Eliza's daughter, **MARY ANN WRIGHT**, was with her grandparents at the time of the 1851 census but after her mother's marriage the following year she went to live with her mother and following custom was brought up to regard John Smith as her father and was known as Mary Ann Smith. She was still with them at the time of the 1861 census (called Maryan), a dressmaker by trade, living at 15 City Road, Norwich; more of her below. Also living with them as a lodger was 26 year old **SOPHIA LANSDALE**, an upholsterer by trade, who will appear again in this narrative.

Eliza is described as a charwoman in 1861, simply as a gardener's wife in 1871 and living at Back Lane, Felthorpe, seven miles north-west of Norwich, but as a charwoman again in 1881 when they lived at 5 Mandalls Buildings, Heigham, a suburb of Norwich. She died there on 16 Sept

1881 aged 57, of 'morbus cordis', literally heart disease but a term used as a catch-all if the precise cause of death was not known.

John Cooper Smith is something of an enigma. There are many people of the name Cooper Smith in the area and John cannot be identified before his marriage in 1852 when he was 20, or after Eliza's death in 1881 when he was 49. There were no children of his marriage to Eliza Wright.

MARY ANN WRIGHT or SMITH was married on 16 June 1863 at St Mark's Church, Lakenham, Norwich to JOHN BACON the son of JOHN BACON and RUTH MS BLACK who was born in Derby and baptised there, in the parish of St Alkmund, on 16 April 1835.

JOHN BACON had enlisted with the 5th Lancers on 18 March 1858 at Manchester when aged 22 and having previously been a clerk. He was described as 5' 7" in height, of fresh complexion and having grey eyes and dark brown hair. He had already served a year and four months with another regiment, indecipherable in his record, and on account of this, when he had completed his initial training he was promoted to corporal. But just six weeks later he got into some sort of trouble and was court martialled, locked up for two days, and demoted to private. His regiment then went to the Crimea where he served for eleven months and was awarded the Crimean War Medal with clasp for Sebastopol, and the Turkish War Medal, after which he returned to England. How he met Mary Ann (Wright) Smith is not known; his address on their marriage certificate is 'Hamlet of Cockthorpe' which is a hamlet near Wells on the north Norfolk coast, some 30 miles north of Norwich. A year after their marriage his regiment went to India, Mary Ann going with them; by then he had redeemed himself and was in receipt of good conduct pay, and in 1865 was again promoted to corporal and later to lance sergeant. While in India they had a baby son born at Sealkote on 26 December 1870 and named John Henry Bacon. But during the following year John Bacon senior became very ill, attributed to exposure to the sun and elements, and he was returned to England where he underwent a medical examination and was judged to be "too weak in body and mind", and received his discharge on 17 September 1871. They returned to Norwich where, a year later, John Bacon was certified and sent to St Augustine's (Lunatic) Asylum in Norwich, the cause of his disability being given as sunstroke. He died there on 8 February 1873.

Three years later, on 17 May 1876, Mary Ann Bacon (MS Wright or Smith) was married again, at the Register Office in Norwich, to JAMES CROME a private in the 6th Dragoon Guards. Or so their marriage certificate says although he had actually received his discharge two days before. JAMES CROME was born on 18 May 1847 the son of JAMES CROME, a gardener, and MARY ANN MS NASH. James the younger enlisted in the 6th Dragoons on 6 May 1865, a fortnight before his eighteenth birthday, said to be 5'-7½", but no other personal details are recorded. He received his discharge on 15 May 1876 and he and Mary Ann were married two days later on 17 May. On 3 November that year he entered the service of the Midland Railway; in the 1881 census he was a loader in the goods department, living at 6 Shafton Road, Hackney with Mary Ann who had returned to her old trade of dressmaking. In 1891 they were living at 29 Autumn Road, St Mary, Stratford, London, James Crome now a foreman in the goods department of the Midland Railway, and Mary Ann a mantle (dress) maker.

