

The
Pillinger
Family History

Part 1 - The Pillingers of Kingswood
From Yatton Keynell to Outer Space

D. P. Lindegaard B.A.

Attempt the End
And Never Stand in Doubt
Nothing's so Hard
But Search will find it out.

Robert Herrick

Contact:

**D.P. Lindegaard B.A.
49 Clayfield Rd
Brislington
Bristol, BS4 4NH**

Email

dplindegaard@bristolfamilyhistory.co.uk

or my website

www.bristolfamilyhistory.co.uk

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D. P. Lindegaard

Introduction to the History of the Pillinger family.

I began to trace the family history 25 years ago when my husband and our then young family came to Brislington to live. In St Luke's churchyard there are several gravestones bearing the Pillinger legend. After making this exciting discovery, my brother and I spent a number of riveting evenings in the old Brislington vicarage among the parish registers. We traced the family back to 1713, and drew up the results into a family tree as a "treat" for our father's birthday.

Unrolling the precious document with a suitable flourish, we cried, "Now, Dad, tell us which are your grandparents on here!"

Dad's reply was classic: "None of them, ye dummocks, we come from Kingswood!"

This then, is an object lesson on how NOT to trace your ancestors. Undeterred, I set about tracing the "right" lot, who indeed had lived in Kingswood, then a mining waste in the parish of Bitton, from 1754, but before that were poor Moonrakers from the Wiltshire village of Yatton Keynell. Hence the subtitle of the volume. My brother Professor Colin Pillinger, provides the connection to Outer Space.

This history is the result of thousands of hours of research over the past quarter century, as well as many bits and pieces provided by informants, too numerous to mention, but I am sure they will recognise their contributions. To them many thanks. My thanks also to the Bristol and Wiltshire Record Offices for putting up with me for so long, and for permission to reproduce documents in their care.

It has been a great thrill to rediscover the American branch of the family, and for our present scions to meet here and in the USA after an interval of more than 100 years.

The most difficult task has been to compile the family trees, without, I have to say, an appropriate computer programme. I am as sure as I can be that they are correct, but in time, no doubt I will be informed of any mistakes. I apologise in advance for omitting anyone. I would be delighted if the descendants of Aaron of Kidderminster or Stephen of South Africa would make contact.

And....what happened to the "wrong" Brislington family? You've probably guessed it. I've researched them as well, and those at Box, Lechlade, Gloucester and Hereford, indeed anywhere, even as far as Australia to seek those of our number unfortunate enough to be "transported beyond the seas." These results will be published in future volumes.

Finally, I dedicate this book to the memory of the best Pillinger of all, my father Jack Pillinger, 1902-1985. Amor vincit omnia.

Doreen Patricia Pillinger Lindegaard.
Brislington, 1997.

Author's Note

Since this book was written.....

The dog went to Mars but failed to bark. Our father, Jack, often said "Blessed is he that expects nothing for he shall not be disappointed", but I know that he would have been the most disappointed person on (either) planet. Colin kept ours, (and the nation's), spirits up in the full glare of the media during Christmas 2003 and New Year 2004 in a manner which recalled Kipling's "If" and was compared to Shackleton and Scott in the process which can't be bad. When you lose a dog, the best therapy is to get another. Despite his latest setback – he was recently diagnosed with MS - Colin is as enthusiastic as ever for the project and is determined there will be a new Beagle 2.

The mystery of the name Sallai, Salai or Sallia Pillinger, one of our earliest ancestors, is now solved. According to Easton's Bible Dictionary, Sallai is a rather obscure character named in Nehemiah 11.7/8, 12.7, 12.20, and Chronicles 9.7. The name means "a basketmaker" a fact which strikes me as possible evidence of a heavenly sense of humour. My son Kevin Lindegaard, Sallai's direct descendant, runs a venture called "The Wonder Tree", which is of course the willow. The making of baskets is one of the myriad uses for this truly wonderful tree. Incidentally our Sallai shares his name with the trusted servant of Leonardo da Vinci.

On a familial note, I have made contact with Tori Pillinger, the international skier. She is now Mrs Harrison and has two daughters. Not only did she walk again, but she has trekked in the Himalayas and like my daughter Celia Barlow, is a marathon runner!

Also, the South African family, unlike Beagle 2, "phoned home", and I now have a full family tree of their births, marriages and deaths since they left Kingswood in the early 20th century. I have not made contact with surviving members of Aaron's family, but the publication of the entire 1881 census in family groups on the internet and the indexing of the 1901 census have answered questions concerning their previous whereabouts. Nevertheless I am still left with the mystery of how did Aaron, from a family of coalminers, manage to make his living as a musician?

Several minor misdeeds have come to light. John Pillinger was cleared of the theft of brass at Mangotsfield in January 1843, though the other Aaron, Tori's ancestor, had two convictions, the first for the theft of fowls, the second on 21 October 1869 for receiving a quantity of oats for which he received 12 Calendar months with hard labour in Gloucester Gaol! I suspect that with his "past" he would be an unwelcome visitor to the USA if he applied today.

On a sad note, our beloved mother and grandmother, Florence (Flo) died in March 2001 aged 95, but not before she had seen the full scale model of Beagle 2 - and it really was just the size of a dustbin lid - unfolded on our living room floor. So she too shared in the adventure. RIP.

Finally, congratulations to Colin who was made CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2003.
D. P. Lindegaard, 25 July 2005.

Samuel Pillinger of Bradford on Avon & Yatton Keynell

The history of the Pillinger family of Kingswood, as far as can currently be proved begins in the churchyard of St Thomas a Becket, at Box, in Wiltshire, when Mary Pillinger, "the wife of Samuel Pillinger of Bradford" was buried on 11 October 1692. Other Pillingers had lived in the village for almost a century, and were descended from Hugh Pillinger, who married his second wife there, and subsequently divided his time between Box and Doynton in Gloucestershire. Unfortunately, a baptism for Samuel Pillinger does not appear among the many children of the Box family, nor is there a marriage between Samuel and Mary, neither at Box nor anywhere else. It seems to defy credibility that Samuel "of Bradford" who chose to bury his wife at Box, should not be connected with the large Pillinger family living there, especially as the surname at that time exists only in two other places in the county, at Ditteridge and Lacock. Philip Pellinger, was vicar of Ditteridge from 1585 until 1622. He was almost certainly connected with Hugh Pillinger of Doynton/Box, and both seem to have arrived in Wiltshire from the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire borders area. The Lacock Pillingers appear to be descended from one of the sons of Philip. Both the Ditteridge and Lacock families lived in their respective parishes for one generation only, and then are heard of no more. The numerous Box family flourished for many generations and Pillingers still live in the area today.

After the death of his wife, Samuel returned to Bradford on Avon where he remarried on 26 May 1693. His bride's name was quaintly spelled by the clerk as Sary Boteller. Alas, this marriage is the only Pillinger entry at Bradford, but Samuel appears to have had a child from his first marriage to Mary, a boy with the unique name Sallia. I have supposed that Sallia was about eight years old when our history opens.

Sometime between 1692 and 1695, the little family of Samuel, Sarah and Sallia moved to Yatton Keynell, also known as Church Yatton, a small village to the west of Chippenham with a parish church and an Inn called The Bell. Superstitious notions evidently still persisted probably right up to Samuel's day and beyond: when The Bell was modernised in recent times, the gruesome discovery was made of the skeletons of a cat and a rat, which had been walled up as a protection against evil spirits. An ancient wall-sign advises those who wish to escape that it is 97 miles to Hyde Park Corner and 11 to Sodbury.

The first known event at Yatton Keynell which concerns our family was on 19 August 1695 when "Mary the daughter of Samuel Pollinger and Sarah his wife" was baptised.

Six more children were born to the couple and christened at Yatton Keynell: Thomas on 1 September, 1697, Elizabeth, 30 April, 1699, Samuel, "the last of August" 1701, who died in infancy, and Nathaniel on 19 January 1703. In 1704, another Samuel was born and in 1705, a daughter called Sarah after her mother. Perhaps Sarah senior never recovered from this confinement and in June the next year, she became ill. Her complaint was evidently caught by Samuel aged two, and both mother and son died. They were buried together on 16 June 1706, "in woollen according to the law".

"Burial in woollen" was designed by the Government of the day to stimulate a recession hit wool trade, and from it, we may deduce, as if we really needed to, that Samuel's family was not amongst the well to do, who often chose to be more grandly sent off in linen shrouds, and whose mourners were required to pay a fine for the privilege.

The twice widowed Samuel again found a new wife, called Susan, Susanna or Shusanna - the last, the variation of the name chosen by my brother Colin Pillinger for his daughter.* She gave birth to a third Samuel, christened on 25 September 1715, who was to be her only child. Like his two previous namesakes, this little Samuel did not survive. He was buried on 30 September 1720, at just over five years old. Shusanna Pillinger was buried on 7 May 1736. This time Samuel remained a widower until his death five years later. He was buried at Yatton Keynell on 2 March 1741.

Sallia Pillinger of Yatton Keynell and Colerne.

Sallia's first recorded appearance at Yatton Keynell is in 1716. He was by then married and had a child.

In order to accommodate this unheralded appearance, it was necessary to construct a hypothesis. The only way Sallia could be fitted into the family tree from the records available was to assume that he was a child of Samuel Pillinger and his first wife Mary who lay in Box churchyard. If this was the case he was born around 1685/1686. [As with Samuel, his baptism has never been found.] I have called him Sallia for convenience, although he was also rendered as Salliah, Sallai, Sallier and Shelah, showing that his strange name puzzled others as much as it does me! It has been suggested that the variations represent an attempt at Latinising the name Saul - the way he is indexed at Gloucester Record Office.

Sallia married Elizabeth Gale at Cold Ashton, Gloucestershire on 4 February 1716. Family history is not all of a piece, and it was many years after finding the marriage entry that I made the chance discovery that at the time of his wedding the bridegroom was living at Westerleigh, also in Gloucestershire, not far by modern transport, but by no means near to Cold Ashton at a time when travel for the poor was on foot or by carrier's cart! Here at Westerleigh, the Bishop's surrogate issued him with the necessary licence to marry. The need for a licence was simple: to speed matters up: the alternative, marriage by banns, required the names of both parties to be called out in church for three clear Sundays before the wedding could take place whereas on production of a licence, the ceremony could take place at once.

There may once have existed a settlement certificate - for people were not allowed to move about willy-nilly - which confirmed Sallia's place of origin and lawful settlement at Yatton Keynell, but which also listed other places where he had lived, probably as an itinerant labourer, one who hired himself out at mop fairs for a year and day.

At the time of his marriage, I believe he was about 32, and his bride, no spring chicken either, was 37.

** It is not certain whether the "H" in Shusanna was generally*
on 7 May 1736. This time Samuel remained a widower until his death five years later. He was buried at Yatton Keynell on 2 March 1741.

Sallia Pillinger of Yatton Keynell and Colerne.

Elizabeth and the Gales.

Elizabeth, like her husband, came from Yatton Keynell, where her first known ancestor is Josias Gale. He had two sons, Josias and Arthur, who were married during the Commonwealth period, when most of the Anglican clergy had been dispossessed. The beautiful Church of England marriage service from Cranmer's prayer book had been done away with, and weddings were rather bleak affairs, without even a ring, which was deemed "a circle for the devil to daunce in". The couple made simple vows before a Justice of the Peace which were recorded by a "Register".

Where records of Commonwealth marriages survive, they are a godsend for the family historian, for they are far more detailed than the church entries of the previous era which simply show the names of the couple and the date. It is interesting to note that the father's name is supplied in the case of the bridegroom, and the mother's name for the bride! This intriguing and felicitous - not to say feminist! - habit, was abandoned at the Restoration, and parentage would not be entered again in marriage registers until 1837.

The following is a transcript of the marriage entries of Arthur and Josias written in the parish register of Yatton Keynell:

"Arthur Gealle the sone of Josias Galle and Ann Willes, daughter of Ann Willes was marryed at Grittleton by Nicklas Green Jystis of the Peece the 2d Day of July. The witnesses are Josias Galle and John Harris. Robert Rimell, Register of the parish of Eatton Keynell, 1655."

and his brother

"Josias Geall, the sone of Josias Gealle and Ferris Smart, daughter of Jone Smart have been published three Lordes days from 8 day of July to 22 July and married at Hullavington by me, George Tye, Justis of the Peace, 27th August 1655. The witnesses are Abraham Smart and Martha Stonel[?], year 1655."

Arthur and Ann Gale had twins: Joan and George in 1656. After Ann's death, Arthur had three children with his second wife Jane: John in 1668, Nicholas in 1670 and our Elizabeth who was baptised on 9 June 1678 and married to Sallia Pillinger on 5 February 1716 at the parish church of Cold Ashton.

Possibly prior to her wedding, Elizabeth stayed with relatives: Arthur Gane and Alice Wilton who married at Cold Ashton in 1714, and were resident there when their children Elizabeth, John, Mary and Hannah were born. At the christening of Mary in 1721, the father's name is shown as Gale.

During her time there an urgent message was sent to Sallia at Westerleigh.

The children of Sallia and Elizabeth Pillinger.

Sallia and Elizabeth returned to Yatton Keynell after their marriage, and Nathaniel their son, named after Sallia's half brother, was baptised there on 24 April 1716. He was followed by a second son, called Arthur, after Elizabeth's father, and perhaps also for her Cold Ashton friend. [The name

Arthur, not very common in those days is circumstantial evidence that the Elizabeth Gale recorded at Yatton Keynell is the one who later became Elizabeth Pillinger.] Elizabeth probably never recovered from her second pregnancy and she was buried at Yatton Keynell on 16 January 1721.

By the time the family next appears, Sallia was married to his second wife Mary and they were living at Colerne where young Arthur, now presumably aged six, was jointly christened with his baby half brother, William, the entry written in Latin: "Guilielmus and Arthur fillii Sallai Pillinger" on 21 May 1727. A daughter, Mary ["Maria filia Salai Pillinger"] was baptised at Colerne on 8 April 1730.

Sallia Pillinger returned to Yatton Keynell and was living there when he died. He was buried there on 21 April 1737, being survived by his father, Samuel, and also by his widow, Mary who lived on for nearly forty years. She was buried 16 June 1776, aged 88, described "the widow of Shelah Pillinger, of Allington". Allington is a small hamlet between Yatton and Chippenham.

Arthur Pillinger, the son of Sallia and Elizabeth, went to Marshfield, in Gloucestershire, where he and his wife Joyce brought up a small family: Mary, baptised in 1752, who died at the age of seventeen, Betty, born 1754, of whom nothing else is known; Sarah baptised 1759 who had a daughter called Betty in 1780, and who two years later married Richard Bancroft of Box. William, son of Arthur and Joyce, baptised 1759 is perhaps the William who was married to Jane and who had a daughter also called Jane, baptised at Bitton in 1777, in an otherwise puzzling entry for a couple who make no other appearance there. They also may have had a son George, who was buried at Marshfield in 1834 aged 57, and who was survived by his widow Hester, who was buried there aged 61, in 1849.

William Pillinger, the son of Sallia and Mary seems to be the William who married Hannah Salway at Box in 1749. Mary, his sister married William Taverner at Yatton Keynell in 1756.

Thomas Pillinger, born Yatton Keynell, 1697, half-brother of Sallia, son of Samuel & Sarah, with his wife Ann, daughter Betty, and baby son William went to Abson, also known as Wick & Abson, a village in South Gloucestershire. They had arrived some time around 1733: their daughter Ann was baptised there on 27 April. Next came Sarah: she was christened at Abson on 6 July 1735, and a fortnight later the family took her to Yatton Keynell to show her off to grandpa Samuel, and step-grandma Shusanna, and had her christened again! Memories of this happy occasion must soon have been clouded by the death, in 1736, of little William. In the following years a steady tribe of seven more children, were born. All thrived, and all survived infancy.

A Shot Gun Wedding

In the latter part of 1751, there was something of a to do. Ann, aged 19, discovered she was pregnant. Whether she told her parents and was thrown out by them or ran away, we shall never know; it is certain she left home, and disappeared into the sprawling outparish of St Philip and St Jacob on the eastern edge of Bristol. Maybe for a time, she was able to find work,

AAA
see page
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1692 Anno Domini 1692.
 Richard Hedges buried April 15th
 Abraham son of John Head. May 16th Infant.
 John son of John Hedges. May 31st
 Sarah wife of John Lillinger. June 14th
 James son of Henry Fifield. July 26th
 Thomas son of Elizabeth Colts. Septemb: 11th
 Thomas son of Robert Butler. Septemb: 12th
 Mary wife of Samuel Lillinger of Bradford. October 11th
 First daughter of Thomas Hayward. October 12th

Burial of Mary, wife of Samuel Pillenger of Bradford, at Box, 11 October 1692
 [Note the burial of Sarah Pillinger of the Box family in the same year]

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 April
 Robert Hanny and Sary Abraham married the 16th Day
 John Johnsons and Sary Boteller the 17th Day
 William Pears and Mery Grant the 20th Day
 May
 John Henny of Gwille Sary Taylor of the 1st Day
 John Barber of Barton and Sary Lest of Mollsham the 1st Day
 William Mays and Sary Hanny the 7th Day
 Robert Hanny and Ellenor Grant the 11th Day
 Linnel Gubs and Mery Pears of Gwille the 14th Day
 Nathaniel Mays and Mery Rouns the 15th Day
 Edward Stokes als Barly and Ellenor Hanny the 15th Day
 Samuel Peillinger and Sary Boteller the 26th Day

Marriage of Samuel Peillinger and Sary Boteller at Bradford on Avon, 26 May 1693

William the son of Robert Hanny
 was baptised the 18th Day of
 Shusanna pilenger
 was buried at Yatton Keynell in April, 1726

31 Mar 1716	Dobromir Davis do Joan Mary Maria Gilford	24 May 1716
4 Feb 1715	Sallai Pillinger do Westerly & Elize Gale	Mr. Sheppard
7 - - -	The Marriage Licence Bond of Sallai Pillinger of Westerly (Westerleigh) & Elize Gale of 4 February 1715/6 (at Gloucestershire Record Office)	
10 Mar	John Parker do Sothampton & Maria Naggon	24 May 1716
27 - 1716	Thomas Perry & Maria Davis do Cranston Cott.	
9 Apr	Henry Towers do Gale & Elizabeth Simpson	
9 May	Wm. Wood do Langworthly & Martha Dole	
2 Feb 1714	John Thomas do Borkley & Maria May	Mr. Jones
3 - - -	Wm Taylor do Stambury & Joanne Bridges	
7 - - -	Rado Bishop do Borkley & Maria Knight	
17 - - -	Miles Oatridge do Cooby & Maria Welkin	
14 Janu	Jacob Wilkin do frus & Maria Colley	
14 Jan 1715	Tho Bishop do Estbury & Jane Brown	

A Transcript of y^e Register of Cold Ashton
 for y^e year 1715 made by Wm Osborn
 w^{ch} Jm Palmer Church Warden: viz
 Wm Rawlings Junior & Mary Ayle² were married 29th of
 Salai pillinger & Elizabeth Gale were married 29th of

The marriage of Salai pillinger & Elizabeth Gale, the same day at Cold Ashton ap =

William y^e son of Wm & Mary Osborn was buried
 February y^e 29th
 Mary y^e Daughter of Jm & Jane Stone was
 buried march y^e 20th day

Edm. Pitts Rector

William Osborn }
 Jm Palmer } Church Warden

John & Mary nee Maxine the 6 Day of August
 1655
 Father yealls the son of Josias galle and
 Mother the daughter of Am. White
 the 2 Day of July the Wifnes are
 of the parish of Yatton Keynell 1655
 of the parish of Yatton Keynell 1655
 the 2 Day of July and married at Yatton Keynell
 at the year the 2 Day of July

The Gale Commonwealth marriages at Yatton Keynell, 1655

wife was baptised the 2 Day of January
 Thomas the son of John Book and his wife was
 baptised the 16 Day of January 1737
 April 21 Sallia Pillenger was Buried 1737
 William the son of William Jainsberry
 Buried the 3 of May 1737

Burial of Sallia Pillenger at Yatton Keynell, 21 April, 1737

Sara the daughter of ...
 was baptised the 24 Day of January 1742
 Shegan Tausnon was Buried the 22 of January 1742
 Samuel Pilenger was Buried the 2 Day of March
 was baptised the 1 Day of March 1742

Burial of Samuel Pilenger at Yatton Keynell, 2 March, 1742/3

*Nathaniel son of Salliah Pillinger & Elizabeth his wife
Baptized April 24th 1716*

Baptism of Nathaniel, the son of Salliah Pillinger & Elizabeth his wife at Yatton Keynell, 24 April 1716

*Buried Elizabeth the wife of Salliah Pillinger
on the same day Jan 16th*

Burial of Elizabeth, the wife of Salliah Pillinger at Yatton Keynell, 16 January 1721

*Samuel son of Samuel Pillinger & Susan his wife
25th*

Baptism of Samuel, the son of Samuel Pillinger & Susan his wife at Yatton Keynell, 25 September 1715

*Mary the daughter of William James
and Anne his wife was baptized
Sara the daughter Thomas Pilenger
same day*

Baptism of Sara, the daughter of Thomas Pilenger [of Wick & Abson] at Yatton Keynell, [her second christening] in July 1735

but this became impossible when her condition advanced, and finally, friendless and destitute, she was brought before the Overseers of the Poor of the parish and bundled into the House of Correction at Lawford's Gate. Here she was forced to undergo a searching cross-examination by officers of the law.

Under the Poor Law of the time, a child born out of wedlock was deemed to be the financial responsibility of the parish in which it was born. Overseers and Churchwardens, themselves ratepayers, had a vested interest in avoiding this burden at all costs. It was perhaps these officials, who were obliged to take their turn to serve - unpaid - who saw unmarried motherhood as "a fate worse than death", as much as the unfortunate woman herself. One of the options was to get the woman out of the parish and into the next as quickly as possible, though the buck was bound to stop sooner or later; another was to get the principals married. I don't suppose that Ann had any reason to keep the name of the father of her child secret, and when she was questioned, she told them. The presence of a magistrate was requested. Mr Thomas Haynes, Justice of the Peace, Lord of the Manor of Wick & Abson - and Ann's father's landlord - was summoned, and hustled into Bristol. Apparently very well thought of, his burial eulogy in 1776 said his "character as an upright magistrate will remain a shining example to future ages". The Haynes family were "nouveau riche" and had bought the parish, in the familiar phrase "lock, stock and barrel" and it is illuminating to note exactly the amount of power that went with such a purchase, both as landlord and officer of the law. Armed with a warrant, the upright Mr Haynes rode off to Abson, and soon returned with the miscreant, and "to the House of Correction committed the body of Richard Rew, charged on the oath of Ann Pillinger with having begotten her with child, which child when born is a bastard, and likely to become chargeable to the Parish of St Philip & St Jacob."

Dick, who at the start must have said the eighteenth century equivalent of "Not me, Guv", thus banged up in gaol, mulled over the alternatives, and was then persuaded to do the decent thing. The banns were called in the church. There was no "just impediment", and the prison books record that Richard "was kept three weeks and married, and discharged by the overseers of the said parish." Perhaps he was manacled to a guard at the altar to prevent him absconding: Parson Woodforde in his famous diary recalls marrying reluctant grooms in such circumstances! Nothing of all this palaver would be known if the marriage register of St Philip's was the only source: the record simply states that on 24 February 1752 Richard Rew and Ann Pillinger were married. So far, I have not found the baptism of the child, nor what became of Richard and Ann Rew.

Back in Abson, tragedy struck the family of Thomas and Ann Pillinger. In 1758, Mary aged 18 was taken gravely ill, shivering and vomiting, with pains in her head and back. By the third day, a rash appeared on her face and trunk, which rapidly spread to the rest of her body, forming raised pocks oozing with pus. It was small pox. Mary worsened and died. She was buried on 4 June 1758. Through the remainder of the summer and winter, the rest of the children continued healthy, then with the onset of spring 1759, the infection returned. Betty was buried on the 20 March. Hannah aged 17 was buried on 24 June, and six days later, the three youngest children Thomas, aged 11, Jacob aged 5 and Amy aged 7 were all buried on the same

day, 16 July. Samuel aged 14 was buried nine days later. All their burial notices are accompanied by the dire words: "in the small pox".

In the short space of thirteen months where there had been ten children of the family, only three remained. I find it quite impossible to contemplate grief on such a scale. The survivors were the married Ann Rew - if she was indeed still alive, Sarah, the Yatton Keynell baby, now aged 24, and John, who was fifteen. The stricken family surely thought they could not possibly suffer any more. Then after a gap of almost five years, John became ill with the familiar symptoms. In his twentieth year, he too died of small pox and was buried beside his brothers and sisters on 25 February 1764. Only Sarah remained at home. Like her parents, Thomas and Ann, she must have been infected over and over again, and rendered immune. Later that year on 20 October ^{she} married a local man, James Osborne.

Ann Pillinger, having suffered the wicked loss of so many of her children clung to life for another four bitter years. Her burial entry contains only her name and the date, a broken heart not considered sufficient to be remarked on as a cause of death.

Death and the rent collector are the only certainties in this life. From 1763 to 1764 Thomas Pillinger paid rent of £3. 10s per year, at 17s. 6d per quarter "for the cottage, late Kings" to Thomas Haynes, the Lord of the Manor. By 1765, and particularly after John's death in 1764, it must have become too much for him, and the greater part of the holding was rented by one Richard Kew, with Thomas's portion decreasing to 10s per quarter. The arrival of this Richard Kew, is tantalising - a man whose name differs by only one letter from that of Thomas's reluctant son in law, and who also had a wife called Ann. Richard and Ann Kew had four children baptised at Pucklechurch between 1756 and 1770. Much as I would like to think that the remnants of the family became reconciled when grief put the earlier escapade into perspective, I cannot make Kew into Rew, as the spelling is quite clear in the various records. *Unless -- unless it was a mistake by the overseers at St Philip and Jacob - and the name was Kew all along --*

Thomas's rent remained static until Lady Day 1776 when he paid £2 for one year. He is not mentioned again until 16 September 1777, when he again paid £2. By October 1780, the plot is described as "late Pillinger's" and was rented to George Woodington. Thomas lived on to the great age of 86, having left Abson for nearby Bitton, where by now other Pillingers from Yatton Keynell had come to live. He was buried at Bitton in 1783.

Nathaniel Pillinger, the last of Samuel's sons went to the City of Bristol. A rare bird, he has so far been spotted only twice. Firstly on 3 May 1734 when "Samuel, the son of Nathaniel Pillinger, carpenter" was baptised at St Mary Redcliffe. Sadly, this little Samuel shared the same fate as the others of his name. He was buried, six months after his christening at St Thomas's, Bristol, "aged two" on 24 November 1734.

Nothing further is known of Nathaniel, the carpenter. The name of his wife is likewise unknown. The newspapers of the time frequently advertised for tradesmen to take their chances in the New World. I would like to think they went to America.

The Pilinger for the Cottage late King's 3:10-0 yearly Th.H. Co from page 86

1 Sep: 1763	Rec 1 Quarter to Midsum 1763	0 17 6
24 Nov 1763	Do 1 Qu ^r to Mich ^l 1763	0 17 6
19 Mar: 1764	Do 1 Qu ^r to Xmas 1763	0 17 6
11 June 1764	Do 1 Qu ^r to Lady Day 1764	0 17 6
4 Sept 1764	Do 1 Qu ^r to Midsum 1764	0 17 6
10 Dec: 1764	Do 1 Qu ^r to Xmas 1764	0 17 6
5 March 1765	Do 1 Qu ^r to Xmas 1764	0 17 6
June 1765	Do 1 Qu ^r to Lady Day 1765	0 17 6
16 Sept 1765	Do 1 Qu ^r to Midsum 1765	0 17 6
17 Dec 1765	Do 1 Qu ^r to Mich ^l 1765	0 17 6
19 March 1766	Do 1 Qu ^r to Xmas 1765	0 17 6
20 Sept 1766	Do of Tho Pilinger 10.0 to Midsum 1766	1 0 0
30 Oct 1766	Do of Rich. Kew 1.2.6 to Mich ^l 1766	1 2 6
23 March 1767	Do of T. Pilinger to Xmas 1766	1 0 0
20 June 1767	Do of T. Pilinger to Lady Day 1767	0 10 0
16 Sept 1767	Do of do to Midsum 1767	0 10 0
13 Dec 1767	Do of R. Kew half year to Lady Day last	0 15 0
	Do to Mich ^l 1767	1 0 0
14 Dec 1767	Do of Tho Pilinger 1/4 year to Mich ^l 1767	0 10 0
24 Aug 1768	Do of do 1/2 year to Lady Day 1768	1 0 0
5 Sept 1768	Do of Rich Kew 3/4 year to Midsum 1768	1 10 0
7 Sept 1768	Do of Tho Pilinger 1 Qu ^r to Midsum 1768	0 10 0
24 Apr 1769	Do of Tho Pilinger 1/2 year to Xmas 1768	1 0 0
5 June 1769	Rec of Rich Kew 3/4 year to Lady Day 1769	1 10 0
27 Sept 1769	Rec of Tho Pilinger 1/2 year to Midsum 1769	1 0 0
30 Mar 1770	Rec of do 1/2 year to Xmas 1769	1 0 0
16 June 1770	Rec of Rich Kew 1 year to Lady Day 1770	2 0 0
27 June 1770	Rec of Tho Pilinger 1/2 year to Midsum 1770	1 0 0
22 Nov 1770	Rec of Tho Pilinger 1/2 year to Mich ^l 1770	0 10 0
5 Mar 1771	Rec of Tho Pilinger 1/2 year to Xmas 1770	0 10 0
8 June 1771	Rec of Tho Pilinger 1/2 year to Lady Day 1771	0 10 0
10 June 1771	Rec of Rich Kew 1 year to Lady Day 1771	2 0 0
16 Sept 1771	Rec of Tho Pilinger 1/2 year to Midsum 1771	0 10 0
Dec 1771	Rec of Tho Pilinger 3/4 year to Mich ^l 1771	0 10 0
13 March 1772	Rec of do 1/2 year to Xmas 1771	0 10 0
2 June 1772	Rec of do 1/2 year to Lady Day 1772	0 10 0
18 June 1772	Rec of R. Kew to Lady Day 1772	2 0 0
9 Sept 1772	Do of Tho Pilinger to Midsum 1772	0 10 0
14 Dec 1772	Do of Tho Pilinger to Mich ^l 1772	0 10 0

R. Kew to pay
of Tho
Pilinger 02

Thomas Haines' Rent book, Wick and Abson, showing Thomas Pilinger's and Richard Kew's rents, 1763-1772

Nathaniel Pillinger at Kingswood

Nothing is known of Nathaniel Pillinger, the son of Sallia and Elizabeth, from his birth at Yatton Keynell in 1716 until the autumn of 1740, when he was twenty four years old. Sadly, we find him in gaol, in the Bridewell at Marlborough, charged with a pathetic theft.

The Gaol Delivery Indictment reads:

"Wilts to Wit. A Kalendar of the prisoners in his Majesty's Bridewell in or near Marlbro in and for the said County, the 7th day of October 1740.

"Nathaniel Pilinger. By Walter Hungerford, Esquire Charged on oath of Robert Pearce with having in his house one sack, a winnowing sheet Converted into Bedding, the property of the said Robert Pearce and other Sacks, the property of Others and Also on Suspicion of Breaking the Said Pearce's Barn and stealing Another Winnowing Sheet."

A winnowing sheet was made of coarse sacking and used to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Poor Nathaniel, living in so comfortless a dwelling that he was driven to the desperate theft of a few sacks, cobbling them together to make a bed. And Robert Pearce, in high dudgeon seeking redress from Walter Hungerford, Justice of the Peace, sitting in his grand parlour. Before we blame Farmer Pearce over much, it has to be noted that the amount of the average person's property was so small, that every item was minutely noted. After the oath was sworn, Walter Hungerford had little option but to send his men to arrest Nathaniel and he was carried off to the Bridewell.

It can presumed that Robert Pearce's farm where Nathaniel had been working was in or near the town of Calne, it being the area over which Mr Hungerford held jurisdiction.

That Nathaniel was, or was about to be, married at this time seems clear from information later given by his son John. John Pillinger says he was born in Cherhill, about 1741, though he was not christened there: there are no Pillingers at all recorded there. It seems wholly probable that Nathaniel was found guilty as charged, received sentence, which might even have been up to five years in gaol, and was in prison in 1741 when his son was born. Whether married or not, John's mother, Sarah, may have gone to Cherhill if it was her home village, to be with her family. I have no marriage entry for Nathaniel and Sarah, and it will not go unnoticed that this is the case with previous Pillinger couplings. A possible explanation is that unlike Sallia Pillinger, a belt and braces man with licence and lines, both of which records survived, Nathaniel's and Sarah's marriage was "clandestine". This word evokes fly by night elopement, thoughts of heiresses and parental disapproval, none of which I am sure applied to the Pillingers. In their case, judging by what we have so far learned, it was all down to cost.

Before 1754, when Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act restricted marriages to parish churches and public chapels, "clandestine" ceremonies without

clergy, banns or licences, might take place at various venues, the most notorious being at the chapel of the Fleet Prison in London and at "marriage houses" in the surrounding area. Whilst this may come under the heading of famous last words, it seems unlikely that the Pillingers travelled so far afield to plight their troth, and I feel that their experience may be more like that of one Sarah Morris who was married by an innkeeper on the Bath Road in December 1739, and whose story survives in the Bitton archives:

Settlement Examination taken in March 1749 of "Sarah Morris, now residing in Bitton, widow or wife of James Morris, late of St Philip and St Jacob's in Bristol who saith that about fourteen days before Christmas last, near ten years since, she was married to her late husband, James Morris, of Wick and Abson, horsedriver, at a Publick House going down the Hill into Bath [but cannot remember the sign] by a person unknown to her, but who she believes kept the Publick House, that said person reading over that part of the ceremony used in the Church of England which relates to the man's taking the woman to wife and the woman's taking the man to her husband, and this informant and her said husband made the usual answers thereto and also the ceremony with the ring was performed betwixt her and her husband. Immediately after she returned to her place of residence and her husband went elsewhere, but about fourteen days after, they co-habited as man and wife, and lay together as such several nights, and after the marriage, her husband was examined as to his legal settlement and adjudged to be of St Philip and St Jacob, since which he has not by any means gained any other settlement to this informant's knowledge and belief, she not knowing whether her husband be living or dead, having neither seen nor heard from him for 12 months since."

There was seemingly no stigma attached to the marriage, nor any question as to its legality: the Bitton churchwardens were concerned only with financial matters. Sarah Morris had fallen on hard times and was applying for dole under the Poor Law. As a wife's settlement was also that of her husband, wherever she was born, it appears her expenses would have to be met by St Philip and Jacob.

I believe the explanation for the Pillinger missing marriages is that our ancestors either married themselves, a method sometimes known as jumping over the broom, in which case no cost at all was involved, or like James and Sarah Morris, engaged the services of somebody who, for a small fee, would read the relevant passage from the Book of Common Prayer. [Such a person appears in Farley's Bristol Newspaper of 11 February 1727, John Burrows, described as "a noted corncutter, who would marry people for so small a price as eighteen pence".]

Nathaniel, having presumably served his term of imprisonment, next appears reunited with his wife Sarah in Calne in 1745, where a second child was born, a daughter called Betty. Nothing is then known of them for nine years, until 1754, when the family left Wiltshire for Bitton.

The present modest village of Bitton is about six miles east of the City of Bristol and seven miles west of Bath, but in Nathaniel's day it was the ten years since, she was married to her late husband, James Morris, of Wick and Abson, horsedriver, at a Publick House going down the Hill into Bath [but cannot remember the sign] by a person unknown to her, but who she believes kept the Publick House, that said person reading over that part of the ceremony used in the Church of England which relates to the man's taking the woman to wife and the woman's taking the man to her husband, and this informant and her said husband made the usual answers thereto and also the ceremony with the ring was performed betwixt her and her husband. Immediately after she returned to her place of residence and her husband went elsewhere, but about fourteen days after, they co-habited as man and

the outparish of St Philip and Jacob, Bristol, including the area now called St George, thus partly within its boundary lay the royal Chase of Kingswood where the king and his favourites once hunted deer. By the time Nathaniel and his family arrived, most of the trees had been chopped down, the game destroyed and the land riddled with coalpits. Small time coalmining had been carried on within the forest since the 14th century, but following the Civil War, when the land had been grabbed by free-booting "Lords", there had been a proto-industrial revolution. People converged on the area attracted by black gold and these "squatters" became "the Kingswood Colliers" widely notorious for riots, protests and disturbances, quite often with good cause. Unruly, and supposedly godless, they attracted excited missionaries who came to save their souls: the young evangelist George Whitfield when speaking of his burning ambition to bring Christianity to the Indians of North America was challenged:

"Why should you wish to travel so far? Are there not savages enough in Kingswood?"

In 1739, George's spectacular mission to Kingswood - the Beatlemania of its day - aroused the attention of his formidable friend John Wesley who hastened there to continue the work. A young Reading schoolmaster, John Cennick completed the triumvirate, and their influence perhaps staved off an English Revolution which may well have begun in Kingswood. It proved impossible however to keep up the momentum of 1739/40 when the colliers were reported as "going about the wood singing hymns", and despite their being "improved" trouble broke out in 1749 when Kingswood people picketed and blew up the Bitton toll gate in token support of Somerset turnpike rioters, and again in 1753, when they marched on Bristol to protest at the cost of bread. This last revolt was mercilessly crushed. Seven men were killed by the trigger happy citizens' militia who were ordered to "fire a few pieces among them". Another thirty were arrested and taken to the City's Newgate Gaol. Fifty or more people were said to be wounded, "some likely to lose their limbs". Political defiance thereafter seems to have been largely replaced by private enterprise, when the area became notable as a hotbed of petty crime. A judge was said to have remarked that he thought he had "hanged all the people of Bitton."

Nathaniel Pillinger arrived at this desperate place on 2 November 1754, and presented a settlement certificate to Bitton vestry.

There was no central social security system and we have already seen that it was the duty of each parish to maintain its own poorat subsistence level should they be unable to work through accident, sickness or decrepitude. Outsiders like Nathaniel and his family could stay so long as they could maintain themselves, but the vestry needed proof that if they fell upon hard times, they remained the responsibility of their own parish, and if necessary, could be sent back there. Dependents, irrespective of place of birth were deemed to belong to the parish where the husband and father had obtained settlement. Those who could not provide the magic paper, vagrants, tinkers, gypsies and even the squatting miners, might be turned out and "whipped from pillar to post", that is from the pillory to the parish boundary.

Nathaniel's settlement certificate reads:

The churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Yatton Keynel in the county of Wiltshire do hereby acknowledge that Nathl Pillinger, Sarah his wife, John their son aged fourteen years and Betty their daughter aged about eight years are inhabitants and parishioners being legally settled in the parish of Yatton Keynel.

It will be seen from the original that "Slaughterford" is written twice and then crossed out, with "Yatton Keynel" substituted. Slaughterford may have been their previous port of call before coming to Bitton, but I have found nothing to confirm they were ever there and it may be simply a slip by the clerk. The paper was carefully placed in the parish chest, where more than two centuries later, in a bleak turret room at Bitton church, I unfolded it with freezing hands. The centuries slipped away and the presence of my poor ancestors was almost tangible.

They must have joined the "many hundreds of families....grovelling in wretched hovels", who already lived in the area. Father and son finding work, perhaps in the fields or mines, and mother and daughter slaving away at some cottage industry.

Alas, this brave new beginning would be short lived, for one year and nine months later, Nathaniel died. He was buried in Bitton churchyard on 27 August 1756, aged 40, as "Nathaniel Pollinger". Just over two weeks later, on 13 September, Sarah too was buried.

Whether they died of tuberculosis, then known as "consumption", pneumonia, small pox, malnutrition, or were simply worn out, we shall never know. Their two children, John and Betty, would now have to fend for themselves.

John and Betty alone

"A gurt big boy", fourteen when they had come to Bitton, and now nearly sixteen would have been an experienced hand, probably as a coalminer, as later evidence suggests. In the Kingswood coalmines boys were often preferred to men because their small size made it easier for them to negotiate the very narrow underground seams. Some of the child miners were as young as six, and eight year olds were commonplace.⁽¹⁾

Perhaps he dossed down beside the pit fires, or maybe for a few pence a week somebody took him in as a lodger, turn and turnabout in a lice packed straw bed, to eat what he could catch. Failure to keep himself would result in forcible removal to his "home" parish of Yatton Keynell, and the trick was obviously to stay out of the hands of the overseers of the poor.

Betty, his little sister was another matter. In Kingswood, girls unlike in other mining areas, were not employed underground, though women often worked picking over the coals at the pithead. At ten or eleven years old, the little girl was at an awkward age, with no particular skills, and the parish had enough orphans of its own to cope with. I doubt whether John

could have kept her himself, and it looks likely that Betty returned to Yatton Keynell, where her step-grandmother, Sallia's widow, Mary Pillinger still lived, as did their aunt, Mary Taverner, their father's half sister. Somewhere there might also have been sympathetic relatives of their mother Sarah, who could have taken in the orphan but these will remain unknown unless Sarah's marriage to Nathaniel, and therefore her maiden name can be found. After the loss of their parents in such quick succession to each other, it must have been a sad parting, yet at the same time, Betty's departure must have been something of a relief to John.

With his sister, safe, as he thought, at Yatton Keynell, the young man continued quietly at Bitton for two years, avoided calling cap in hand to the parish for relief, and out of sight was out of mind.

The situation might have continued indefinitely, had not Betty, for some good reason, ran away from wherever she was staying, and returned to Bitton. A forlorn thirteen year old, knocking on doors, and asking after her brother John could not fail to draw attention to herself, and thus to him.

On 30 December 1758 they were hauled up before the Justices of the Peace, who invoked the law:

"For as much as Complaint has been made unto us.....that

BETTY PILLINGER

is coming to inhabit the said parish of Bitton not having gained a legal settlement therein and has become chargeable thereunto; we do judgethe same complaint to be true.....and further on the examination of John Pillinger taken upon his oath adjudge that said Betty Pillinger was last legally settled in the parish of Yatton Keynell.....andin His Majesty's name require and order and command you.....to remove the said Betty Pillinger from Bitton unto the parish of Yatton Keynell.....

So out into the snow went the weeping Betty. I believe she survived the ordeal but it has not been possible to decide whether she was the Betty Pillinger who married Edward Lawrence at Chippenham in 1767 or the Betty Pillinger who married Robert Ball of Box at Colerne in 1768. Let us hope that she lived happily.

The crisis for John did not end with Betty being trundled out of the parish on a carrier's cart. Two days later - New Years Day 1759, he was summoned to the vestry to make his own declaration:

"The information of John Pillinger aged about eighteen years who upon his oath saith that he believes he was born in the parish of Cherhill

I, Many years ago, when my son Kevin was small, and I gave a series of talks about Kingswood, I would ask the audience to suspend disbelief, and produce him as a live example of an eight year old miner. His face covered in coal dust, wearing old clothes, and with a chain round his waist, and a real T-shaped iron candlestick in his hat, the *piece de resistance* came when I lit his candle, Old ladies would go "Ooooh" and press coins and sweets into his hand during the interval. On one occasion, he was asked for his autograph!

in the County of Wiltshire and when he was about five years of age he went with his father to live at Calne in the same County and sometime after that this informant removed from Calne to Yatton Keynel in the County of Wiltshire and this informant came to live with his father and mother and his sister Betty Pillinger in the parish of Bitton in the county of Gloucestershire there being a certificate granted from the parish of Yatton Keynel.....acknowledging the informant's father and mother and sister Betty to be parishioners lawfully settled in the parish of Yatton Keynel aforesaid."

John made his mark where the magistrate Charles Bragge indicated, and with a warning ringing in his ears not to get into further trouble, left the vestry and the paper behind him, and, with the easiness of youth, probably forgot all about it.