But they parted soon after; it is reasonable to surmise that James dumped Mary Ann for a younger model. Mary Ann returned to Norwich, and on 27 July 1893 James Crome bigamously married Dorothy Myerscough at Islington Register Office. Dorothy, aged 25, was the daughter of the late Arthur Burns Myerscough "Translator of Languages". James described himself as a

widower aged 35, although he reverted to being 50 in 1901 when they were living at 8 Williams Cottage, Hackney and he still working for Midland Railway. ⁷

Mary Ann, in 1901, now aged 57 was living with her “cousin” Sophia Rigby and described herself, perhaps to save face, as a widow. Sophia Rigby’s maiden name was Lansdale and back in 1861 she had been living, along with Mary Ann, in the household of John Cooper Smith and Eliza MS Wright. But it has not been possible to establish their precise relationship which was probably through the Smith family rather than through the Wrights; if, that is, they were truly related and did not call themselves cousins having lived together and become friends when young ladies. Also living with them in 1901 was Sophia Rigby’s niece, SOPHIA LANSDALE aged 29, who, early the following year was married to Mary Anne’s son, JOHN HENRY BACON, then aged 30.

In September 1902, Mary Anne Crome herself became ill, suffering from what was described as melancholia, and was admitted to St Augustine’s. Described as a “spare female having brown eyes and grey hair” she is recorded as suffering from delusions, believing people were tapping at her window though it was fifty feet above the ground. She had been a heavy drinker “but not now”. She was there for eighteen months and died on 29 March 1904.

Sophia Lansdale had two children before her marriage to John Henry Bacon, IDA MAUD LANSDALE born in West Ham early in 1897, and FLORA ELIZA LANSDALE born in Norwich in late summer 1889. Their paternity is unknown as, following Sophia’s marriage, they did not adopt the surname Bacon. John Henry Bacon and Sophia Lansdale were married at Norwich on 17 March 1902 and they subsequently had two other children, EDITH BACON who was aged 7 in 1911, and NORAH BACON who was aged 4 in 1911. Nothing more is known of this family.

RUTH, the youngest child of Elijah Wright and Rebecca MS Woods, had a son by EDWARD GOODERHAM born on 19 April 1852 and named CHARLES EDWARD WRIGHT. The Winfarthing parish register records his birth on 9 May but this must be the date of his baptism. Ruth married, on 24 June 1855 in Winfarthing parish church, ROBERT POTTER the son of SOLOMON and PHOEBE POTTER. Both Robert and his father Solomon were agricultural labourers. Contrary to custom, Charles Edward Wright did not go to live with them and did not take the name Potter. In 1861, then aged 9, he was still with his grandparents Elijah and Rebecca Wright. Before the next decennial census both Elijah and Rebecca had died and Charles Edward disappears from the record. By 1871 he would be 19 years old and would have been working somewhere; he may very well have left Norfolk.

RUTH and ROBERT POTTER had six children, all born and baptized in Winfarthing:

GEORGE ROBERT, born 17 May 1855 and baptized 12 July 1857

ALICE MARY, born about 1857 and baptized 12 July 1857

ALBERT, born 18 October 1858 and baptized 5 July 1863

EMMA, born 8 December 1860 and baptized 5 July 1863

FREDERICK, born about 1863 and baptized 5 July 1863

MARY, born 6 April 1874 and baptized 5 December 1874.

GEORGE NEWMAN, who was born on 8 October 1844 the son of Paul Newman and Phyllis had, as mentioned above, been apprenticed to James Bennett, a boot maker, in the village of Moulton. Having completed his apprenticeship he married **EMMA ELIZA WRIGHT** who was born

on 8 October 1844 the daughter of Mary Wright and William Newton. They were married on 9 August 1864 in Winfarthing parish church. They then moved to Norwich where George is recorded in 1871 working as a shoemaker. But the work situation cannot have been stable for in 1881 he is recorded as a coal porter, in 1891 as a coal dealer, and in 1901 and 1911 as a city messenger.