As already noted, a search for John's baptism at Cherhill and the surrounding parishes proved fruitless, but it looks as though he spent the first five years of his life there. Could Nathaniel have received the harsh sentence of five years for the theft of a few sacks? It looks possible. It also seems that on release he travelled to Cherhill and fetched his wife and son. Betty's baptism was recorded at Calne on 24 April 1745.

In 1761, aged twenty, John Pillinger married Catherine Lear.

Catherine and the Lears

The Lears had been established in the Oldland district of Bitton since at least 1700. Humphrey and William Lear were living in Oldland in 1747 when they attended the annual Court Leet, and William and John Lear are named on "A Plan of Mr Player's Manors and Sir John Newton's in Bitton and Mangotsfield" dated 1750, a map which shows the coalmines of the Kingswood Chase, divided into spurious "Liberties" and the names and holdings of numerous miners. Towards the end of the century and into the next, at least three Lears were killed in coalmining accidents. Several more were transported to Australia, and one of them, Stephen, was executed there in 1825. Perhaps my favourite Lear is William, "an ancient man, his labour done" who appears in a list of the poor of Oldland for 13 May 1743. He was paid two shillings out of the rates: no question but that he was a bona fide parishioner. With all of this, I have been unable to find a baptism for Catherine, though circumstantial evidence might suggest she is the grand daughter of John Lear and Catherine Frankham who were married at Bitton in 1720 who had a daughter Ann born later that year. Perhaps this Ann was Catherine's mother. Perhaps like John, she was an orphan and alone.

John and Catherine were married at Bitton church on 7 September 1761. A son Nathaniel, named after John's father was christened eleven weeks later, and on 10 April 1763, they baptised their second child, called Sarah after John's mother.

A cosy cottage with the two young marrieds nodding by the fire, and their infants playing at their feet? Not on your life. For Catherine was a business woman as well as a wife and mother. She made and sold beer, but

No 38.

John Pillinger of [this] Parish Bachelor
and Catherine Lear of [this] Parish Spinster were

Married in this [Church] by [Banns].
this [Seventh] Day of [September] in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred
and [Sixty one] by me [Richard Barry] [vicar]

This Marriage was solemnized between Us { The mark of + John Pillinger
The mark of + Catherine Lear
In the Presence of { John Wright
The mark of + John Hains

John Pillinger & Catherine Lear, married Bitton 7 September 1761

No 137. } John Pillinger of this Parish Widower
and Silvia Hains of this Parish Spinster were
Married in this Church by Banns

this [Twelfth] Day of [March] in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred
and [Eighty five] By me [Charles Elwes Vicar]

This Marriage was solemnized between Us { The mark of + John Pillinger
The mark of + Silvia Hains
In the Presence of { John Wright
The mark of + William Bush

John Pillinger, widower, and Silvia Hains married Bitton 12 March 1785

No 245. } Nathaniel Pillinger of the Parish of Yatton alias Church
in the County of Wilts and Diocese of Salisbury Bachelor and Mary Yeales were
Married in this Church by Licence

this [Twentieth] Day of [September] in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred
and [Eighty seven] By me [Charles Elwes Vicar]

This Marriage was solemnized between Us { The mark of + Nathaniel Pillinger
The mark of + Mary Yeales
In the Presence of { John Wright
Sarah Creswicke Clarke

Nathaniel Pillinger "of Yatton" & Mary Yeales married Bitton 26 September 1787

In the Presence of { John Wright
The mark of + John Hains

John Pillinger & Catherine Lear, married Bitton 7 September 1761

Prints of Telling of Oldland on Bilton id: 25th October 1705 with lists of

- ap: Thomas Harris
- ap: James Thomas
- ap: George Nutt x
- ap: James Short x
- ap: Williams Hes x
- ap: Williams Joy
- ap: Williams Brooks x
- ap: Williams Marston x
- ap: Williams Luch x
- ap: Samuel Brooks x
- ap: John Sandy x
- ap: Jonathan Short x
- ap: John Long x
- ap: Ben Cains
- ap: Francis Lains x
- ap: Samuel Williams x
- ap: Samuel Brain x
- ap: Thomas Lear x
- ap: John Harding x
- ap: Robert young x
- ap: William webb x
- ap: George Taylor x
- ap: Hap January x
- ap: Daniel Chandler x
- ap: Samuel Cary
- ap: John Dilliger x
- ap: Job Driggst x
- ap: John Bushet
- ap: Thomas Cary x
- ap: Joseph pearshob x
- ap: James Thomas x
- ap: James Still x
- ap: John Edwards
- ap: Job Brewer
- ap: Joseph James x
- ap: Richard Brooks x
- ap: Robert hole x
- ap: John Babert x
- ap: Lewis Bryant
- ap: Henry Lantrow
- ap: Michael Short x
- ap: Thomas Lains x

- ap: James Williams x
- ap: Thomas Brain x
- ap: George Mayst x
- ap: John Lowley x
- ap: James Philpot Junior

His: f Long, William
his mark

John Pillinger at the Oldland Court Leet, 1765

even then beersellers required to be licensed. Catherine took a chance or several, but was caught and fined £10.

TEN POUNDS. An enormous sum, when men in the mines and quarries were paid between ten and twelve shillings a week, and the women nail makers and pinners in their cottages could make two pence a day. They might just as well have asked for ten thousand. The Pillinger household had neither the cash, nor effects amounting to anything like this amount, and on 13 December 1763, for her trivial offence, Catherine was separated from her husband and children, and carted off to Gaol. Not Bristol, where common sense or compassion might have dictated, but to the Castle at Gloucester. Imprisonment had to be in the gaol of the county where the offence took place:

"Brought in Decr 13th commanded by Chas Bragge and Henry Creswicke, Esqrs having been convicted in the penalty of Ten Pounds for an offence committed against the Excise Law and for want of sufficient Goods and Chattells whereon to levy the same."

Catherine appears in a Calendar of the Criminal Prisoners in the County Goal [sic] at Gloucester at the Epiphany Sessions, 10 January, 1764, not to be released until the fine was paid. I have not been able to find out how long she remained in gaol, if her children were taken there with her, or whether nurses were found for them, particularly a wet nurse for the baby.

Gloucester Gaol was a terrible place. The most desperate prisoners were secured by a great chain which passed through their individual fetters, and was then padlocked to the wall. Those not chained, men and women alike, mingled unhindered, habitual criminals lumped in with those convicted of minor offences. No provision was made for the sick, and the place was foul, with epidemics, especially typhus or "gaol fever" rife.

Against the odds, Catherine lived to tell the tale. How an earth did they pay the fine? Perhaps there was some sort of General Amnesty.

By the autumn of 1764, John Pillinger, now accepted as a *bona fide* inhabitant was among those men who attended the Court Leet at Oldland, which included the area which became known as Kingswood Hill, and which in turn became the centre of the modern Kingswood borough. The Leet was an ancient English institution which assembled once a year, generally in a pub, to deal with "Publick nuisances" like overflowing drains, unsafe fencing and straying livestock. It was undoubtedly an enjoyable occasion, a holiday from the monotony of daily toil, and probably an excuse to come home merry into the bargain. From the Leet records, we can tell when John Pillinger was actually living in Oldland: inhabitants were obliged to attend or else pay a statutory fine: on one occasion he was certainly away in Batheaston! He was present in October 1765, and it is apparent that he and Catherine, definitely released from gaol by this time, were together by May 1766, because their third child, John was baptised on 22 February, 1767. John attended Court in the autumn of that year. He made no appearance in 1768, but was back again in 1769. Perhaps in June of this year he was amongst the thousands of spectators who watched a famous prize fight between Stephens the nailer and George Milsom, a Kingswood collier.

Stephens was odds on, but Milsom won in seven minutes, to the fury of the majority of the punters who believed their hero had "sold the fight", or as we should now say, "took a dive." The Bristol Journal, tongue in cheek printed the lines:

"He that fights and runs away
Lives to fight another day
But he that is in battle slain
Will never rise to fight again."

To show it was not a fluke, Milsom won his next fight in four minutes, though once again started as underdog.

In 1770, John & Catherine's new baby Jacob was born, but his christening in May was sadly followed by the death of his brother John in July. Another John was born in 1772, and baptised on 5 July. Irritatingly, the register shows his parents as John and Mary Pillinger. As there is no other conceivable John, then we have to look for an explanation as to who was the mother of this child. Was Catherine again in gaol, and John with another woman? Or is the explanation the simplest one of all - that the clerk, making up a batch of entries in retrospect, simply misremembered the mother's name? Whatever the truth of the matter, Catherine returned, though perhaps she had never been away!

In 1773, the Court Leet, which John attended was unusually lively, when Michael and Thomas Short, accused of illegal prospecting, were told to fill up a large hole they had dug on Oldland Common, and to get off by Christmas under pain of ten shillings each, Michael Short called the jury "A Parcell of Gawkam Fools!" and was held in contempt of court.

In 1775, a daughter Mary was born to John and Catherine Pillinger, and baptised on 19 February, and on Christmas Day, 1778, Catherine's last child Simon was christened, only to die two months later. By the criteria of the times, Catherine was fortunate in losing only two of her children.

Made For Ever!

The Court Leet continued to deal with small misdemeanours and such illegal adventures which were the norm rather than otherwise:

1775: "Daniel Chandler, Thomas Jefferies and John Pettygrove have dugg two deep holes or colepitts on a common called North Common which are now open and very dangerous to the publick for which we amerce each them the sum of one shilling to fill up the same by 25th December or forty shillings each."

1776: "Thomas Summers to fill and secure from danger a cole pitt he dugg on North Common - forty shillings

1777: "William Palmer to fill up a hole he dugg in the Waste Ground and fined two shillings".....and so on and so on.....

The temptation to strike it rich was rife and anybody who could sink a shaft tried it out, perhaps spurred on by those who had done just that and called their workings "Made for Ever!" - the history of this enterprise has been lost with time but can we doubt an exclamation mark which proclaimed such joy? The name still survives in the New Cheltenham district of Kingswood to this day. John Pillinger presumably shared similar aspirations though whether or not he ever sunk a shaft we do not know. Certainly he would have warmed his family by collecting loose coal from the outcrops which spilled out of the ground all over Kingswood. The Court Leet papers paint a picture of a spirited community, eager to help themselves. The wider canvas is more detailed, with evidence of poverty, privation and death. The population was decimated by accidents in the pits which were reported occasionally in the press with phlegm and without much detail. The following is a typical example

"Tuesday four men were drowned in one of the coalpits in Kingswood by the water breaking suddenly in upon them. Three of them have wives and children."

Poverty had now become, if not a crime, then an offence to be treated with anathema. Those who were in receipt of parish relief - paupers - were forced to wear "The Badge" a letter "P" sewn on to their clothes, to shame and set them apart. Avoiding this humiliation perhaps drove otherwise law abiding to crime and not a few Kingswood men ended their short brutish lives upon the gallows.

In 1781, John Read, nicknamed Joby, and John Ward, two colliers, were hanged for stealing a silver tankard from a Mr Jones of Willsbridge. In September 1783, James Bryant was hanged for stealing a sheep. Six months later Benjamin Webb, aged 38, and twenty three year old George Ward were taken astride stolen horses and charged with the theft of two lambs from Isaac Lewis of Bitton who had offered a £20 reward for their capture. In Gloucester Gaol they made a desperate attempt to saw through their leg irons but were foiled by the vigilance of Mr Giles, the keeper. They were then more securely held by gruesome fetters called "The Widow's Arms", an iron straitjacket. Protesting their innocence, and praying devoutly at the scaffold, they were executed at Gloucester in March 1784. In 1786, "the noted Cayford" described as the leader of a Bitton gang was hanged at Oxford. The same year, three young burglars, Joseph Fry, George Fry and Samuel Ward, who confessed to stealing £7 in cash, a silver ring and a crown piece came up for trial at Gloucester. They were said to be part of a gang which operated a protection racket, selling "insurance" - premium ten shillings and sixpence, first class, and five shillings, second class, which was collected annually at Lansdown Fair with the policy holders "avoiding their felonious attentions". Presumably first class people were not robbed at all, and second class people only a little bit! It was said the Frys' father used to hide his sons in a cave which was entered through a trapdoor in the floor of his hut when the hue and cry was out for them. Despite this sensational stuff young George Fry got off. His brother Joseph aged 19 and twenty year old Samuel Ward were condemned. The Gloucester Spring Assizes of 1786 had been crowded even by prevailing standards. No less than nine men, including Fry and Ward were drawn to the scaffold in carts which were set in motion simultaneously. Said the Gloucester Journal hack, giving full vent:

"When the poor wretches fell the whole crowd seemed to utter a groan of commiseration. Just as the malefactors were turned off, two strong flashes of lightning burst from a cloud attended by thunder."

All of which must have served as a horrible example to John Pillinger and his sons, their contemporaries, especially the Wards, few of whom could have remained. Even the reprieved George Fry did not escape. A few years later, ironically "going straight", he was killed at his work in a coalpit.

Simon was the last of John and Catherine's children, and thereafter Catherine is heard of no more. There is no burial record for her at Bitton, and up to the time of writing, none has been found for her elsewhere. She was certainly dead before 1785, for on 12 March that year, John, described "widower" remarried.

John & his second family

John was forty four, and his bride Silvia Haines, spinster, was 27. John's first marriage had been witnessed by "the mark of John Hains" who may have been some connection of his new wife and confirms the parochial nature of a place where everybody knew everybody else. This time William Bush was John and Silvia's witness: like so many more he would meet with an unhappy end, "killed in a coalpit belonging to Mr Leonard & Co. on 28th December 1798 by a stone two hundredweight falling on his body."

Even if by chance Silvia's situation was presently improved, as a child she had been no stranger to the misery of deprivation and poverty. On the day after Christmas, 1760, her widowed mother was the subject of an Order under the Poor Law. Destitute and the sole support of Hester aged 13, Dinah, 9, Samuel, 8, Febe, 3, and two year old Silvia, she was "allowed five weeks to get them placed else all that is of age will go to apprentices." She found situations for the two older girls but failed with her son. On 9 March 1762, Samuel Haines, now nine, was given as apprentice to John Wood, esquire of Bitton to learn "the art and mystery of husbandry", a bondage which would have to endure until Samuel was twenty four years old. The parish relieved itself of the responsibility of many a poor child in this way. It would be unnatural if Silvia did not share John's horror of getting into the hands of the overseers.

As John and Silvia set up their home together, the children of John's first marriage were going out into the world themselves. Also in 1785, Sarah, now aged 22 married a coalminer, William Jay and produced a family of Jays. In 1793, William tried his hand at a spot of illegal prospecting: the Court Leet charged that he "made an encroachment of the common waste; to get off by February 1794 or be fined £5." With this attempt at private speculation behind him, William returned to work for others. On the 4th January 1809 he was killed whilst at his work in the Golden Valley Pit. There was not a family whose menfolk were employed in the Kingswood mines who did not lose husband, father, son, son in law or brother in law, a situation heart breakingly described by Thomas Shillitoe, a Quaker, who came to Kingswood in 1812:



26th 5 Day of September 1787

+ Yatton
Wilts
Salisbury

ON which Day appeared Personally Nathaniel Pillinger
of the Parish - of Yatton alias Church in the
County and Diocese of Gloucester, Collier and, being sworn
on the Holy Evangelists, Alledged and made Oath, That he is
of the Age of Twenty one Years and upwards, and a
Bachelor and that he intends to Marry with Mary
Yeals - of the Parish of Bitton
in the County and Diocese of Gloucester, Spinster aged
Eighteen - Years and upwards; and that he knoweth of
no lawful Lett, or Impediment, by reason of any Pre-contract, Con-
sanguinity, Affinity, or any other Cause whatsoever, to hinder the
said intended Marriage; and that he prayed a Licence to solem-
nize the said Marriage in the Parish Church of Bitton
aforesaid; in which said Parish of Bitton
the said Nathaniel Pillinger further made Oath, that
the said Mary Yeals hath had her usual Abode of
the Space of Four Weeks last past.

Let Licence pass as prayed. The Mark of Nathaniel Pillinger

Ch. Elwes Surrogate.

Appeared also personally Sarah Yeals of the Parish
of Bitton in the County & Diocese of Gloucester
& made Oath that she is the natural & lawfull
mother of the aforesaid Mary Yeals & that she this
Deponent is consenting to the said intended
Marriage of the said Mary Yeals with the above
named Nathaniel Pillinger

The Mark of Sarah Yeals

Yardward 3. 1801

	£	s	d
Brought Over	16	18	6
Ann Hall	0	2	0
James Hains	0	6	0
Mary Whit	0	1	0
Ann Brights 2 Children	0	4	6
Betty Bloom for his Child	0	1	0
Sarah Cook	0	1	0
Betty Cary for 6 Weeks Rent	0	12	0
Paid the Overseer of Wilsons Rent. 18. 6			
6 for Honds Child	0	12	11
Lucy	0	2	0
In Laary	0	5	0
In Laary	0	1	0
Robert Short	0	4	0
James Hains	0	1	0
Henry Cook	0	4	0
Sarah Cook	0	1	0
In Burrell	0	10	6
Emy Laine	0	7	6
Paid Cat Vestry Meeting	0	5	0
James Carter	0	0	6
Robert Short	0	5	6
In Colledge	0	2	0
	2	1	11

April 6

Brought up	2	11	6
to of Journey to the Boston	3	1	6
Paid for a Order of Removal	0	2	0
school Charges John Dillings and his	0	4	0
10 to Removing John Dillings and his	0	2	0
Family to Church Yeaton	0	15	0
James Bush	0	2	0
Paid Mrs. Whit for Picking Robert Hall's Wife	0	2	0
Jonathan Watson	0	5	0
Wm Gays Wife	0	2	0
James Bush	0	2	0
Thomas Laary	0	1	0
Robert Hall	0	1	6
Olly Davards	0	2	0
James Chikod	0	2	0
George Weston Starnileas	0	2	0
Lucy	0	5	0
In Bush's Son	0	1	6
Wm Gays Starnileas	0	1	0
James Hains	0	5	0
Dined Carters 4 Philadelphia	0	6	0
Betty Bigg	0	4	0
Sarah Cook	0	0	6
James Laary	0	0	6
Mary Hains	0	1	0
Ann Hall	0	0	6
Betty Bloom	0	2	0
Wilson's Watson	0	1	0
	6	15	5

The cost of removal, April, 1801

No	Date	Name	Age	Where from
309	23 Dec 1836	Margrat Britton	24	Bitton
310	13 February	Sarah Tomant	12	Bitton
311	19 March	Elizabeth Deavers	66	Saint Georges
312	April 5	Walter Jones	81	Bitton
313	April 18	Mary Gallett	83	Bitton
314	April 28	Hannah Cooke		Bitton
315	Friday	Samuel Tristram	83	Bitton
316	1 July	Elizabeth Tomant	7	Windsor
317	21 July	Lydia May	110	Bitton
318	29 July	David Jeffries	18	Bitton
319	17 October	Ann Pellingier	60	Churchheaton Wiltshire
320	13 October	Martha Churchel		
321		George Braine	53	Bitton
322	10 December	James Smith	77	Bitton
323	5 January	John Leaver	88	Bitton
324	13 January	Samuel Smith	67	Bitton
325	9 May	Samuel Deavers	42	Saint Phillips
326	11 May	Elizabeth Deavers	74	Bitton

Page from the register of the Whitefield Tabernacle, in Kingswood showing the burial of "Ann Pellingier, 60 years, of Churchheaton, Wiltshire" 27 October 1833

"In the first cottage we entered we found three small children left quite by themselves. We found that the father had been killed in the coal-pit and the mother was gone out to a day's work....and yet we had met with more pitiable cases, much larger families left to struggle with almost starvation. The repetition of this same language almost daily assailed our ears, "My husband, my sons were killed in the pit."

On 26 September 1787, John's eldest son Nathaniel was married to Mary Yeales. The groom was described as "of Yatton, alias Church Yeaton in the County of Wiltshire" though the marriage took place at Bitton. Nathaniel had obtained a licence at Gloucester to omit the necessary three weeks wait in calling the banns, and also because Mary was only eighteen, and her mother's consent was required. A son called John was born to the couple several months later.

Nathaniel attended the Court Leet with his father only once, in 1793. He later moved to Nailsea on the Somerset side of Bristol, probably to mine the coal which supplied the famous glassworks. Though a record of Mary's death has not been found, Nathaniel was married for the second time, at Nailsea, in 1798 to Betty Tyzick. Nothing further is known about him or his family, apart from his eventual return, or forced removal, to Yatton Keynell, where he was buried on 16 July, 1815, aged 55.

In 1786, Silvia's first baby was born and called Simon after Catherine's last child who must have died in infancy. Like his namesake, this Simon makes no other appearance in the record. In 1789, a second son, Robert, was born, and in 1793, a third called William.

A hulk called "Captivity"

It may be that John's favourite son was Jacob, born in 1770. Certainly he was the only one who was given "a start in life" designed to take him away from the coalmines. A formal apprenticeship to a reputable master who was a Freeman of Bristol, quite the reverse of a parish apprenticeship whereby poor boys were disposed of, and such things cost money:

"Jacob Pillinger, son of John Pillinger, of Batheaston, coalminer, to James Martin Hilhouse, shipwright, and Mary his wife, for seven years. Friends to find apparel and washing."

The date of the indenture is 5 January 1792 - and it is interesting to see that John Pillinger was then at Batheaston in Somerset. Jacob was aged twenty one, old for an apprenticeship, but not uniquely so. His age was not the only problem - for he was a married man with a child. He had married Ann Muntin at Bedminster in 1790, and their daughter Mary Ann was a year old. Muntin is a name which is frequently found in St George's, East Bristol, then a part of Kingswood, and another coalmining parish. It may be that Ann was a slight cut above Jacob and the idea that he should learn so

late to be a shipwright may have been mooted by her family. Later we shall see that Ann was a formidable woman, well able to rise to a challenge.

Who could blame Jacob if he felt out of place at Hilhouse's yard amongst a lot of fourteen year old boys? And if Ann had intended to go out to work to make ends meet, then her frequent pregnancies would have made such plans difficult. But....a successful apprentice with his seven year term behind him could set up on his own account as a tradesman. He could apply for the prestigious Freedom of Bristol which would enable him to vote at elections, an obvious step up, and a privilege never so far enjoyed by any Pillinger.