George and Emma had nine children:

ERNEST, born 2 February 1865 in Winfarthing

ALICE MARY, born 27 February 1867 in Norwich

ELLA FLORENCE, born 21 March 1870 in Norwich

EMMA ELIZA, born 19 February 1873 in Norwich

GEORGE HENRY, born 16 April 1876 in Norwich, twin brother of,

HERBERT THOMAS, born 16 April 1876 in Norwich

THOMAS, born 21 July 1878 in Norwich

PHYLLIS RUTH, born 5 August 1881 in Norwich

ETHEL SOPHIA, born 31 January 1884 in Norwich

EMMA NEWMAN MS WRIGHT died on 23 February 1912 of bronchitis and heart failure, aged 68 at her home, 24 Rose Valley, Unthank Road, Norwich. **GEORGE NEWMAN** died on 21 June 1918 aged 73 of arterio sclerosis and inflammation of the kidneys at the home of his son-in-law George Jordan, 6 Gladstone Street, Norwich.

ERNEST NEWMAN went to Northern Ireland where he married LAURA EDWARDS whom he had met in Norwich where she had been born in mid-1867 the daughter of JAMES and LOUISA EDWARDS. They were married on 31 January 1892 in St Andrews Church, Belfast; Ernest is described as a Litho printer and Laura as a shoe trimmer. They had two boys:

GEORGE ERNEST, born 11 November 1892 in Belfast

ERNEST ARTHUR, born 11 July 1895 in Belfast

Nothing more is known of them.

ALICE MARY NEWMAN was a domestic servant in 1881 but still living with her parents. In 1891 she is again recorded as a domestic servant but living in with the household of William and Eliza Stacey, of independent means, at Holly Lodge, Norwich. She remained in service during her life and had retired before 1939. She never married, and died early in 1952 aged 84.

ELLA FLORENCE NEWMAN is described as a tailoress in 1891, aged 21 but still living with her parents. She married GEORGE HENRY JORDAN, the son of JOHN JORDAN, a farmer, and MARY his wife, on 27 March 1897. In 1891 George Jordan was an apprentice carpenter, in 1901 he is described as a "builder's foreman, carpenter and joiner". They had five children:

PHYLLIS MAUD JORDAN, born 12 April 1898 in Norwich. She was at school in 1911 and in 1939 was a nurse at the Great Hospital for the Reception of Aged People. She never married and died in 1952 aged 84.

LEWIS JOHN JORDAN, born 9 April 1902 in Norwich. He worked as a builder and in 1930 married ROSE R. PYE. Rose died in 1945. Lewis lived until January 1993 when he died aged 90.

IRENE ELLA JORDAN, born 27 November 1905 in Norwich. In 1949 she married CECIL JARRETT of whom nothing is known. Irene died at the end of 1964 aged 59.

GERTRUDE ANNA JORDAN, born 19 December 1908 in Norwich. She was living with her parents in 1939 when she was listed as a Secretary. She did not marry and died in July 1993 aged 84.

GEORGE HENRY JORDAN, born 17 February 1911 in Norwich. He was a 'Carpenter and

Joiner'. Towards the end of 1939 he married FLORENCE GERTRUDE BREM, born 27 July 1916. They had no children. George died in January 1993 aged 81 and Florence in December 2006 aged 90.

EMMA ELIZA NEWMAN was, like her elder sister Ella, described as a tailoress in the census of 1891 when she was aged 18. Emma became very interested in the work of the Salvation Army which had begun in Norwich in 1882. Her father, George Newman, was a staunch member of the Church of England and insisted on going to one of the Salvation Army's meetings before he would allow his daughter to attend. Though not attracted to the style of worship himself, he was impressed by what he saw and allowed Emma to join. There was a photograph in the family, now untraceable, showing Emma playing a flute or piccolo in the Salvation Army Norwich Corps orchestra; but more of Emma in Part 3.

GEORGE HENRY NEWMAN in 1891, aged 14, was an errand boy; and in the census of 1901 and subsequent records is described as a 'mineral water worker'. He married, on 10 February 1900 at Lakenham parish church, FLORENCE EDITH REEVE, who was born on 24 January 1877, the daughter of THOMAS REEVE, mustard labourer, and EMMA MS CONSTABLE. They had only one known child:

FLORENCE ALICE NEWMAN who was born on 24 January 1901. In 1939 she was a clerk in a chemists, but little else is known of her; it is believed she lived in Norwich, remained single and died in about 1975.

Reeve family tradition has it that Emma Constable was descended from a brother or cousin of John Constable the painter, but this line has not been traced.

HERBERT THOMAS NEWMAN died in infancy, on 9 December 1876 aged 7 months.

THOMAS NEWMAN is recorded in 1901, aged 22, as an iron worker, living with his parents. He was living in 1911 and may be the Thomas Newman, born in Norwich, a house painter boarding in the household of Rachel Knyht in Bromley, Kent. Nothing more is known of him; family recollection has it that he served during the first world war and went missing, but no official record of him can be found.

PHYLLIS RUTH NEWMAN was known to the family as Ruth. In 1901 was a tailoress aged 19, and in 1911 was a 'dispatch hand' in a chocolate factory. She worked all her life in Norwich, never married, and died in April 1962 aged 80.

ETHEL SOPHIA NEWMAN was living with her parents in 1901 aged 17 and no occupation is recorded. In 1911 she is recorded, like her elder sister, as a 'dispatch hand' in a chocolate factory, and she, too, worked all her life in Norwich and never married. She died on 26 October 1956 aged 72.

Notes:

1. The censuses before 1841 were merely head-counts but in some places lists of names in each household, and occasionally other information, was recorded. The 1801, 1811 and 1821 censuses of Winfarthing, listing the names of persons in each household with their ages, survive and are in the Norfolk Record Office.
2. Although civil registration in England began in July 1837 the onus was on the registrar to collect the information, and there was no penalty on persons who failed to register an event. In 1875 the law was changed to place the onus of registration on the persons

concerned and penalties applied for failing to do so. Many events before 1875 were not registered particularly in rural areas like Norfolk.