Alas, Jacob accomplished none of these things.

He returned to the work he knew best - coalmining. By 1809, with eight children to support, he turned to petty crime. When he was caught removing sacks of sugar from a warehouse in Redcliffe, his downfall was complete. With two accomplices, twenty two year old James Buck and Richard Fryer, alias Latham, aged 38, he was taken to Newgate prison in the General Gaol Delivery to stand trial.

At the Bristol Assizes of 15 April 1809, the trio were each sentenced to seven years transportation beyond the seas. Fortunately or unfortunately for those convicted, the voyage did not start at once.

For five months, Jacob remained at Newgate in "The Pit" an underground dungeon reserved for condemned prisoners and those awaiting transportation. In a room only seventeen feet square, reeking and filthy, the convicted felons lay on foul straw mattresses. The floor was always damp, laying as it did, below river level. The chimney was permanently boarded up and the door at the top of the steps remained bolted night and day. The only light and ventilation came in from one tiny window. The more mutinous and desperate prisoners were "ironed". As at Gloucester Castle in his mother's day, there was no segregation of the sexes. The only food allowed was a daily one and a half pound loaf, for which even the poorest had to pay the gaoler sevenpence ha'penny. Outside was a collecting box for donations and occasionally, the charitable sent in supplies of potatoes, beef, herrings and coal. Some of those who entered as healthy human beings were weakened by starvation and died of "gaol fever" or small pox.

In September, Jacob was allowed to bid farewell to his wife and family, for transportation in most cases meant separation forever. With thirteen others who had been convicted at the same Assizes, he was taken from Newgate to Portsmouth Harbour and the prison hulks. Prisoners left gaol chained and tethered to the outside of mail coaches, a desperately sorry spectacle, designed to encourage onlookers in the country towns through which they passed. The hulks were old ships of the line, no longer sea-worthy, and actually rotting, finishing their useful service to house the convicts until places could be found aboard the Australia-bound transport ships. Sometimes prisoners lay aboard the hulks for months and even years. Needless to say, death relieved many before the next ordeal could begin.

The hulks register which received the prisoners from Bristol records them:

JACOB PILLINGER (42)	PETER STILL (49)
WILLIAM DAVIS (20)	DANIEL PILL (12)
WILLIAM DAVISON (34)	JOHN PILL (10)
HENRY HEAD (13)	AMBROSE BRYANT (23)
DENNIS TURNER (40)	WILLIAM THOMAS (21)
JAMES BUCK (22)	WILLIAM COX (30)
RICHARD FRYER (38) alias Latham	JOSEPH HALL (26)

The name of the hulk was "Captivity". The fate of some of these prisoners can be ascertained from the registers. Bryant, an obvious chancer, who was found to have forged notes in his pocket on arrival, was put on board HMS "Gambier" on 16 March 1811, as were Thomas and Cox. Hall sailed on HMS "Indian" 27 June 1810. James Buck was sent to Guildford on 20 August 1810 and Fryer was granted a free pardon in 1813. Free pardons were also given to Davis, Davison, Turner and Still at various times up to 1815. The prisoners were marched off to hard labour outside the dockyard on a daily basis. On one of these occasions Jacob Pillinger got away. Against his name is the single letter "E". Joyfully, this stands for ESCAPED, and this is the last that so far that has ever been heard of Jacob Pillinger.

He was certainly never in Australia: he makes no appearance in the excellent convict records. The Family Legend, as told to me by my father, long before I began the family history, says that one of the Pillingers who he thought was called "Stivvy", "stole a horse" and was "locked up in gaol, though managed to escape with the connivance of the Wesleyans, with whom the family was very thick." He was supposed to have gone to America "where his descendants live to this day." This garbled story, I would find, contains elements of the adventures of at least three Pillingers, but as the other two were never in gaol or escaped from anywhere, as far as I know, there is just a faint possibility, doubtful as it seems, that Jacob was recalled, however vaguely, a hundred and fifty years after the event.

[The story of a later Jacob Pillinger who went to America and was assisted to return to England by the Wesleyans, and Stephen, "Stivvy", who also went to America, and whose numerous descendants still live there will be told later in this narrative. As far as I know, no-one stole a horse, but it was perhaps more romantic than a bag of sugar!]

The catastrophe of Jacob's conviction left Ann with eight fatherless children, the youngest only two years old. How she picked herself up is a credit to her guts and determination, and by 1826, she was the licensee of a public house, "The Talbot" on Redcliffe Hill, a living she maintained to her death in 1849. She managed to provide her daughters with an education - they were able to sign their names to their marriage lines, something rare amongst Pillingers of the time. One of the girls, Ellen, married Captain William Pines, a master mariner she must have met when he was warming his sea legs before the fire at the Talbot. Ann appeared in Bristol directories and was one of only two Bristol Pillingers with sufficient funds to make the writing of a will worthwhile. A cynic might suggest that this forceful and courageous woman who managed to bring her family up in such straitened circumstances even got on better without Jacob Pillinger!

John the Hatter

In following Jacob to Bedminster and his grim journey to the hulks, we left the rest of his family in Kingswood. A half century had gone by since Nathaniel and Sarah trudged into Bitton vestry with their settlement paper, and it now lay forgotten in the parish chest at St Mary's church.

As one by one their grandchildren had come into the world at Bitton, had been christened, married and in their turn produced more children, it occurred to no-one that they did not "belong".

On 9 February 1794, young John Pillinger, grandson of Nathaniel and Sarah and son of John and Catherine became the fourth of the new generation of Pillingers to take a wife. Her name was Hester Britton, and like himself she was described as "being of this parish" - indeed, the Brittons had been in Bitton/Kingswood since time out of mind.

By trade, young John was a hatter. In Oldland, Cadbury Heath, Pucklechurch, Winterbourne and Frampton Cotterell, the manufacture of felt hats was one of the chief occupations. Whilst "beavers" - felt hats covered in fur - were made in the latter villages, the cheaper wool felt variety were made, wouldn't you know, at Oldland, and consequently by our John. These down market hats were frequently bought by West Indies plantation owners to protect their slaves against sunstroke as they cut cane under the broiling tropical sun. Hatmaking was a cottage industry, carried on in kitchens and outhouses: first the raw material, skins of matted rabbit's fur or sheeps' wool, were "cured" as I have heard with urine, before the laborious separation of individual hairs to make felt by twanging the string of a seven foot bow close to the pile, so that the vibrations made the hairs spring apart. The hair was afterwards gathered up, covered in a wet cloth, and pressed, doubled up and pressed again, shaped into a cone and pressed a third time. It was then "planted", with the cone dipped into a boiling copper, then cooled and drained. By now shrunk to half the original size, the felt would be kneaded and rolled like dough, and reshaped back into cones. These were then collected up and taken to the larger workshops of masters for dyeing, stiffening with beer or glue and finally shaped into hats. Mercury was extensively used in the manufacture of felt hats and it is worth noting that the saying "Mad as a hatter" derives from the fact that many hatmakers suffered from mercury poisoning.

Like many industries, the trade was cyclical and subject to peaks and troughs, with consequent bouts of short time and unemployment. At the best of times, the makers of felt hats were very poor and underpaid.

On 22 June 1798, the elder John Pillinger, now aged 57, and temporarily unable to work appeared before the Overseers of the Poor at Bitton who wrote in the ledger:

"Two weeks pay to Jno Pillinger, being ill.....two shillings."

At this time, no-one questioned his right to subsistence from the funds. He had lived in the parish almost forty-four years.

[Order of Removal.]

County of } To the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish
 Gloucester. } of *Hamlet* ~~Bitton~~ — in the said County, to Execute
 and Convey

And to the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the
 Parish of *Church Yatton* in the County of *Wilt*
 to receive and obey.

FORasmuch as Complaint hath been made unto Us, whose Hands and Seals are
 hereunto set, Two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of and for the
 said County of Gloucester, (one of the Quorum) by you the Church Wardens
 and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of *Hamlet of Bitton*

Sam. Webb That *John Pillinger* and *Hester his Wife*
 & four Children, Namely *Isaac* aged six
 Years, *Elizabeth* five Years, *Jacob* two Years
 & *Hester* six Weeks ~~old~~

lately came and intruded into the ~~Parish~~ *Hamlet of Bitton*
 aforefaid, endeavouring there to settle as Inhabitant thereof contrary to Law, not
 having any Ways acquired or obtained any legal Settlement therein, nor pro-
 duced any Certificate owning ~~them~~ — to be settled elsewhere and
~~are now~~ — become chargeable thereunto; We do, upon due Exa-
 mination, adjudge the said Complaint and Premises to be true. And we do
 further upon the Examination of *the said John Pillinger*

taken upon *his* — Oath, adjudge, That the said *John Pillinger*
 & *his said Wife* & Children were and now are
 last legally settled, in the Parish of *Church Yatton* aforesaid

THESE are therefore in his Majesty's Name to Require, Order, and Com-
 mand you the said Church Wardens, and Overseers of the Poor, of the
 said ~~Parish~~ *Hamlet of Bitton* or some or one of you forthwith to
 remove and convey the said *John Pillinger* & *his said Wife*

and Children

from the said ~~Parish~~ *Hamlet of Bitton* unto the Parish of
Church Yatton aforesaid and ~~them~~ to deliver over to the
 Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor there, or to some or one of them
 (together with this Order, or Duplicate, or true Copy hereof) who is, and are
 hereby required to receive and provide for ~~them~~ as the Law directs. And
 hereof not to fail. Given under our Hands and Seals this *2nd*
 Day of *April* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred

1801

Three years later, on 3 April 1801, his son John the latter, now the father of a young family, was obliged to call cap in hand at the vestry. There was a slump in the hatmaking trade perhaps. He told the routine, commonplace story the Overseers heard again and again. No work, nothing to feed his family. His children? Isaac was only six. Yes he realised boys of this age often worked underground. But he was very small. The others hardly more than babies. His wife scarcely risen from child bed, and both she and the little 'un like to die.

A stop gap payment of the customary two shillings was counted into his hand, and the next claimant took his place.

What happened next is almost unbelievable. After almost half a century, the wheels of bureaucracy rolled into motion, and someone rooted through the parish chest and discovered the settlement certificates of Nathaniel and John the elder. So when John called at the vestry the following week he was stunned to hear words something like the following pronounced against him.

"John Pillinger. We have found proof that you are not a parishioner: therefore you are not entitled to be further relieved by the parish of Bitton. You and your family are settled now, just as you have always been in the parish of Church Yatton, alias Yatton Keynell in the County of Wiltshire and the Diocese of Salisbury."

After his first dumbfounded silence, I have no doubt the Pillinger temper flared, and with eyes wild, leaping from their sockets, he accused his accusers. He was born in Bitton; this was where he was christened and married. His father lived here. No bloody outsider him, never! Without waiting for the outburst to subside, the Overseers produced their trump cards, and thrust before him the two papers which had been validated in bygone days by his father and grandfather. John could not read, and to an illiterate any paper with writing had a mysterious, magical quality. Momentarily he was silenced. His father's mark was indicated with the smug patience of weary righteousness. They would summon John senior if necessary. Yes, said John the latter, he would have his father brought in. The proceedings adjourned while he fetched his father. The elder John agreed the mark was indeed his, but likewise could see no good reason why his settlement at Yatton should affect his son, and his son's family. Calm advocacy not being a family trait, I suspect the elder Pillinger then lost his temper too, mouthing incoherent abuse through broken teeth. Pillingers could and did fight hammer and tongs between themselves, but just let anybody else say anything to the detriment of one or other and they would combine tooth and nail. All of which did no good whatsoever and indeed may have made matters worse. Clearly neither Pillinger "knew his place" and that would not do at all. Any softening by the authorities on humanitarian grounds was now out of the question. The letter of the law would be obeyed.

Nevertheless the decision was evidently controversial, hence the vicar being obliged to ride over to Wiltshire to sort it out. Would the overseers at Yatton accept responsibility for the family? Evidently after some wrangling they did. The costs are detailed in three terse lines of the Bitton "casualties" book on 10 April 1801:

"To a jurny to the Parson..... 2s 6d

"Paid for an order of Removal.....4s 6d

"To Removeing John Pillinger and his Familey to Church Yeaton....15s 0d

The Order of Removal, addressed to the "Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of Church Yatton" was drawn up on the standard form, alleging that John and his family were "intruders" just like John's Aunt Betty, so many years before, and named them as

"John Pillinger and Hester his wife and four children, namely Isaac, aged six years, Elizabeth, five years, Jacob, two years, and Hester, six weeks old."

They were given another two shillings to help them on their way, and escorted to the parish boundary by the Constable, where they were then passed from parish to parish until they reached their destination.

Perhaps John threw an angry parting shot, which contained both rage and tears, but I believe that later he would have embellished this scene describing himself in full throttle: "I cussed'm blind," he might have said, or "I cussed'm up 'ill and down dell."

What he probably did say was "Dussen't thee think thee's sin the last of I!"

And they hadn't. He brought his family back and they were removed again.

Inflation had put up the cost: "December 1802.

"To removing John Pillinger and Family to Church Ayton.....£2 2s 0d"

This smacks of pig headedness, but in reality John probably had little choice but to return to Bitton again, for hatmaking was probably all he knew, and it is unlikely there was any outlet for the craft in rural Wiltshire.

So back to Bitton they came: but now the principle had been established, that even if the Pillingers were born, christened, married, lived, died and were buried at Bitton, their rightful domicile was Yatton Keynell, and this extraordinary to-ing and fro-ing was set to continue for the next half century.

John Pillinger the elder died in Bitton aged 64 in March 1804. He was survived by his widow Silvia, and the remaining children of his two marriages, Nathaniel, Jacob, John, Robert and William Pillinger, Sarah Jay and the youngest of all, little Ann Pillinger. John's second daughter, Mary had died aged 22, in 1797, and as there is no further trace of the second Simon, born in 1786, I presume that he too was dead.

In June 1805, Ann, now aged six, fell ill. She was hurriedly christened, and buried shortly afterwards. In August the same year, John's daughter in law, the careworn Hester died. During the last few years of enforced

N^o 504. } John Pillinger — of this Parish Bachelor —
 and Hester Britten of this Parish Spinster were
 Married in this Church by Banns
 this ninth Day of February in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred
 and Ninety-four — By me John Foley Curate Official
 This Marriage was solemnized between Us { The mark of John Pillinger
The mark of Hester Britten
 In the Prefence of { John Wright
Charles Hilbert

John Pillinger & Hester Britton married Bitton 9 February 1794

N^o 977. } John Pillinger of this Parish widower —
 and Ann Stone of this Parish widow — were
 Married in this Church by Banns
 this Tenth Day of November — in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred
 and five — By me Charles Evans Curate
 This Marriage was solemnized between Us { The mark of John Pillinger
The mark of Ann Stone
 In the Prefence of { John Wright
The mark of William Jay.

John Pillinger, widower & Ann Stone, widow, married Bitton 10 November 1805

Stephen Pollinger, Bachelor of this Parish
 and Jane Summerill, Spinster of this Parish
 were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of
 this Sixteenth Day of
November in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty eight
 By me Jos. Dilster
 This Marriage was solemnized between us { Stephen Pollinger
Jane Summerill
 In the Prefence of { Abraham Williams
Anna Stone

No. 129.

Stephen "Pollinger" & Jane Summerill, married Holy Trinity, Kingswood
 16 November 1828

removal and wearisome return she had known nothing but misery and despair. She was buried in Bitton Churchyard along with the rest.

Three months after Hester's death, on 10 November 1805, John the latter threw in his lot with a widow called Anne Stone. Their marriage at St Mary's Bitton was witnessed by John's brother in law, William Jay, who would be tragically killed at his work in a coalpit in 1809. After the ceremony was over, William obligingly put his mark to the wedding of the next couple too, who must have arrived without witnesses.

Anne & the Harris's and the Stones

John and Mary Harris's daughter Anne was baptised in the pet name of Nancy at Bitton on 24 November 1771. The Harris family were well known locally as prize fighters who "boasted of never having been beat". According to all the available evidence this is untrue, for they seem to have met with little success, while it has to be said the quality of the opposition was very high. John Harris mounted the ring at The Lamb, outside Lawford's Gate, Bristol in February 1755, to take on Jack Slack, a Norwich butcher and Champion of England. Slack won in six minutes, which was disappointing for the crowd who had paid handsomely for tickets - two and six in the Gallery and a shilling for standing room. When Cornelius Harris, a licensee of a Brislington pub took on the same Jack Slack, he was beaten so comprehensively that his life was despaired of, but he did survive for a few years. Another Harris, Bob, fought the up and coming Benjamin Brain, his fellow Kingswood collier, again without luck, when Brain was on his way to the Championship, which he won in 1791.

Presumably those Pillingers who, as we shall later see, fancied their chances in the prize ring were inspired by this less than spectacular record of their Harris forebears!

Other Harris's who appear in the annals of Kingswood were Joseph and Hester, who gave evidence in defence of Edward Stone, who was indicted for rioting in 1738, and Edward Harris, "a notorious rogue of Kingswood" who whilst in Newgate awaiting transportation attempted to sell his house. A prospective buyer who turned up his nose was lured into a dark passage way at the gaol by a jade called Shuke Milledge and then robbed by Harris. The long arm of coincidence is at work here, for the girl was well known to an eleven year old boy, himself in Newgate at the time, accused of receiving stolen goods from Shuke in an earlier robbery, and his name was - James Pillinger! James was on the inevitable path to transportation and would become the King's guest in Australia five years hence when he was sixteen. James is a Pillinger "stray". Years of searching have failed to tack him on to the family tree, but his story is an exciting one, and will be told in another volume of the Pillinger family saga. Whilst I cannot absolutely claim James as being of our line, I do detect, if it is not wishful thinking, a family resemblance between his grandson and my father!

Anne Harris was married to Stephen Stone at Bitton on 14 January 1794. Their daughter Mary was baptised in 1797, and in 1799, another girl, Dinah was born who lived less than a year. A second Dinah followed in December

1800. Stephen Stone died in July 1801 leaving Anne penniless with her little girls to support. The equally impecunious John Pillinger could hardly have been much of a catch, but they must have decided to pool their meagre funds and settle down with their children, her two and his five. [John and Hester's youngest daughter was Ann, never christened, but born about 1802, who would marry William Franklin in 1819.] Sadly, a few months later the seven children were reduced to six when Isaac Pillinger, aged 11 died.

The first child of John and Anne's new marriage was Evangelist John, christened in 1807 at the Tabernacle, the church founded sixty years before by George Whitfield, Kingswood's own evangelist after whom the boy was named. The next year, 1808, they had another son, Stephen, but he was not christened until 1823, and his place of birth is unknown.

He was obviously named after his mother's first husband, Stephen Stone, proving that John was not disposed to be jealous of the memory of Anne's former love. Stephen Stone and John Pillinger may well have been friends. This was the first time the forename Stephen was ever used in the Pillinger family, and it started a trend which passed the name from father to son, so that there are still Stephen Pillingers to the present day.

The long French war was drawing to its conclusion and fear of invasion, formerly real enough for Bitton to draw up plans to evacuate the parish should the worst come to the worst, had largely subsided. No Pillinger had felt disposed to take the King's shilling. In 1816, when the conquering heroes of the army and navy returned home they were rewarded by nothing except their country's thanks. Nobody saw to the welfare of these battle hardened, often maimed veterans, some of whom had been pressed into service in the first place. Hordes of them took to the roads, starving and embittered, looting whatever they could get. That year the harvest failed totally. Of those people that were "settled" about half were "on the parish." Some who were children at the time later recalled that not a day passed without their parents having to go to the Poor Law for relief. Need had increased substantially while resources remained static. Relief was reduced accordingly. In 1795 a man was supposed to need a minimum of the price of a three gallon loaf per week for himself and an extra 1½ gallons for his wife and each member of his family. In the year after the war when Stephen was eight, a man and his wife were supposed to share a three gallon loaf between them. Small wonder that previously honest men were driven to poach whatever they could catch and women forced to grovel in the fields for nettles and bare cabbage stalks for their cooking pots.

In the matter of crime, it has already been noted that the parish of Bitton was considered particularly vicious. Unbelievably, about half of all the petty crimes in the calendar of the Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions emanate from this one parish, which illustrates the degree of the mire into which Bitton and its surroundings had sunk. One family above all others was notorious, and with their associates, they became known as the Cock Road Gang.

John Pillinger the elder must have been acquainted with Benjamin Caines from their attendances at the Oldland Court Leet and his children surely knew Ben's sons and daughters. Benjamin Caines, who was a horse trader, was

married to Ann Cool and the union produced ten children, of whom the eldest, George was imprisoned at Monmouth in 1799, along with Francis Britton for passing counterfeit money. At Bath in 1804, his brother Francis Caines, an oyster and cider seller stole £400 worth of cloth, for which he was hanged along with Thomas Batt, Charles Fuller, alias the Squire, and Henry Warn. Francis was buried at Bitton and it was said that his brother Benjamin, aged 11, sat on the churchyard wall whistling throughout the interment. George Caines, now released from gaol was caught stealing pigs with men called Cribb, Hathaway and Cox. The pigs were taken to his sister Betty's front room. Isaac Cox was captured and George attempted his rescue by beating the constable with the butt end of a gun. He was taken into custody, and "frighteners" were put on a man called James Francis, due to give evidence against the gang, by shots being discharged into the room where his children slept. George was condemned, but later reprieved and transported. Thomas, his next brother, nicknamed Captain Caines, was arrested during another riot and transported. Sister Betty went to gaol for receiving the pigs. Her common law husband Timothy Bush was later transported for horsetheft, as were two of her sister Lydia's husbands. Benjamin, aged 23, the whistler on the wall, was hanged for a burglary. His body was put on display in his father's front room, and donations collected to give him a memorable funeral. The corpse was carried on a bier from Cock Road to Bitton, attended by six maidens dressed all in white, with a huge concourse of his friends and acquaintances lining the route. The burial in the churchyard was by candlelight. Another brother Samuel joined his brothers in Australia for various robberies. James Caines Bush, the son of Betty Caines and Timothy Bush was hanged for a murder, which he almost certainly did not commit, along with a man called Mark Whiting. James' brother Francis Bush, transported for the theft of a spade, finally brought the grisly episode to a close.

It can be seen from the foregoing that the conclusion to brother Jacob Pillinger's trouble in 1809 could have been much worse. John and Anne presumably heard of Jacob's escape from the hulks, in which they may or may not have been involved, but for nine years there is no official sign of them, until in 1816, they appear again, at the Tabernacle, bringing two more children for christening, Harriet and Aaron. Why they failed to christen Stephen at the same time is inexplicable.

Evangelist John and Stephen like their half brother Jacob were coalminers, obliged like all of Kingswood's poor to bring in money from a young age. It can be presumed that from about this time, aged eight, Stephen, with his elder brother nine year old John, went down the pit where Jacob, aged 16, was already an old hand. Perhaps Anne worked at the pit head, bagging up coals, hands calloused or bleeding with the agony of chilblains. With sinking heart she must have said goodbye to her two little boys as they climbed into the bucket, chains round their waists, iron candle sticks jauntily stuck into the bands of their round hats, surely made by their father, to go to their work in the dark and dangerous bowels of the earth where so many died.

John in need

In 1820 Yatton Keynell had paid a dole of seven shillings to "John Pillinger in need", but it was his stepmother Silvia, who like the others was Bitton born and bred, who appeared most prominently in the Poor Law accounts of Yatton at this time.

That year, on August 13, "disbursements" were paid to "Silvey" Pillinger, for 4 months, £1.12s 0d". In 1821, she received two payments of £2.12s 0d and £3. In 1822 her payment was £2.8s 0d and in 1823 "31 weeks at 1/6d per week £2.6s 6d."

Jacob in trouble

Jacob Pillinger the second, named after his uncle, the only surviving son of John the latter's first marriage, now moves centre stage. Jacob had endured at best a childhood of uncertainty and deprivation. As we know, in 1801 he had been "removed" from Bitton along with his parents and continued to share their peripatetic existence until he was old enough to fend for himself. At the age of twenty two he got into serious trouble. On 24 October 1820, with his fellow coalminer George English, also 22, he was charged with breaking into the house of Isaac Churchill the elder, at Siston, and "carrying away therefrom one pair of dark velveteen breeches, value two shillings, one pair of light corduroy breeches, value five shillings and a pocket handkerchief, value two shillings". At Gloucester Castle a detailed description was made of him, and from it we have the first Pillinger "portrait": "dark grey eyes, brown hair, brown complexion, long face with a short thick nose, a small mole between his shoulder blades and another on his chin. Five feet five inches tall and stout made. Illiterate."

Jacob's conduct in gaol whilst awaiting trial was described as "indifferent", which suggests that same sullen shrug adopted nowadays by the young in an effort to be thought "cool". The two young men came up at the Lent Assizes. George English had previous form. He was found guilty. The sentence was "Death."

No longer cool, Jacob's legs must have buckled and his stomach churned as he gripped the dock with whitened knuckles, his throat choking back vomit. Seconds later he was almost fainting with relief. "Not guilty."

Let him savour that moment. It was the only piece of luck he had in his life.

George English's death sentence was commuted to transportation for life. He sailed on the Lord Hungerford in July 1821. Also aboard were John Evans, a Wick and Abson butcher, and William Stocker, a painter from St Philip and Jacob. Another passenger, George Bailey, aged 21, from Cold Ashton was executed in Australia twenty one years later. Samuel Williams, aged 53, a labourer from Westbury on Trym was cruelly separated from his thirteen year

old son, who was transported on the Shipley. Samuel died on the voyage 23 September; as did poor George English on 8 December 1821.

Jacob went home from his ordeal at Gloucester, and celebrated his release with some abandon. On 14 October 1821 he married nineteen year old Mary Bracey at Bitton church. Their daughter Sarah was born on 20 January 1822, just nine months and ten days after his acquittal.

On 21 July 1822, Hester Pillinger, who was a babe in arms, during the first traumatic removal was married at Bitton to Joseph Wiltshire. The marriage was witnessed by her father John, with the usual "X". [Hester, not christened as an infant rectified the omission at St Michael's, Two Mile Hill, in 1855].

Jacob's daughter Sarah, aged sixteen months, and her new baby sister, Harriet were brought to Kingswood School for baptism on 11 May 1823. Perhaps the matter of religion had been controversial between the young parents, and Jacob had wanted the children christened not as Methodists, but into the Church of England, despite never having received the rite himself.

On 2 August 1823 he went with his two half brothers to St George's Church in Hanham Abbots, and there a triple christening of "Jacob aged 24, John aged 16, Stephen aged 14½ the sons of John Pillinger of Made For Ever, hatter, and his wife Anne" was recorded.

Jacob was not Anne's son, of course, but Hester's: it is complimentary to Anne that he thought of her as his mother. His half brother John, christened as Evangelist John in 1807 at Whitfield's Tabernacle had very likely never been called Evangelist, and had dropped, or had been advised to drop, this first name as being far too flighty for the Church of England. And as for Stephen, it was his debut in the records. Going along with the fashion, Harriet, their sister, baptised 1816 at the Tabernacle, also decided to be christened again, and is entered into the parish church at Siston in 1824, as "an adult".

Silvia Pillinger continued to attend the Yatton Keynell vestry for her dole, in 1824, 16 weeks, £1.4s 0d. In 1825, from 9 May to 15 August, one guinea, and subsequently for payments of 17s 6d and another £1.1s 0d, plus a special entry of "Silvia Pillinger in need" 1s 6d. In 1826 she was "on the parish" more or less entirely, and in this year John the hatter was also in trouble and received two payments "December 3rd paid to John Pillinger in need, 10s 0d" and undated, "John Pillinger, one shilling".

In 1825, Robert Pillinger, John's half-brother and Silvia's son occupied a tenement and land rated at 1s 7½d which he rented from R.E. Gerrish. [By coincidence, my childhood home was rented by my father and mother Jack and Florence Pillinger from a Hilda Gerrish. Perhaps history repeating itself.] By 1827, Robert fell on hard times. He was paid 7s 0d and then an Order of Removal was drawn up on 11 October and he and his wife Mary, née Bryant - they married at St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol on Christmas Day 1810, were despatched from Bitton to Yatton without ado

"22 October 1827, delivered to William Gaisford by me, William Tyler"

like so much meat. "Robert Pillinger in need" received 4s 0d on 2 November at Yatton. Over the next year, he received five payments amounting to £1.6s 0d.

Stephen was now 20, and we next meet him on the happy occasion of his wedding day. On 16 November 1828 he went with his best man Abraham Williams to the almost new church on Kingswood Hill, called Holy Trinity. His bride's name was Jane Summerell, and she was attended by Stephen's half-sister, Dinah Stone. The vicar spelled our surname incorrectly - as Pollinger. All the parties "marked" so could not argue. Perhaps after the ceremony, the four young people toasted each other in the King's Arms, just up the road. If Dinah fancied Abe Williams then she would be disappointed: ten months later he married Elizabeth Bracey, perhaps Mary Bracey's sister, also at Holy Trinity, with Stephen and Jane Pillinger as witnesses.

Jane and the Summerells

The Summerell [Summerill, Summerhill, Sommerel etc] family who may have come from Marshfield, settled in Siston after the Civil War. In 1674 the vicar made a perambulation of the parish, and recorded the inhabitants, among them, in one household "Thomas Summerhill, senior and wife; Thomas Summerhill, junior, Sarah Shin", and counted "all those cottages in the west from Tho: Summerhill's unto Mr Bamford's unto both sides of the common, 26 in number." [Another inhabitant of Siston at that time was Richard Pillinger, of the Doynton/Box branch of the family, who lived with his daughter and son in law, Luke Styles.] Some of the Summerells appear to have been small time speculators, like Stephen, who in 1727 signed articles with Richard Haynes, Lord of the Manor of Wick and Abson, [that same Justice who escorted the reluctant Richard Rew to his wedding] "to dig pits on Churchley Hill, Breachyate for seven years" and to pay Mr Haynes 2s 6d in the pound on the sale of coal. A similar agreement was signed in 1734 by Samuel Summerell. In 1736, Benjamin and Stephen Summerell - this seems to have been another Stephen - were transported for life for the theft of two dozen hats. Jane's great-grandfather was William, who by his second wife had four children, of whom Joseph, born 1731, married Sarah Jefferies in 1756. The groom was able to sign his name on the marriage certificate. Their last born was Thomas, 1767, who in 1789 was working as a mason's labourer at the Westerleigh pit, when he met and married Rachel Skinner in 1790. Like his father, he was literate. On 9 October 1808, Thomas and Rachel went to Siston church to christen their children: Hannah aged 13, Christopher 11, [named after Rachel's father and grandfather], Rachel, 9, Sarah, 6, and Jane, whose birthday was recorded as 30 June 1807.

Silvey Pillinger continued to be paid dole at Yatton in the years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831.



ten months later he married Elizabeth Bracey, also at Holy Trinity, with Stephen and Jane Pillinger as witnesses.

Stephen and Jane's family

On 30 January 1831 Stephen and Jane christened their first child, Alfred at Holy Trinity. Stephen's occupation is given as coalminer, and their abode was "Black Road", an evocative name if ever there was one, which is now called Holly Hill Road. At the same time, in fact adjacent in the register, is the christening of Aaron Pillinger, aged 15 years and nine months, the "son of John Pillinger, hatter and his wife Ann, of Made for Ever." Once again this was a second christening: perhaps the teenager was standing as Godfather to his baby nephew, and the vicar seized the opportunity of taking him also into the fold. For many years after this event, Aaron was "lost", as he makes no further appearances in Kingswood records. He had certainly gone away, travelling widely through the country, and had taken up what was for the Pillingers, and for anyone else of their class and upbringing, a surprising occupation.

Stephen and Jane settled down to married life and became to all intents and purposes, the father and mother of the Kingswood branch of the family. Though other Pillingers were producing young at the same time, none were as tireless and successful as Stephen and Jane and consequently, a great majority of all those Pillingers whose descent is from Kingswood are the progeny of this couple. Between 1831 and 1853, they had thirteen children; nine survived into old age, and five were sons who carried the name forward. Throughout the "hungry thirties" they moved frequently, back and forth between Black Road and Siston, either the "Bottom" or the "Common."

By 1831 when baby Alfred was christened, his great uncle and aunt, Robert and Mary had been allowed to return home: the Bitton census of that year shows Robert's household as, one house, one family. Three males, one female over 20 with one coalminer, [Robert himself] and interestingly, "two excavators", who would soon be known as navvies, carving a railway through the the land.

Cholera

On 1 August 1832, an extraordinary general meeting was called at Oldland Vestry under the chairmanship of Henry Hill Budgett, a Kingswood Hill grocer, Methodist and philanthropist. Cholera was raging in Bristol, and the managers of St Peter's Hospital, the Bristol Workhouse, had been sending boys into Kingswood, placing them in "cottages so small and close as to be likely to increase and promote the disease even more than their residence at the hospital, and that by scattering such boys, [many of whom for all we or the managers know, may be affected by the disease] abroad among such a dense population of very poor persons as are found in this neighbourhood, the probability is that such a measure will be the means of extending and spreading the disease to a very alarming extent...."

Cholera was made for 19th century England. The Industrial Revolution had brought slum overcrowding to the towns where sanitation was non-existent, and where overflowing cesspits seeped into the main drains of a pitifully inadequate water supply. Flies settling on the communal dung heaps did the rest. Mr Budgett's warning went out too late. Cholera, "an attack of the

bowels", came to Kingswood in two savage waves in 1832 and 1833. It was known as "King Cholera" for it endangered rich and poor alike, initially from infected water and then by direct contact with case or carrier. Those affected could go from health to death in three days. Acute diarrhoea was accompanied by vomiting; dehydration led to complete collapse and death. Horrifyingly, one recommended "cure" was the total denial of fluid to the victim, the exact opposite of what was required. Having no clear idea how the disease was spread, the authorities could do little other than try to keep it under control by the burning of contaminated articles, by relying on brave women to nurse the sick and trying as far as possible to isolate the afflicted. The Kingswood Hill homeopathy, as directed in a pamphlet of 1834, to keep the affected area warm and drink plenty, was as good as any in the circumstances, though a suggestion of rhubarb as an additional laxative may have done more harm than good.

On 10 August 1832, "John Pillinger in need" was paid 6s by the Yatton Keynell overseers. On 18 August "John Pillinger and his wife, in need" were paid 3s 6d and on the same day Silvey Pillinger received £1.10s 7½d.

Hopefully John was allowed to collect her money, for Silvey was very ill, in fact dying, perhaps of cholera.

"Paid Silvey Pillinger's funeral.....£1. 0s 0d.

the Yatton clerk next wrote, welcoming deliverance from a financial burden. Silvey was carried to her pauper's grave, in Bitton, of course, on 19 August, and said to be 71, though she was more likely 74. In death her abode was given as Oldland.

A Trade Union for the Hatters?

On 9 February 1833, a strange and convoluted notice appeared in Felix Farley's Bristol Journal.

"OLDLAND HATTERS. It seems necessary that the advisers of the above parties should be made acquainted with the law as regards voluntary affidavits before magistrates. Sir William Blackstone says The Law takes no notice of any perjury but such as is committed in some Court of Justice having power to administer an oath before some magistrate or proper officer invested in similar authority in some proceedings relating to a civil suit or a criminal prosecution for it esteems all other oaths unnecessary at least and therefore will not punish the breach of them for which reason it is much to be questioned how far any magistrate is justifiable in taking a voluntary affidavit in any extra judicial matter as it is now too frequent in every petty occasion, since it is more than possible that by such idle oaths a man may frequently in *foro conscientiae* concur the guilt and at the same time evade the temporal penalties of perjury. Lord Kenyon in different cases has expressed a doubt whether a magistrate does not subject himself to a criminal information by taking a voluntary extra judicial affidavit. This may perhaps explain satisfactorily the statements that have already appears with regard to this subject. From a Correspondent."

THE PENNY MAGAZINE.

A DAY AT A HAT-FACTORY.



The Hat-Hattery with men employed in Wetting, Rolling, Pressing Ruffing & Blocking the Hat-Bodies. [January 1841 - The Penny Magazine]

Leather Heaven

Sir — A short while ago I gave a talk to Kingswood Local History Society about the Pillinger family — an event you were kind enough to report in your paper.

An ancestor of mine, John Pillinger, lived in Kingswood during the 18th and 19th centuries and in the 1841 census is described as a hatter, aged 70, living in the district of Leather Heaven.

Leather Heaven had 21 inhabitants in 1841 and appears in the return between the pages for Soundwell and Made-for-Ever. So far nobody has been able to tell me where

(or perhaps what!) Leather Heaven was — not even the Local History Society.

The name suggests it might have had something to do with the manufacture of hats, which was also John Pillinger's trade.

I should be grateful to hear from any readers who might have heard of Leather Heaven, or indeed from any member of the Pillinger family who might like to know something of the family history or have information to pass on.

D P Lindegaard (Mrs)
49, Clayfield Road, Brislington.

It is doubtful whether anybody, least of all the hatters could understand what he was going on about. Had the hatters been swearing oaths? Had they gone further than allowed by the articles of their organisation, sent by George Ollis, a hatter of Oldland Common, to the Rev. Henry Ellacombe of Bitton in 1829 "by which our conduct as a Body is regulated one towards another especially to our aged and infirm as I think you will thereby discover that there is nothing in our Laws as a Trade contrary to our duty towards the Almighty or our duty towards our fellow men."

If the writer meant his newspaper piece as a warning, he might have been trying to say "Don't swear oaths: you will get into serious trouble if you do." The authorities were very touchy about workers' organisations: a year later in 1834, six Dorset labourers, The Tolpuddle Martyrs, were sentenced to transportation - for the swearing of illegal oaths.

"We Assist Each Other in Time of Need" read the proud legend on George Ollis's letterhead. Hopefully, John Pillinger was assisted, for it is clear that hatmaking in 1833 was more than usually in the doldrums. From April, he was on the parish, trudging once a month to Yatton Keynell to collect his pay.

"April 19th gave John Pillinger in need.....	10. 0d
"May 19th gave John Pillinger in need.....	£1. 3. 0d
"June 14th gave John Pillinger in need.....	8. 6d
"July 12th paid John Pillinger.....	8. 6d
"August 9th paid John Pillinger.....	9. 0d
"September 6th paid John Pillinger.....	8. 6d

If Ann had gone with him to Yatton Keynell before, she was no longer fit to travel. In October 1833, she died, perhaps a victim of Kingswood's second cholera outbreak. She was buried at Whitfield Tabernacle on 27 October, "Ann pillinger aged 60 years of Church Yeatton, Wiltshier".

On November 1st, 1833, the Yatton Keynell poor book records: "paid towards John Pillinger's wife's funeral, £1." On November 29, John received a further payment of 5s 0d.

Henry Hill Budgett, as secretary, delivered his annual report to the Kingswood Benevolent Society on 22 July 1834, painting a vivid picture of the conditions which drove John and many others in the community on to the parish. There was, said Henry, a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants all of whom with very few exceptions were ordained to tread the dreary steps of penury and by the sweat of their brow earn a pittance far too small to meet the urgent cries of nature. They were hardly fed, poorly clad and scarcely sheltered from the inclemency of the seasons; to this was added sickness and consequent inability to reap even the small reward of daily industry. The agents of the Society, he continued, were from their charity work, "familiar with the hovel of poverty, with a single miserable room as the only apartment, a wretched bed on the cold damp ground the only furniture where the victim of disease and woe lingers on in nakedness and filth, loathsome to all...".

Goodbye to Yatton and the Soldier's Farewell

It appears that John worked for most of 1834, only receiving dole of five shillings for one month in March. There is also the entry: "Expenses for John Pillinger at Mr Coles." Now, I would be very surprised if the worthy ratepayers of Yatton Keynell were not becoming quite peeved at still being deemed responsible for a pauper whose connection with their parish had died out a century before. I believe they now sought legal opinion and that Mr Coles was "learned counsel". Deliberations went on for the whole of 1835, and for the first three months of 1836, when John Pillinger was paid 5s 0d "extraordinary" each month. He received [reduced!] "three months pay - ten shillings" on October 6. After which the lifeline was cut. For the month November 30 to December 28, they gave him a final "extraordinary" of one and six, and told him to clear off, enough was enough. He did not belong to Yatton, never had, never would. It was what he had been saying all along. They handed him a letter, cost 2d. He could not read it, and it has not survived.

But the contents are obvious. It told the Bitton overseers to get lost. They could do what they liked with John Pillinger. He could go and starve in his own parish. He would get no more payments from them.

John makes no more appearances in the book, but the Pillinger connection with Yatton Keynell was not entirely severed. On 14 December 1843, Robert and his wife Mary were again removed to Yatton Keynell. Perhaps their sojourn there was short lived. They had returned by the time of the 1851 census, when they were living at Oldland when Robert was 62, still a coalminer, and Mary 60. I have not discovered where or when Robert died, but Mary unhappily, ended in Keynsham Union Workhouse aged 88.

[Throughout the long list of payments made to the Pillinger family at Yatton there are two puzzling entries: on 11 May 1823, "a letter from Margaret Pillinger, 8d" and "paid Samuel Pillinger in need, 5s 0d" undated in 1832. I have no idea who this Margaret can be, and as for Samuel, it may be that one or other of the Samuels who were attempted survived after all.]

William Pillinger, John and Silvia's second son, born in 1793, married Hannah Isaacs at St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol in 1821. Like his brothers, he worked as a coalminer. In 1825 he "defaulted on the rates" and owed 1s 0½d for land belonging to Samuel Keyford. William and Hannah had five children, Hannah, born 1822, Mary born 1824, John born 1827 [these two were baptised together at Holy Trinity Kingswood in 1828], Anne born about 1827, baptised in 1836 at Kingswood and buried at Bitton in 1837, "of Oldland, aged 10", and Simon, baptised in 1831, and buried at Bitton, 1835, "aged 3". In the census of 1831, William Pillinger had "one house, with 4 males, 4 females, one male over 20, two coalminers" - evidently they had two lodgers, one woman, and a young male miner. When the 1841 census was taken William and Hannah were living at Oldland with Mary aged 16 and John aged 13. Hannah junior was by then Mrs George Jeffrey, having married in 1839. In 1848, Mary had a child called William, and later married Samuel Kirby, a carpenter, by whom she had six more children. Young William, a coalminer, continued to live with his grandparents until he married

shillings" on October 6. After which the lifeline was cut. ---
November 30 to December 28, they gave him a final "extraordinary" of one and six, and told him to clear off, enough was enough. He did not belong to Yatton, never had, never would. It was what he had been saying all along. They handed him a letter, cost 2d. He could not read it, and it has not

REPORT by ELIJAH WARING, Esq., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Collieries of South Gloucestershire; and on the State, Condition, and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.

TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

1. My duties in the coal district of South Gloucestershire, or rather in that portion of the county lying in a south-easterly direction, having been completed, I have the honour of presenting you with the following statement of facts, and impressions, derived from my inquiries and observations.

2. I used all diligence in seeking interviews with the managing proprietor, or agent, at every colliery; but was not always fortunate in my attempts. No obstruction, however, was, in any case, offered to my inquiries, which were generally met by great courtesy and attention.

3. The coal-field of this district occupies the upper portion of an elliptical basin of limestone, taking its origin at Cromhall, near Wickwar, and extending into Somersetshire: the most southern point of Gloucestershire, at which coal-works are in operation, being near the village of Bitton, about four miles from Bath.