3. Believed to have been born in Bunwell, although no birth or baptismal records can be found.

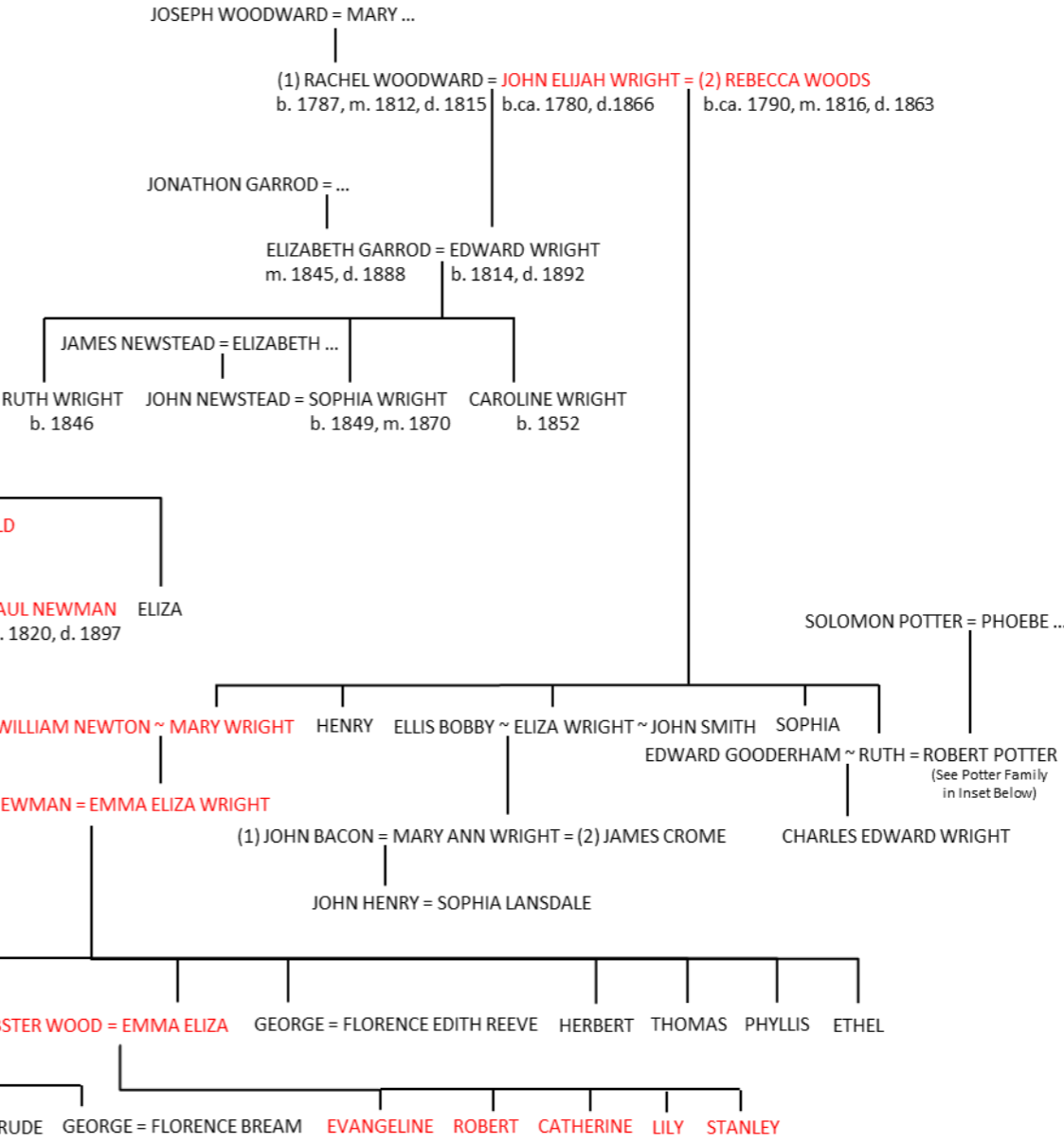
4. There is another Sarah Newman in the 1871 census, a year younger and a draper's assistant in Luton, said to be born in Wimbolton, Norfolk. There is no such place, indeed there is no place name in Norfolk ending in -bolton (Norfolk Museums and Archæology Service gazetteer). Either this Sarah or the census enumerator has made a mistake. The Sarah mentioned in the text, of the right age and very specifically born in Winfarthing, is certainly the correct person.

5. The practice of a widow becoming the partner of her late husband's younger brother is mentioned in the Bible; in the Old Testament, Deut. 25:5, and in the New Testament, Mk 12:19. This or similar customs were followed by the Romans and other civilizations and have endured ever since. The purpose was to provide for the widow and any children, and as security for the widow and her new husband in their old age. A ceremony is unimportant if the intention was that the relationship should be permanent.

6. There is an hiatus in the baptismal registers at about this time.

7. James Crome and Dorothy were together in Hackney in the 1901 census when Dorothy is recorded as being paralysed. She died towards the end of 1903. James Crome continued working for Midland Railways until 31 January 1921 when he was given notice to leave being "too old to satisfactorily perform his duties." He was then 74. He died in July 1923 in the sea at Ramsgate "in three feet of water either of heart failure or of accidental drowning" (coroner's inquest).

THE WRIGHT FAMILY



THE NEWMAN FAMILY