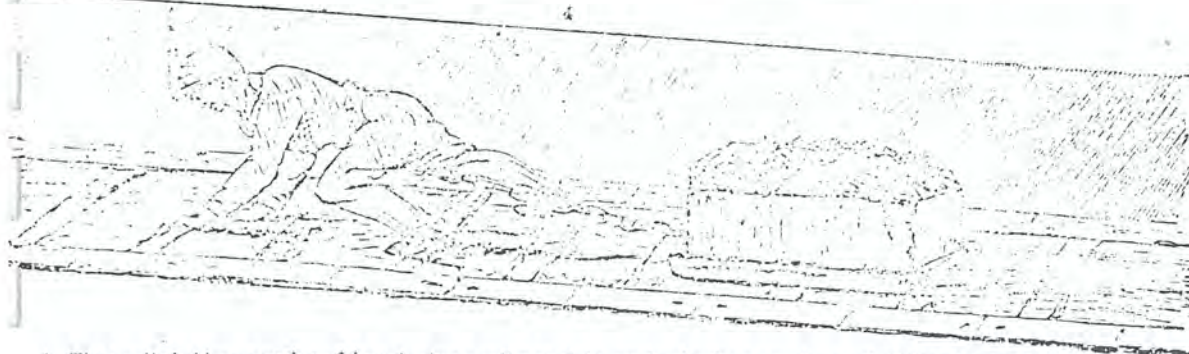
4. This coal-field has long been very extensively worked, furnishing employment to generation after generation of many industrious families, particularly about Kingswood, and Coalpit Heath. The seams vary from one foot to six feet in thickness.

5. The nature of juvenile employment in these coal-works, is so generally identical with that already reported upon in the Forest of Dean, that much detail, under this head, is unnecessary here.

6. The principal difference exists in two particulars. One is, that the extreme narrowness of the seams, in some cases, as at Yate Common, where the coal is only one foot thick, altogether precludes adults from cutting it out, and the work is therefore performed by young lads, whose size is suited to the contracted space. The other variation consists in the mode of drawing the tubs into the mainway, by a girdle of rope round the loins, attached to the load by a hook and chain.



4.



1. The candle-holder: a socket of iron, having a spike at right angles for the convenience of sticking the light in the sides of the pit when stationary. The spike also forms a handle when the light is carried before them.
2. A skull-cap, having a leather band, into which the candle-holder is thrust when the hands are employed in locomotion.
3. The girdle and hook for attaching to the chain.
4. Represents the position of the girdle.

7. With respect to the first operation, it appears inevitable, where such veins are to be worked. The quality of that referred to at Yate, is considered remarkably good, and comes out in blocks of regular thickness, requiring only the clearance of the superincumbent and subjacent clods, so that it is wrought with little labour,

Elizabeth Potter at St Barnabas, Warmley in 1868. No descendants have been found either for William and Elizabeth, or for his uncle John, yet another coalminer, who married Ann White at Holy Trinity, Kingswood in 1853. At the time of the 1861 census, both William and Hannah presumably told the census man they were 89 - for that is what he recorded. Perhaps they felt that old! William died prior to 1871, for Hannah, then a widow, aged 76, and still working as a laundress, is found living with the Kirbys when the census was taken.

Killed in a Coalpit

The baby Harriet, Jacob and Mary Pillinger's daughter, christened in 1823, did not survive, and their next daughter Ann lived only six months. In 1824, another daughter, Elizabeth, was born and in 1826, a son, John, who was buried aged seven months. In 1829, when they were living at Potter's Wood, a second Harriet was born. In 1831, both Elizabeth and Harriet died and only Sarah, the eldest, now aged nine remained. The tragic Mary, worn out with child bearing and grief was buried at Holy Trinity Kingswood on New Years Day 1832 aged 30 years.

On 12 February 1832, Jacob witnessed the marriage of his friends Thomas Parker and Ann Golding at Holy Trinity, and three months later on the 12 May, at Bitton, he himself married again. His bride was Elizabeth, the widow of a labourer called Thomas Joy, with four children of her own: Matthew, Hannah, Hester, and Thomas, a babe in arms. After such misery and continual bereavement, Jacob may have allowed himself to hope that the surname of his instant family would prove to be prophetic.

Jacob and Elizabeth's first child, Jacob after his father, was born in April 1833, and christened in June 1834 at the Kingswood School chapel. Isaac, who was born 4 March 1837 was christened at two months, in the same chapel, but the cycle continued and both babies died. Another Jacob was born in 1835 and at last appeared to thrive.

On the morning of 20 June 1838, Jacob Pillinger rose at first light and dressed in his pit clothes. As usual he stuck the spike of his T-shaped iron candlestick through the rim of his hard hat, which also enclosed a ring of spare tallow candles. [These candles were probably made by the Old Candle and Soap Works on Kingswood Hill. Kingswood coal was not considered "fiery" and even after the invention of the Davy Lamp, many miners in the area still worked by candlelight.] He took up his "tommy" of bread, cheese and onions, most likely wrapped in a square of rag, and a bottle of cold tea, and put the provisions into his pockets. Elizabeth, pregnant again, was up and about, as would have been Matthew Joy, Elizabeth's boy, himself off to work in the pit. Jacob said Goodbye to his family and set off to walk the two and a half miles to Easton pit for the shift which started at 6 am. Jacob was forty years old now, and undoubtedly seared with the disfiguring marks of his trade, the blue scars which pitted the arms, back, knees and faces of all the miners.

In the shift which Jacob joined on that summer morning the other adult was Francis Thatcher, aged 34, a married man and the father of four, the last of whom was only nine days old. They were joined in the cart by three boys,

Francis Palmer aged 16, Aaron Clark aged 16 and Daniel Clark aged 12 and prepared to descend. The cart was open sided and slung by four one and a half inch ropes operated by a nut wheel to regulate the speed. For some 180 feet the descent was normal - then without warning the teeth of the nut wheel gave way and the vehicle plunged downwards at a sickening velocity, crashing into the scaffolding built to cover the five feet of casual water which lay on the floor of the level.

The cart broke up on impact, but the occupants, though horribly mutilated by the fall were not yet dead. Another 480 feet of rope released by the defective wheel careered crazily down on top of them, imprisoning the broken bodies in its coils as they struggled in the black water. Three men, waiting at the bottom of the shaft - the night shift they were to have relieved - made a desperate attempt to man-handle the ropes off them, but their labours took more than half an hour. By the time they reached their mates, they were all drowned.

An inquest was convened the same afternoon before the Bristol coroner, Mr J. B. Grindon at the Lebeck Arms, Easton. The bodies of Pillinger, Palmer and Thatcher had been laid in an outhouse of the pub and the two Clark boys at a nearby cottage. The evidence began with John Nash, engineer to the Lower Easton Coal Company. Mr Nash said "I did not know but what the wheel was sound. I believed it was. I went down myself at about 11 o'clock last night with a child of my own. I should not have gone down if I apprehended danger. It is the duty of the engineer and the two bailiffs to look after the machinery. I examined it as often as was necessary, sometimes two or three times a day. When the wheel is greased it is very seldom we can stop it to clean it because the water would gain on us too rapidly. Mr Harvey the bailiff frequently goes down the pit twice a day. Harvey is not one of the owners; he is not likely to risk his life to save a few pounds expense. No complaint was made to him of the wheel that I ever heard. The wheel was cast iron."

Isaac Harvey, the bailiff was next called. He told of the rope running round at liberty, the iron of the broken wheel flying in every direction and the workmen dashing in panic to escape from it. He said that he had turned the wheel less than three weeks before - "not through any apprehension of danger but to give it equal wear. The burden on the wheel was not too great: at the time of the accident not more than twelve hundredweight. It had been working all night with four tons on it. The wheel was cleaned when it was taken down and turned. All the grease was burnt and the wheel carefully examined. The security of my own life depended on the strength of the wheel. I would not have allowed anyone to descend into the pit had there been any defect. There was no spare wheel on the premises. We never had one break before. I have managed engines for seven years. As soon as possible, I ordered the horse wheel to be prepared and Stephen Miles and Joseph Miller went down. I did not go down myself."

Samuel Godfrey was next called, and gave evidence of himself and two other men attempting to pull the rope away and finding the bodies in the water. "They were all dead. I and the other two men had been in the pit all night. The five were coming down to relieve us."

The coroner stopped the inquest at this point, saying that further evidence was unnecessary. There was no doubt - he said - that it was a most melancholy and shocking accident but it did not appear blame could attach to anyone. Thus directed, the jury returned a verdict of "accidental death".

The body of Elizabeth Pillinger's man was brought home, in a cart, covered by a sack, surely by his brothers Stephen and John, in a scene which could have been a carbon copy of that witnessed by A. Braine in his "History of Kingswood Forest":

"There came out of a lane a horse and cart containing the dead body of a man just killed in a pit. He was laid on his back and a sack thrown over him. [I followed] the cart to the house where the deceased was being conveyed. About ten yards from the house, the cart stopped and one of the men went ahead to break the news. The wife of the dead man, two little girls and an aged couple were at breakfast. 'I am come to tell you some bad news,' said the man with the cart. 'What!' said the young wife, rising quickly from her seat. 'Bad news,' said the man again, but don't be alarmed.' 'My husband's killed!' said the young wife, screaming, having caught sight of the cart sideways through the window; suddenly she rushed to the door, and before another word could be spoken fled up the road, and fainted near the feet of her dead husband. The words 'gone' or 'dead' or 'killed' mingled with the sobs and groans and murmurings of many people who had gathered around added greatly to the distress. The body was brought to the cottage, lifted out of the cart, and laid upon the clean sanded floor. Meanwhile, the widow and the two little girls, orphaned, the grandfather and grandmother were all bathed in tears. 'Is he really gone? Oh, it cannot be!' exclaimed the young wife. But thus it was; her husband had that morning gone cheerfully to his work, got into the cage, the rope had broken, precipitating him and two others to the bottom of the shaft, killing them instantly."

In the wider sense, as a result of the accident, the proprietors of Easton pit improved the general safety and comfort of their men, and by 1841 they had installed in place of the open cart "a commodious hutch made of riveted iron plates in the form of an elliptical dome with two entrances." In this hutch seven men and two boys could go up and down together "snugly protected from the jets of water as well as from any stone or other substance accidentally falling on them."

Jacob, described "aged 40, of Filwood" was buried at Holy Trinity, Kingswood. His trials were over, and he bequeathed them to Elizabeth, his widow. She did not lose the child she was expecting: young Elizabeth was born in January 1839, and was christened at the Wesleyan Chapel on 24 February aged 4 weeks, along with her brother Jacob who was four.

In 1841 we find them living in Blackhorse Road: Elizabeth Pillinger, 40, a laundress, Jacob aged 6 and Elizabeth junior, 2. Their tenement and garden in Britannia Road, Potter's Wood is recorded on the 1841 Oldland tithe map.

Elizabeth never remarried. The baby Elizabeth grew up to marry John Moss who became underground bailiff at Easton pit. In January 1894 he gave

evidence at the inquest on David Webb, aged 61, who died in a falling of the roof, his body trapped against the airway by a broken prop.

What had become of Sarah, Jacob's only surviving child from his first marriage? She was probably at home on the fateful morning when he had left the last time for Easton pit, but by 1841 she was at work "in service" as a housemaid, aged 15, in Jubilee Place, Bedminster with a family called Wellinger. In 1851, described "servant, unmarried, aged 27, born Kingswood" she was at Somerset Square, Bedminster with two other maids, Jemima Hazel and Harriet Bowden, serving Thomas Harris, a prosperous engineer who employed 25 men, and whose family consisted of his wife and ten children. Nine years later on 8 September 1860, Sarah was married at Bitton. Described as of "full age, servant, spinster, daughter of Jacob Pillinger, collier, she became the wife of Abraham Williams, a widower of Oldland, son of Abraham Williams. Her marriage was witnessed by her uncle and aunt, Stephen and Jane Pillinger, suggesting perhaps that Sarah's home had been with them after she had been orphaned. The Abraham Williams and Stephen Pillinger households were very close: it will be recalled that in 1828, Abraham Williams, the father, had witnessed Stephen's marriage to Jane.

A Pin Header

On the 26 January 1840, [Evangelist] John Pillinger, collier, was married to Sarah Stanley, a pinheader, the daughter of John Stanley, a collier, at Holy Trinity, St Philips. They appear on the 1841 census at Made for Ever, following their respective trades.

Pin making was amongst the principal trades of Kingswood, and its workforce was predominately made up of women. In September 1841, Elijah Waring collected evidence for the Children's Employment Commission, and he described the Pin Manufactory:

"Heading the pins, which employs the largest number of hands is performed wholly by females, each of whom sits before a machine worked by a footboard treadle, having by her a wooden bowl of pointed shanks, and of heads, the heads being formed of compact spiral wire, spliced off by a machine not unlike a chaff cutter.

"The header takes an indefinite number of shanks between her thumb and fingers, and dips them into a bowlfull of the heads, when she generally finds each shank furnished with a loose head. She then drops the pins singly into a perpendicular receptacle in the block under the hammer, and by a single motion of her foot rivets on the head. This is performed with almost inconceivable rapidity and without any intent occupation of the eye.

"The old fashioned heading machines are semi-barbarous contrivances which it would be desirable to see annihilated. They require a close and continuous application of the sight, a protracted action of the feet and an inclination of the whole body unfavourable to health. It appears

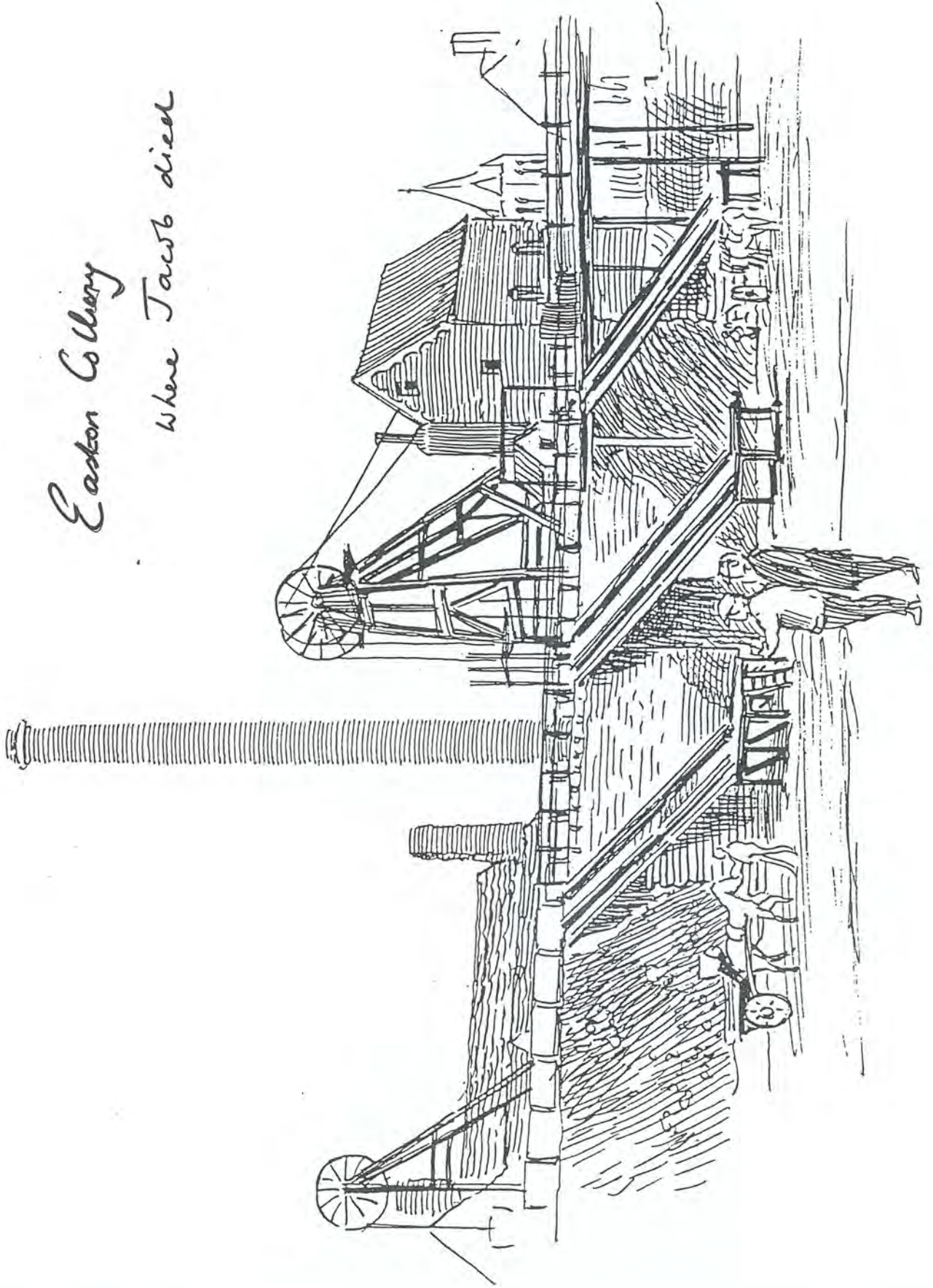
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Holy Trinity Kingswood
in the County of Gloucester, in the Year 1830.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1830. Dec 19 th No. 601.	Joseph son of	John Martha	Hampson	Kingswood Hill	Porter	R. Wilde
Dec 25 th No. 602.	Elizabeth Daughter of	William Ann	Brake	Kingswood Hill	Wheeler	R. Wilde
Dec 26 th No. 603.	Mary Anne Daughter of	James Anne	Ashton	Kingswood Hill	Labourer	R. Wilde
1831 Jan 9 th No. 604.	George son of	Francis Ann	Whitchurch	Kingswood Hill	Coalminer	R. Wilde
Jan 23 rd No. 605.	Charles son of	Abraham Ann	Golding	Potters Wood	Coalminer	R. Wilde
Jan 30 th No. 606.	Alfred son of	Stephen Jane	Pillinger	Bank Road	Coalminer	R. Wilde
Jan 30 th No. 607.	Aaron son of 15 yrs & 9 mths	John Anne	Pillinger	Market	Butcher	R. Wilde
March 13 th No. 608.	Robert son of	Abner Ann	Howe	Kingswood	Farmer	R. Wilde

Page from the register of Holy Trinity, Kingswood, showing the baptisms of Alfred, son of Stephen & Jane Pillinger and Aaron, 15 yrs and 9 mths, son of John & Anne Pillinger, 30 January 1830

Easton Colliery

where Jacob died



however that the liability of the improved machines to get out of repair impedes their introduction."

The women worked twelve hour shifts, 7 am to 7 pm in winter and 6 am to 6 pm in summer with voluntary overtime of one hour in the summer months, "for the sake of earning a little more". As Saturdays were worked, this meant at the least a 72 hour week, and perhaps 78 hours. All the hands were paid "by the piece".

Waring spoke with several young women of 16 and 17 whose weekly wages were between 3s and 4s 6d. A 13 year old boy working as a wire straightener in the same factory received 5s a week, and Waring remarked on the great discrepancy between the wages of the men, who were mostly pointers, who earned from 21s to 31s, and some as much as 40s, and those of the women.

Waring said: "There is a deplorable ignorance among the young females in these works. Nothing can be more offensive to the moral sense than the contrast between the good looks and neat costume of many of them, and the uncouth speech in which they betray their want of common good training.

At the Soundwell pin works 13 out of the 28 girls under 18 did not go to Sunday School. Sixteen could not read. None could write. At the Two Mile Hill works, 11 out of the 25 girls could not read, and only one had an "imperfect" knowledge of writing. Nine did not attend the Sunday School, where in any case they would have been taught to read to promote Bible study, but not to write. Improvement was promised by a new school opened by Mr Robert Charleton, the proprietor of the Two Mile Hill works where "boys and girls receive a useful education for 2d per week and 1d extra for writing, including copy books." Mr Charleton and his agent Mr Lambert were very highly thought of by their workpeople.

160 hands were employed at the Two Mile Hill factory, 110 of whom were female. Additionally, 500 women and children worked in their homes, heading and sticking pins, using the old methods, with six or seven women sharing a single block. Braine asks us to imagine "what a thundering noise a block of this kind would make in a house: wherever one went [could be] heard the incessant thumping and bumping of the pin headers". Nevertheless, the women were thought to be "exceedingly fond" of the work, and "not infrequently three or four would sing together some ditty, keeping regular time with the thump, thump of the pin block." [Oh that some of these work songs had survived!]

Whether Sarah worked at home or at the factory is not known.

In 1843, John and Sarah's only child Isaac was born and baptised at Holy Trinity Kingswood. John Pillinger was buried at Whitfield Tabernacle on 26 January 1850, aged 43.

In the census of 1851, Isaac is found living at Potters Wood with his mother, and in 1861 at Burchill's Green - near the Charleton works at Two Mile Hill - where he is described "grocer", and his first name is given as "John"! As Isaac, a labourer, he married Hannah Lear at St

Anne's Oldland on 10 February 1868. Sarah his mother was buried at Whitfield Tabernacle in 1870 aged 69.

In 1871, Isaac, now "a mason's labourer" with his wife Hannah and two sons, Alfred 2, who died young, and Aaron, 1, were back at Potters Wood.

In 1881, the family is at Mounthill, and Isaac has yet another occupation:

Isaac Pillinger	Head	Mar	36	shoemaker	born	Bitton
Anna [sic]	"	wife	"	33	"	"
Aaron	"	son	10	assistant shoemaker	"	"
Caroline	"	dau	9	scholar	"	"
Beatrice	"	"	6	"	"	"
Alfred	"	son	3	"	"	"
Bessie	"	dau	4 months	"	"	"

In 1891, they are at Claypitts Lane:

Isaac Pillinger	Head	Mar	47	shoemaker	↳ Bitton
Hannah	"	wife	"	45	hawker
Aaron	"	son	21	shoemaker	"
Catherine [sic]	dau	17	boot machinist	"	
Beatrice	dau	15	shoemaker	"	
Alfred J,	son	13	scholar	"	
Bessie	dau	10	"	"	
Florence	dau	6	"	"	
Alice	dau	4	"	"	

Of the younger generation, Aaron married Elizabeth Shepherd at Bitton in 1895 and Beatrice married Edwin Wiltshire at Mangotsfield the same year.

Reece Winstone's book, "Bristol as it was, 1874-1866" has a picture of "The Kingswood Market Woman, later "recognised by her grandson as Mrs Hannah Pillinger 1845-1916. She traded in Clifton and Cotham." I have unfortunately not traced this unnamed grandson. Braine gives an interesting pen portrait of one of this "class of women who attended the Bristol Market from this neighbourhood. They usually carried fruits, flowers and vegetables and had for this purpose donkeys with panniers. They wore large "shovel" hats and thick heavy blue coats with capes. Generally fine women, [they rode] perched upon their donkeys, and, rain or shine, seemed to defy the weather."

Hannah Pillinger of Derrick Road, Kingswood was buried at Wesleyan in 1916 aged 72, and Isaac followed a year later, also said to be 72. They were buried in the same grave as their daughter Florence who had died in 1906.

The last of John the hatter

We last met John, the father of Jacob, Evangelist John and Stephen in 1836 when he was finally barred from Yatton Keynell. A census was taken on 6 June 1841, and John, described as a hatter, aged 70, was living at "Leather Heaven" with James and Dinah Brimble, who I believe was his stepdaughter, Dinah Stone. There were 21 inhabitants of Leather Heaven

1868. Marriage solemnized at S. Rays in the Parish of Orléans in the County of Acadia

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
280	Sept. 7.	Thomas Bright	Full	Bachelor	Cleric	Orléans	Thomas Bright	Cleric
		Lavinia Fray		Spinster	Domestic	Orléans	Stephen Fray	Farmer

Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Rev. Mr. H. S. Macomber or after him by the

The Marriage solemnized at the presence of us, Thomas Pillingier Thomas Thompson Parish Clerk

Thomas Pillingier, the first who could write, witnessed the marriage of his sister Sarah Ann to Thomas Bright on 7 September 1868. He was more nervous when he signed Thomas Simeon Pillingier at his own wedding to Lavinia Fray on 30 November.

1868. Marriage solemnized at S. Rays in the Parish of Orléans in the County of Acadia

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
286	Nov. 30	Thomas Simeon Pillingier	Full	Bachelor	Domestic	Orléans	Stephen Pillingier	Farmer
		Lavinia Fray		Spinster	Domestic	Orléans	Stephen Fray	Labourer

Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Rev. Mr. H. S. Macomber or after him by the

The Marriage solemnized at the presence of us, Thomas Pillingier Pamela Bush

in 1841, and that aside, it is a mystery: nobody appears to know its exact whereabouts - it appears in the census pages between Soundwell and Made for Ever - or indeed has ever heard of it at all. Times continued hard in the hatting trade, and "a respectable hatter" told Elijah Waring in May 1841 that low wages and high priced provisions had so much crippled the resources of the workmen in the district, that his trade "which lay principally among that class, had fallen off to one half."

John does not appear in the 1851 census, and is presumed to be dead, but up to the present I have failed to find any official record of his death or burial.

The 1841 census was the first to record the names of all the inhabitants of a household. Children under 15 are given their correct ages - as far as they were known - but for people over 15, the ages are only approximate, to the nearest five years below. Thus, those aged 15 to 19 are said to be 15 years of age, those aged 20 to 24 as 20, and so on. At first glance it may appear that there are several sets of twins in a family, and this of course leads to utter confusion, then and now, and any age can vary by up to ten years if the census taker mistakenly rounded up instead of down! However, as John was baptised in July 1772, he was probably aged exactly 70 in June 1841.

In 1841, Stephen Pillinger, his wife Jane, their children Alfred, Hannah, Aaron, Stephen and Jane, and his mother in law, Rachel Summerill were at Siston Common. Jane was pregnant with my great-grandfather, Thomas, who was born on 1st December 1841 and then registered two days after Christmas at Keynsham. His mother Jane walked over to Keynsham in the bleak midwinter and made her mark before the registrar, probably carrying the baby in her arms. Young Alfred, who we last met at the font, was now aged 10, and a working "man", a coalminer like his brother, Aaron, a year younger.

Braine in his description of the "peculiar tools" used at the pits writes of "Boys' tuggers, hods and wickers, dagger like candlesticks, made to stick in the coal, large iron buckets called carts and numerous picks and other instruments..... The tuggers were for lads who were employed at a very tender age, the fathers carrying them sometimes on their backs to the pits, and in many instances where the lads were timid, putting them into sacks, and keeping them thus till they reached the bottom of the shaft. They were then stripped to the waist, shoes and stockings thrown aside and harnessed with a "tugger". This was made of thick rope with a hook at the end. It passed round the loins and between the legs. It was then hooked on to a hod or wicker, a sort of box or basket, and thus equipped, the boy crawling on all fours through a passage extremely narrow, was compelled to pursue his work of fetching coals to the bottom of the pit throughout the whole of the men's turn or day. In going up an incline, the boys undid their tuggers and pushed the hods along with their heads....."

As impassioned public opinion had freed the slaves within the British Empire, so attention was turned to those other slaves, the tragic children who toiled in the mines and factories. In our area, in May 1841, the same Elijah Waring who several months later would report on

the pin factory girls came to the Kingswood area to look into conditions in the coalmines.

Mr Waring first examined the tugging method "which struck me so painfully at first that I was induced to examine closely its effects on the frame, conceiving it to be a barbarous and unnatural mode of applying muscular power, [but] on minute examination, I find the direction of the rope girdle is across the lateral dorsal muscles, passing between the crest of the ilium and the great trochanter, on each side, then descending in front quite clear of the pubis so as to pass freely between the thighs, thus pressing but slightly on their superior anterior muscles in consequence of the inclined position used in tugging." In fact, the method was much to be preferred to the shoulder strap tug used in the Forest of Dean, thought Waring, as the latter was much more likely to induce hernia. He examined John Pick, earning 7 shillings a week, "a stout hale lad aged 16 to 17, as to any injury arising from hauling by the tug and girdle....forty tubs a day, four bushels each, 40 yards on level ground, unassisted with neither wheels nor plates....found no marks of injury; says it used to gall him at first over the hips; acknowledges his work to be hard; the men said none but a strong boy could do it." Boys and men said the method was better than the shoulder strap, and one added "Every country do like his own way best."

Nevertheless, Waring said "On the same principle which studies the *comfort of a horse by constructing his collar of smooth and elastic materials* [my italics], it would appear at once benevolent and easy to substitute some less harsh material for the hard twisted rope used by these laborious boys."

Stephen Pillinger's boys perhaps worked at the Warmley works of Davidson and Waters, which employed 60 hands, 11 under 13 and 10 from 13 to 18, with the youngest aged nine, [perhaps our Aaron?] Waring interviewed Thomas Waters, who told him the boys were paid between 2s 6d and 10 shillings a week. The shafts were 80 and 84 fathoms deep, the deepest for the pumping engine, 50 horse power. The winding engine was 22 horse power, a plaited rope and running stage over the pit. The ventilation was "good except when the wind sets against the pit's mouth when the foul air is troublesome." There had been no accident from gas, but two years ago a man had been killed when asleep out of the draught in an old topping "where he should not have gone" and just after, another died from a roof fall. A man's finger was cut off by a sharp stone 10 weeks ago. The seam worked was 2 foot 2 inches, with a generally good roof and part of the workings 40 yards wide. Wages were paid on Saturday in money only. [The last was certainly a good thing: in some places, though not as far as was reported in Kingswood, wages were paid in tokens which had to be spent in shops owned by the pit or factory proprietors!]

Mr Waters considered the colliers, and the population generally, to be more civilized than they were 30 years ago, but with "plenty of room for improvement still". The nearest public school was the National at Siston, a mile off, with two Sunday Schools within that distance. The boys in his pit were all carters, and were occasionally employed taking in pit timber. He thought most could read, but feared very few attended

a place of worship. He knew of only one boy who did not have a change of clothes for Sunday. "That boy had a sottish father and a badly managing mother." Pit boys were generally more immoral than agricultural and their countenances rarely looked as healthy, although they were "uncommonly hearty feeders and live as long as average." Some of the old colliers used to blasting with gunpowder were asthmatic.

After Waters' testimony, Waring hastened to interview the boy without a change of clothes. His name was John Harvey, a carter at Crown pit, who said he was 13, but "looks no more than 9 or 10: the men say they know him to be the age he states: draws coal with another boy, about 2 cwt at a time: eight score yards on rails, with slides underneath the cart. The ground, all level is pretty dry except in a few hollow places. Does not catch cold or lose his appetite: earns sixpence a day: works from 6 o'clock to two, or thereaway: gets potatoes and butter, or potatoes fried with bacon when he goes home from the pit: gets whatever he can catch: is always very hungry after work: seldom has as much as he could eat. Does not go to Sunday School because he has no clothes besides what he works in: cannot read: never had a pair of shoes or stockings in his life: has seven brothers and sisters: one brother earns 2s 6d in the same pit with himself: thinks his father earns 12s a week in the Spelter works: sometimes works at night for the sake of getting an extra sixpence: goes down at 10, and up at six in the morning."

Mr Waters said that he had been told that young Harvey had actually worked in the pit three days without food, but that he heard of it too late to do anything about it. [He had not apparently felt disposed to do anything since!]

Waring then interviewed George Chambers, aged 11, a boy of a healthy appearance who was Harvey's carting partner, and taller by a head, though 2 years younger. He went to the Sunday School and had a mother who took good care of him. Another carter, Charles Osborne was 16, and had worked at the pit since he was ten. He complained of severe headaches, and was "of sickly complexion and countenance, but well grown. The work evidently does not suit his powers." Likewise Abraham Brain, aged 10 who "do push with another boy" who was paid only threepence a day: "has no shoes; complains of tightness in the chest: looks delicate." Samuel Britton aged 18 was a robust lad with a healthy countenance: he had worked 11 years and now earned 9 shillings a week. Could stand upright in most parts of the pit. Could not read and did not go to Sunday School.

Great things were expected of the Sunday Schools of which there were many in the district, the largest being at Whitfield Tabernacle. Forty nine of the 500 gathered when Waring visited were colliers from 8 to 18 years of age. Waring noted the contrast between those who attended and those whose "stolid countenances betrayed their entire lack of instruction." But it was not as easy as all that to send your children to school. Daniel Poole, a 50 year old collier who was learning to read at the Moravian Sunday School had nine children, and said he would send all of them to school on Sundays if they had decent clothes. He found it hard to maintain so many, provisions being so dear. Perhaps his idea was to learn himself and then pass on his knowledge to the children. Daniel

thought the colliers were better men now than they used to be, an opinion shared by Waring who said the improvements were striking: "The colliers were formerly the terror of the neighbourhood, and for gross ignorance, rudeness and irreligion were without parallel in the Christian community. Those who knew the country 40 years ago, and I count myself among that number, remember the frequent scenes and the continual dread of outrages on property and public peace which then prevailed. You could not ride through some of the villages and hamlets without being insulted by the boys who would throw stones at both horse and rider without provocation. 'The Kingswood Colliers' was then a phrase that conveyed every idea offensive to civilization, order and religion. [Now] there is as much decorum in the manner of the population as in the generality of rural districts. The numerous places of worship are well attended, many of the colliers being members of religious societies. Any open desecration of the Sabbath is reproached even among the non-professing portion of the community who are of sober habits."

Waring remained concerned however that many of the children received no schooling whatever, and what instruction there was was arrested at too early an age, but concluded the poverty of the parents was such that they had no option but to send their sons into the pit at an early age - the youngest collier named in the report was seven years old - for the sake of their meagre wages.

Young Alfred survived this hard childhood and on 20 October 1850 was the first of Stephen and Jane's children to marry. His bride was Ann Hale, a nineteen year old servant, the daughter of William Hale, a furrier.

A census was taken on 30 March 1851, and it is curious to note that Alfred, aged 20, a coalminer, is living with his parents and younger brothers and sisters at Kingswood Hill, whilst Ann his wife is at New Cheltenham with their baby daughter Elizabeth, aged 1 month, lodging with her parents, William and Martha Hale.

Alfred and Ann went on to have a further eight children at either Made for Ever or New Cheltenham. As well as Elizabeth [married Aaron Brain at Bitton, 1871], these were Aaron, born 1852, Mary Ann, born 1854 [married Samuel Rogers at St Philip and St Jacob, 1874], Hester, born 1856 [married Joseph Fry at St Philip and St Jacob, 1875], Ellen born 1858, [married Joseph Haydon at Mangotsfield, 1881], Harriet, born 1860, [married William Silverthorne at Mangotsfield 1882], Emily born 1862, [married William Lowden at Bitton, 1880], Henry born 1864 and Fred born 1867. In 1881, Harriet, aged 21, a boot fitter, Henry, 18 and Fred, 15, both shoemakers were still living at home when Alfred aged 50 was described as "coalminer, unemployed". By 1891, though all the children had left home, Fred and his wife Emily are found next door to his mother and father. Alfred was then 60, and back in work as a labourer.

Ann died aged 70 in 1900, and left a will. Probate was granted to Aaron Pillinger, her son in 1909.

On January 17 1920, an obituary appeared in the Bristol Observer: "Mrs Silverthorne's funeral, at Whitefield Tabernacle, Kingswood was attended

Certificate of Identity.

(RING PAPER.)



IDENTITY NUMBER 8/M/P/1037
 This number should be quoted in all correspondence with the Pension Issue Office.

Pensions issuable on this Certificate are payable WEEKLY IN ADVANCE.

This is to certify that Mr. Oswald Pilkington
 late (Rating or Rank) Private No. SE 24669 of the Royal Army Vet. Corps
 is entitled to payment of a pension allowances amounting to seven shillings
 and five pence a week, expiring on 5-9-22 as set
 out below, at the Post Office at Kingswood Bristol

	£	s.	d.
Disablement Pension	—	—	—
Allowance for wife	—	—	—
" " children (<u>Three</u>)	—	—	—
Service Pension	—	—	—
Special Allowance	—	—	—
<u>Gratuity Allowance</u>	—	—	—
Total	£	—	6

George Lupton

Secretary, MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

Date 5 MAY 1922 192

Description of Pensioner. Age 40 Height 5ft 8 Eyes Brown Hair Brown

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE PENSIONER.

Read these carefully.

I.—Payment is due each Wednesday and will be made only on production of this Certificate at the Post Office selected by you for payment. If you wish to change the Office of payment you should apply to the Postmaster for a form of application.

II.—If you change your own address you must at once notify the Controller, Pension Issue Office, Ministry of Pensions, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London, W.3, and quote your Identity Number, as given above, stating also your Regimental Number, Full Name, Regiment and the Post Office at which you have been receiving payment.

III.—If you do not draw your pension each week, an advance can be issued on your application at the Post Office within a month. If you leave your Pension undrawn for a year, your name will be struck off the Pension List and will not be replaced unless you satisfactorily explain your omission to claim your pension.

IV.—Should you be ill and unable to go to the Post Office, send someone you can trust, with this Certificate, to ask the Postmaster for the allowance Form, in order that you may sign it and get the Sick Certificate on the back of the Form completed. The Postmaster will hold the Identity Certificate until the signed allowance Form is taken back to him. If it is in order, he will pay your messenger the amount due on this Certificate. Except in these circumstances the Postmaster is not authorised to pay you.

V.—Payment cannot be made without this Identity Certificate. If it is lost, you should at once notify the Controller, Pension Issue Office, Ministry of Pensions, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London, W.3, and also the Post Office at which you have been receiving payment.

VI.—As soon as the last ring has been stamped by the Post Office, you should insert your address in the space provided and return this Certificate in an unstamped envelope to the Controller, Pension Issue Office, Ministry of Pensions, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London, W.3, who will send you a new one, if any more payments are due.

VII.—Any pensioner shown to have been convicted of a crime, to have fraudulently attempted to obtain pension, to have pledged or otherwise improperly parted with this Certificate, or his Life Certificate, or to have been guilty of gross misconduct, will be liable to be deprived of his pension to such an extent as the Minister of Pensions may direct, in addition to any other punishment that the Law may inflict.

VIII.—Pensioners intending to leave the British Isles should at once notify the Controller, Pension Issue Office, in order that, if necessary, arrangements may be made to transfer payment of their pension to the country to which they are proceeding.

IX.—Pension must not under any circumstances be drawn by any person whatever beyond the Tuesday following the date of the death of a pensioner. An allowance for a wife, child or other person is not issuable beyond the Tuesday following the death of the person in respect of whom an allowance is being drawn. The death of a pensioner or a person in respect of whom an allowance is being drawn, should be notified immediately to the Controller, Pension Issue Office.

X.—To get your Pension you must fill up and send your Life Certificate which will be handed to you by the Postmaster every quarter.

NOTICES.

1.—This Certificate is Government Property. It is a security for debt and any person retaining it as a pledge or security for debt, is liable on summary conviction to a penalty of £20 for the first offence, and to a like penalty and imprisonment for six months for a second offence under Section 156 (9) of the Army Act.

2.—Any person who personates or falsely assumes the name or character of a pensioner in order to obtain payment of his pension, or who induces another person to do the same, is guilty of felony and renders himself liable upon conviction to penal servitude.

3.—In the event of the death of the pensioner, the person who notifies the death to the Local Registrar of Deaths should deliver this Certificate to him and will receive from him the sum of one shilling for so doing.

4.—Any person presenting this Certificate at a Post Office for payment of the pension after the death of the pensioner will be liable to prosecution.

5.—Any person who finds this Certificate is requested to forward it in an unstamped envelope, to the Controller, Pension Issue Office, Ministry of Pensions, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London, W.3.

by A. H. & F. Pillinger (brothers) and A. Brain and J. Fry, brothers in law." Curiously, in Kingswood, it was not done for women to attend funerals, even if the deceased was female! Alfred apparently did not attend his daughter's departure: he was by then 89, and living at Union Road, Keynsham, which, sadly, I believe was the workhouse. He was buried shortly afterwards in 1921, at Wesleyan.

Alfred and Ann's son Aaron married Harriet Bryant at St Philip and St Jacob in 1874. In 1881, the family lived at Soundwell Lane, when Aaron was a coalminer, probably at Soundwell Pit. He later went into trade as a shopkeeper. Aaron and Harriet's children were Alfred Henry, Lawson James, Graham Isaac, Amos, Onslow, Edna Maud, Marie, Olive, Harry and Idris.

Onslow Pillinger, (also known as Frank), a painter of 49 Soundwell Road, married at St Michael's Two Mile Hill on 29 June 1912, Edith Gifford aged 26, a tailoress, daughter of Luke Gifford, who gave the same address.

On 31 May 1916 he enlisted at Woolwich as a private in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. His army papers state that he was born in 1882, was 5' 3" tall, complexion fair, with brown hair and eyes. He served as a horsekeeper in Salonica and was invalided out with pneumonia after 2 years and 90 days.

Onslow and Edith had three daughters, the youngest being Doreen Grace who became the mother of my informant, Tony Thompson. Onslow died in 1948 of lung cancer and brain tumour.

His brother, Amos, born 1880 was married to Mabel Bryant, and had one son, Donald. He joined the 8th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, Service Number 5789 at the outbreak of war in 1914, and was promoted Sergeant before going to France. He was on the Somme on 1 July 1916 when the terrible order to "go over the top" was given, and was believed killed on 8 July 1916. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial which lists the 72,000 missing who have no known grave. His name also appears on the War Memorials at Holy Trinity Church, Kingswood and at Wesleyan.

Herbert Pillinger, born 26 May 1899, the son of Henry Pillinger and his wife Ruth Caroline Counsell, and grandson of Alfred and Ann, had a remarkable career. He enlisted in the Royal Engineers, Field Company, Bristol, South Midland Division, Territorial Army on 8 September 1914, and was accepted as being eighteen, when in fact he was aged 15 years and 3 months. After four months training he embarked for France on 21 December 1914 and served at Ypres in 1915 and on the Somme in 1916 and 1918. He survived the war, and was sent to Russia aboard the ss Czarita on 14 May 1919 and served at Archangel and Murmansk. He was still not twenty years old. Army life evidently agreed with him, and he signed on as a professional soldier, transferring to the Royal Corps of Signals in 1921. From 1925 to 1933, he was with his regiment in India, serving at Karachi, Quetta and the North West Frontier. He was demobbed in 1938 with the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major, and spent a year in civilian employment at Northern Command HQ. When war broke out again in September 1939, he was commissioned Major and served in Northern Europe in 1940,

and took part in the D-Day landings in June 1944, and subsequently fought with the 11th Armoured Division Signals from Normandy to Schleswig. In 1947, as Major Herbert Pillinger, MBE, MSM, he was made recruiting officer for Lincolnshire, a post which he held until his death in 1957. He married Lydia Caddy at Colchester in 1923, and they had one son, George Dennis, born 1924, to whom I am grateful for the above information.

Harriet Pillinger, the mother of Amos and Onslow, died on 12 October 1935. Her funeral, like that of Harriet Silverthorne, her sister in law, was attended by a crowd of male mourners, for the same reason as before: "Mrs H. Pillinger, 85, of Soundwell Road, Kingswood, sister of George Bryant of Zion Church was buried at Wesleyan Chapel. She was for sixty years a worker at Wesleyan. Mourners were A. Pillinger, widower, E., O., G. & H. Pillinger, sons, C. Ford, A. Cane, W. Stone, sons in law; H. Ford, R., D., and A. Pillinger, grandsons."

Aaron of 39 Soundwell Road died on 25 October 1936. "aged 84" and was buried at Wesleyan with his wife. His will, with probate granted to his son Graham Isaac, general dealer, amounted to £202. 19. 7d.

I have digressed from the census of March 1851 when young Alfred, despite being married still lived at home with Stephen and Jane at Kingswood Hill. The rest of the household consisted of Hannah, 19, a fur cutter, Stephen, 14, a coalminer, Jane, 12, Thomas, 10, John, 7, Sarah Ann, 5 and Ann, 3, all scholars. Jane, Stephen's wife was 42, and like the rest, was said to have been born in Bitton. Stephen himself said he was "aged 43, a coalminer, place of birth NOT KNOWN."

The Search for Stephen Pillinger

So far I have narrated the story of the Pillingers of Kingswood chronologically from the earliest known facts that my research revealed. When doing the actual research of course, I went in the opposite direction trying to work from the known to the unknown in reasoned steps. It was not always possible, for family history can be likened to a jigsaw puzzle in which most of the pieces are missing. Small bits of information would come to light in isolation, metaphorically a piece of sky or the leaves of a tree or a bit of the lady's dress: they had to be stored away until they could be joined with other pieces. Using these often tiny clues, I would try out theories, and my mathematical brother would accuse me of flights of fancy and illogical conclusions.

The point in the narrative where Stephen dropped his bombshell and denied knowing where he was born is the ideal place to pause and describe the search which joined Stephen to the rest of his family; the lapses of time between effort and fulfilment, the disappointments and the patience required.

I first "met" Stephen by looking at the grave registers in the schoolroom of the now defunct and derelict Kingswood Wesleyan Chapel,

built in the Victorian era by Samuel Budgett, Kingswood's "self-made man", the brother of Henry Hill Budgett who had so movingly described the plight of the poor in the cholera years:

"Stephen Pillinger, Blackhorse Road, Kingswood, aged 88 years," the entry ran, "buried 21 February 1899."

I did not know he was my great, great grandfather, so I started with my great-grandfather, Thomas, who died, said my father "about the time of the sinking of the Titanic. Or was it the Lusitania?" It turned out to be the second of the two, the burial again at Wesleyan:

"Thomas Pillinger, Counterpool Lane, 12 July 1915, aged 72 years."

My father was 13 when his grandfather died. He said Thomas had a "gammy" foot. "'Ee 'ould get I to run a mile for a a'penny and a piece of cake."

I found Thomas's marriage at Bitton Parish Church. The records were then at the top of a winding staircase in a turret room of the church, and kept in brown paper parcels reeking with damp.

The wedding was 30 November 1868: "Thomas Simeon Pillinger, bachelor, shoemaker, father, Stephen Pillinger, furrier, and Lavinia Fray, spinster, dressmaker, father Henry Fray, labourer."

I was pleased that Thomas could sign his name, which he wrote carefully in full, but shocked that Lavinia marked with a cross.

So there was the rudimentary family tree. Me and our Colin. Our father and mother Jack and Flo. Grandfather Albert and grandmother Hester. Great grandfather Thomas and great grandmother Lavinia. Great great grandfather Stephen.

The furrier puzzled me. I knew nothing at all about the hatmaking trade. I scratched it out, and wrote farrier, imagining something to do with horses, which I presumed ruled the roads of Kingswood at the time.

More visits to the draughty turret at Bitton and more revelations: the two marriages of John Pillinger in 1794 and 1805 were found. I assumed Stephen to have been an offspring of the second marriage, and born about 1811, if his age at death quoted in the Wesleyan grave register was correct, but I found no christenings. My brother had to go up to London about this time, and said he would search at the Public Record Office for me. He discovered the baptisms of Evangelist John in 1806 and Aaron and Harriet in 1816, the children of John and Anne at the Whitfield Tabernacle. No Stephen.

I went to see Great-Aunt Flo, my grandfather's sister. Why she was called Flo, is a mystery, as her name was Elizabeth. At the time she was almost ninety. Conversation with her was difficult, not because of her great age, but because she was a keen Jehovah's Witness, and would frequently cry out, triumphantly anticipating the imminent end of the world: "We'm living in terrible times!". Answers to my questions would be punctuated with Biblical texts, quoting appropriate chapter and

verse: "And the children of the Israel enquired of the Lord - Judges 20, 27" she might say - or "He turneth wise men backward and maketh their knowledge foolish - Isaiah 44, 25". She was very enthusiastic to talk about her ancestors, because she would be meeting them all again soon, and would be able to acquaint them with the true faith, for as she told me, "They died in *higgornance!*" I am afraid she had high hopes of me, not realised, as a recruit.

Stephen, Flo said, had built houses in Blackhorse Road. Was he then a builder as well as a farrier? No not a farrier, she thought. Probably a furrier: hats. But she was more interested in the houses which were one storey, a lot of chaps 'ould get together, and if you could get a roof on before sunset you could claim your rights to 'em. She recalled Stephen saying to her father Thomas, "If I 'ad my way over again, Tom, I've done more for thee, and not so much for our John", and crying as he said it. [John was Thomas's brother, who started a bakery in what was later named Pillinger's Road.] She remembered her sisters, Kate and Vinny, and told me she had "our Kate's" doll somewhere upstairs, but never showed me. She spoke of her other grandfather, Henry Fray, and her eyes filled with tears when she said he had attempted to cut his throat when he thought he would have to go into the workhouse. She produced a photograph of Henry, and said "You can have that. The boy with him is Herbert. He 'ad no nose." Hanging on the wall was a photograph of her mother, Lavinia, in old age, with a halo of white frizzy hair; in my father's account, Lavinia was terrifying, "the only 'oman I knew as could kill a pig," but Flo would not let me borrow the photo for copying, as "it's the only one I've got," and so, sad to say, it is consequently lost. Lavinia had been bedridden but never became incontinent. "That was all that pleased her in the end; she never wet the bed." Flo had a picture of Stephen too, she was on it, and Vinny. She generously said I could keep it.

Stephen sits, squinting slightly, a stick held between his knees, trousers "square rig" - fore and aft creases didn't come in before the reign of Edward VII - his black frock coat is open, and there is a muffler round his neck. He is clean shaven apart from the merest wispy growth of beard. The second joint of his index finger on his left hand is missing. He looks very old indeed. ["He was ninety-odd," said Flo. Was he then born earlier than I had thought?] His two young granddaughters standing beside him are all in white, even their shoes and stockings. The elegant Vinny, who Flo said died aged 25, and Flo herself, an elaborately dressed little baggage, staring apprehensively at the camera, aged about seven.

I was grateful to Flo for her information and for the gifts of the pictures of two great-grandfathers, and I found I was able to tolerate her pious outbursts. My father, gardening, would bring one on. "Fighting the thistles and the thorns!" she would intone in a sepulchral voice.

The visits terminated in an abrupt manner when she complained furiously to my father that I had sent her a rude greetings card from Ilfracombe. This was quite untrue: a sad case of mistaken identity. She said "Tell thee daughter not to come near I again." Dad and she then had a row. After an interval we made enquiries but found she had moved, and we

believed had gone into a home found for her by her co-religionists. Sadly, we never heard of her again.

I had by now received Thomas's birth certificate from St Catherine's House which confirmed he was born to Stephen and Jane at Siston in 1841. I also found the family on the Siston tithes, but the parish register was a disappointment, yielding only the one christening, of Harriet, an adult, daughter of John Pillinger, hatter of Made for Ever and his wife Anne. So Harriet was christened twice.

I had yet to look at the parish registers of Holy Trinity Kingswood. Most parish registers, when I started my research, were kept in their individual churches, unlike today when they are to be found in County Record Offices, and it often depended on the whim of the incumbent whether one was allowed access or not. [I was unfortunate enough to come upon a number of these "tricky vicars" whilst others could not have been more kind and helpful.] As the Canon at Kingswood procrastinated, saying the church records were in a muddle, I impatiently moved on, and decided to try Bishops' Transcripts. These transcripts, which I had only just heard of, are contemporary copies of parish registers made for the bishop of the diocese. As Kingswood, like Bitton, was formerly in Gloucestershire, the transcripts were at the Gloucester Library. The first of my many visits there was all but wasted. At that time a researcher needed a pass authorised by the diocesan solicitor before access to the bishop's holdings was granted. I had no idea about this, and the august body was out practically the whole day. After hours sitting on a hard chair in his waiting room, he returned, formally rubber stamped my pass, and I hightailed it to the library. All this rigmarole has now changed. Since my misadventures, the BTs are in bound volumes on the open shelves at Gloucester Record Office, available to all. I found that Stephen had been married as Stephen Pollinger in 1828, and being illiterate had been unable to correct the error. I found it unlikely he was seventeen when married, and assumed Great Aunt Flo's estimate of his age was more reliable than the Wesleyan grave books. Moving fast, almost breathless, rueful of the missed day, one eye on the relentless clock which hurtled away the seconds before the closure of the library and my enforced departure, I copied down the christenings of Stephen and Jane's children, spelled in every case, Pillinger, and uncovered a piece of highly circumstantial evidence that Stephen was a child of John and Anne, the juxtaposition of the christenings of Alfred, son of Stephen and Jane, and Aaron, son of John the hatter and Anne, on 30 January 1831. The name Aaron was popular amongst the descendants of Stephen, but was the original one his brother?

My next step was to enquire at Bristol Library whether there was a Kingswood Local History Society. They gave me the name and address of the secretary, Doreen Street. I wrote to her and she rang me the following morning in great excitement. She could not supply the ancestry of Stephen, but by an extraordinary coincidence, her mother's name was May Pillinger. Could we meet? We did. Our grandparents had lived next door to each other. Her grandfather Fred and my grandfather Albert were half-brothers, and thereby hangs a tale. Doreen Street was also able to tell me about the Oldland Hatting industry, which she had researched "from the trapping of the animals on the Common to the finished product

on the heads of the London swells." I removed my mental picture of John as Alice's Mad Hatter, and substituted Urk Starkadder, hung about with small animals. Naturally, Stephen would have known something about the trade from his supposed father John. I felt little doubt that Stephen's missing finger had been cut off by a skinning knife. [I'm not so sure now. I remember that Thomas Waters, of the Warmley coalworks told Elijah Waring in May 1841 that "A man's finger was cut off by the fall of a sharp stone 10 weeks ago." This could well be the reason Stephen left mining and became a furrier. Sometimes it is possible to suspend disbelief.]

As we know, John the hatter was still alive in 1841, and working at Leather Heaven. I discovered the burial of his wife Anne at Whitfield Tabernacle in 1832 with her place of residence misread by me as Church Hatton. Although I recorded this information, for some reason it didn't strike me as relevant. Several months later, having my breakfast, with a cup of tea poised to my lips, something zapped my brain. I almost dropped the cup. I remembered I had seen something like Church Hatton before. I rifled through the card index I had been keeping, and found that a Nathaniel Pillinger, who married forty years before Anne's death had given Yatton as his abode. Hatton & Yatton - the same, surely? Even then, like a fool, I wrote off to Yatton in Somerset, and the vicar's answer, not surprisingly came back negative. I read Nathaniel's card again and noticed that Yatton was in the county of Wiltshire. I then discovered that Church Yatton was the antique name for Yatton Keynell. I contacted the vicar, but he was one of those who would not let his records be examined by the hoi-polloi. He kept me waiting many months, shirtilly rebuffed my telephone enquiries, but eventually supplied a handwritten list of Pillingers going back to Samuel and ending with Nathaniel. There was no Stephen among them. So I was still stymied. The vicar assured me there was nothing left to find. THIRTEEN years later, when the Yatton Keynell archives had been deposited in the Wiltshire Record Office, I was able to discover the amazing catalogue of Poor Law payments made to the Pillingers. I was delighted to note they amounted to £51.13.5½d, so even allowing for the vicar's fee, we had still made a handsome profit!

After further visits to the bone cold Bitton vestry I discovered John's and the elder Nathaniel's papers, which further corroborated the connection with Yatton Keynell, though I remained perplexed why the place should have been given as the address of Anne Pillinger, who was born, married and buried in Bitton. The Pillinger puzzle picture was taking shape, but there was still a great gap where Stephen's baptism should have been and hence I could still not join up the family tree. I toyed with other avenues, trying to place him as an illegitimate son of one of the Pillinger girls of the time. I wondered if he was the son of Anne Stone Pillinger by her first marriage - having noticed that her first husband was called Stephen. I checked all other first names, seeking out EVERY member of the Pillinger family from anywhere at all in the hope that I would find him by a process of elimination.

All the enquiries came to nothing. At this point I discovered the census of 1851, and Stephen himself said his place of birth was Not Known.

I had now spent three years in the search, and then in 1977, I received an excited letter from a friend, the late Tony Brain who was spending his holidays at the Gloucester Record Office, when the chance turn of a page in the BTs of Hanham Church brought him to 2 August 1823, and the belated christening of the three young men, Jacob, 24, John, 16 and Stephen, 14½, described as the sons of John and Anne Pillinger. I had searched through the whole of Bitton, when at the church but the chapelry records of the period after 1813 when the format of the baptismal registers changed were then held elsewhere, I think at Hanham Christchurch, whose records supposedly started in the mid 19th century. To avoid traipsing around more churches, I had looked at ten years either way of 1808 - 1811 in any number of transcripts of various parishes at the Gloucester and Bristol Record Offices, but I had not gone far enough!

So I was able to take our family tree back to Sallia, and probably, to Samuel of Yatton Keynell. I still believed there were a few more treasures yet to find amongst the Bitton archives, but was told repeatedly that I had seen everything. About SIX years passed and the records were at last deposited at Bristol Record Office, but even then I was not able to see them for another year. I have already said they were damp. They were just caught in time. They had to be expertly dried and fumigated before they could be released to public view. And then catalogued. My patience was at last rewarded and the sorry tale of the removals was revealed. The whole story became clear.

I do not believe for a minute that Stephen's birthplace was unknown. The controversy over where the Pillingers "belonged" was still current at the time of his birth, and he must have grown up with it. The last removal to Yatton Keynell was that of his poor old uncle Bob in 1843, much too close for comfort. I think Stephen reasoned that he could hardly be removed if there was nowhere for him to be removed to. When it came to later censuses, 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891, he clearly felt the danger had passed, and admitted he was born in Bitton. Was he? I think he probably was.

Mysterious Brother Aaron

It was a source of considerable irritation that Aaron Pillinger, who was christened for the second time at Holy Trinity Kingswood at the age of 15 years 9 months in 1831 along with Stephen's baby son Alfred thereafter disappeared from the bosom of the family.

He finally turned up nearly two decades later. What he had been doing in the meantime, like so much else in family history, will probably never be known. The date was 6 April 1850, the venue the parish church at Kidderminster in Worcestershire, and Aaron was being married:

Aaron Pillinger, 30, bachelor, musician, Worcester Street, father John Pillinger, hatter and
Mary Ann Griffiths, 23, spinster, Worcester Street, father Thomas Griffiths, victualler.

How did this scion of coalminers and hatters make a living as a professional musician? The only possibility I can think of is that he had been in the army as a bandsman.

I originally came across Aaron's wedding in the Mormon International Genealogical Index [IGI] and had thought he might be Stephen's long lost brother, but as neither age nor parentage is shown on the IGI, proof waited until the Kidderminster church register was checked for me by Tony Thompson, descendant of Onslow Pillinger. It will be seen that Aaron, being considerably older than his bride lied about his age, being 34, not 30!

After the wedding they went to Yorkshire: their daughter Clara Louise Brown Pillinger was registered at Huddersfield in 1851 and christened 6 June 1853 at Holmfirth.

By 1861, the family, minus Aaron, had returned South, and Mary Ann, Clara Louisa and four younger children, including twins, all born at Kidderminster, were living at 23 Chapel Street, Worcester.

Mary Ann Pillinger, Head,	married,	32	Musician's wife	born	Kidderminster
Clara Louisa	"	daughter	9	scholar	" Yorks, Holmfirth
Theresa	"	"	8	"	" Kidderminster
Alfred	"	son	3	"	" "
Harry	"	"	11	mths	" "
William	"	"	11	mths	" "

All these children except Clara Louisa were christened at Kidderminster, as was another son, Thomas Griffiths Pillinger, baptised on 21 September 1854 who had presumably died before the census was taken. Two more children Leah Ellen and Bartholomew were baptised at Kidderminster on New Years Day, 1866.

Nothing further is known about the elusive Aaron, but his descendants remained in Kidderminster, for the 1896 Kelly's Directory shows "Bartholomew Pillinger, shoeing smith" living at Corporation Street, and in 1912, Miss Leah Ellen Pillinger, dressmaker, advertised her services from 145 Park Street. I have been told that the centenary booklet of Kidderminster Rugby Football Club contains a photograph of the 1880/1 team with an "A. Pillinger" perhaps Alfred, in the front row.

Tony Thompson wrote to the "Kidderminster Shuttle" in 1987 asking for any descendants of Aaron Pillinger to contact him. He received a letter from Mr D.F. Jackson of Kidderminster which contained the following information:

"My great aunt Ann Whatmore married a William Pillinger, uncle Will to the family, a carpenter, and they had five children. Their eldest, Theresa, married John West who was manager of a local timber merchants, as far as I can remember. One of the sons spent many years living in Coventry and returned to Kidderminster about thirty years ago. Alfred and Annie were the oldest children."

Femail

Hard, fast and beautiful



Tori Pillinger: She will never ski again

by **JEFF POWELL**

IN VAL, COLORADO

THE most poignant sight among the princes and poseurs who gathered here over the past fortnight was not that of actor Arnold Schwarzenegger drinking beer by the steinful and pining for the Fatherland in a mock Tyrolean bar called The Austria Haus.

Nor was it Gerald Ford remembering what it was like to be the United States President as he potted about making speeches, briefing the press and hanging medals on the fastest men and women of the 1989 World Alpine Ski Championships.

No, it was when you caught a glimpse of Tori Pillinger, the apple-pie hope of American skiing just a year ago, that a lump came to the throat.

It is 14 months since the bubbly girl from Park City came hurtling down a Swiss mountainside, strove to clip a hundredth of a second off her time for the Leukerban women's downhill but instead of crossing the line, crashed into a solid steel post supporting the finishing marker.

Tori Pillinger was a few days short of her 21st birthday. The fracture was a compound, splintered, agonising mess requiring metal pins which still hold the leg together.

Not only will she never ski again but it is doubtful she will ever walk unaided. Ask her if it was worth it and she shrugs her shoulders, plucks up a smile as bright as the Colorado sunshine and limps away to watch her former rivals pitch themselves down Vall Mountain at 70-miles-an-hour.

SINCE the downhill is a perilous affair for the men, it has to be asked of the heroines of the jet set: What's a nice girl like you doing in a race like this? The response to that question varies between bewilderment and resentment. Women, just like men, can be timid or brave and Michela Figini, the vivacious Italian-speaking Swiss girl who currently leads the downhill World Cup circuit, says, "A lot of men wouldn't dream of racing the women's course here."

Since Alberto Tomba, the Italian stallion, makes no bones about being one such man, Miss Figini knows what she's talking about. She fell at the same spot on the same day as Pillinger but missed the steel upright, skidding across the finishing line to win the race on her backside.

For many of these girls, skis have been the most practical form of transportation since they were born. Vreni Schneider, another Swiss villager who is currently the all-round queen of the mountains, says, "My parents put me on skis at two, as soon as I could stand. We are doing what comes naturally."

MARIA Walliser might have drastically rearranged the model-girl features which will become her second fortune as she plummeted to her Gold Medal here last week. But so ecstatic was the thrill that she told us, "I can't imagine anything more exciting or enjoyable for the moment than ski racing."

Of course, they are aware of the risks. Karen Percy, the 22-year-old Canadian blonde who finished second to Walliser here, talks about the fear of flying down the mountain with the freedom of one who has conquered that neurosis. "The last time I was afraid on a downhill course was two years ago. I was a reckless young girl then and I was crashing all the time."

Now I have tempered the way I attack the hill. As a result I'm faster and the trepidation is with me no longer. Frankly, if you don't enjoy it, you shouldn't be on the mountain.

When Franz Klammer, arguably the greatest downhill racer of all, paid a hospital visit to his brother who had been permanently crippled attempting to emulate his brother's feats, he said, "No, it doesn't turn me off skiing. Other people in the ward seemed to be victims of traffic accidents, fights, muggings or falls at home. Downhill racing is still safer than crossing the road."

Watching the girls here fly like the wind, Franz could have fooled me not to mention the brave Miss Pillinger.

The American family

On the night of the 1851 census, Stephen and Jane's son Aaron was not at home with the rest. He was at a grocery shop in Kingswood Hill where he presumably lived in as a grocer's assistant.

On 4 February 1855, he married Esther [Hester] Britton at Holy Trinity, St Philips, Bristol, when he was described as of full age, a collier of Pennywell Road. His bride was also over 21, and of Winsford Street, the daughter of William Britton, an engineer. In 1861 Aaron was working as a labourer and living at Kingswood Hill, by which time he and Hester had two sons, William Alfred and Stephen. In 1871, he was a butcher, living at 1 Hanham Road, Kingswood, and he and his wife had three more children, George, born 1862, Joseph, born 1865 and Elizabeth Esther, born 1867.

On 2 September 1876, Aaron's son Stephen, aged 17, married Elizabeth Powe at Bitton and on 20 May 1877, his brother, William Alfred, aged 20, a stoker, of Derby Street, married Fanny Thirza, 21, of Brook Street, the daughter of William Hill, fitter, at St Matthew Moorfields. Shortly afterwards, the whole family upped sticks and went to the USA. According to the legend in the American family, Stephen went first and the rest of the family followed.

Hester died in America on 15 October 1881, and Aaron failed to settle. He returned home with young Elizabeth leaving his sons behind. He remarried at Holy Trinity Stapleton in 1882, a widow called Sarah Ann Bessell. Nineteen year old Elizabeth Esther, a dressmaker, married Samuel Bryant, a shoemaker, at Oldland on 24 January 1887. Aaron signed the register as a witness on 27 August 1890 when his stepson Edward Bessell married Louisa Guard at Bitton. He died aged 68 on 3 January 1904, and was buried at Wesleyan beside his father and mother, Stephen and Jane. Sarah Ann, his widow, died 24 November 1914, aged 73, and was also buried at Wesleyan where her tombstone reads "Our dear Nancy, widow of Aaron Pillinger."

Apart from the mythical escape of Jacob Pillinger, my father was vaguely aware that other members of the family had gone to America. Great Aunt Flo knew they had, and recalled a member of this branch, "a rich relation, quite a toff" returning to visit them, and offering her mother Lavinia five gold sovereigns or £5 in the new paper money. "What use is that to me?" cried Lavinia, "I'll take the gold." To try to find out about the emigrants, Jacob, as well as the others, and the returning trans-Atlantic visitor, I went through American telephone directories and collected several names and addresses of Pillingers living in the USA. I wrote to them and received two replies, one of which was from Douglass Pillinger of Glen Ellyn, Illinois. From information he supplied, I knew I had hit pay dirt.

Douglass's first letter dated 1 June 1975 reads: "My grandfather was Stephen Pillinger who came to the United States from Bristol in the middle or late 1870's. He first settled in Upper New York state but later came to Chicago where he lived all his life. I can remember attending my grandparents' golden wedding anniversary in about 1926, so

I assume he was born 1856. My grandmother was also from Bristol. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Powe. She died in the early 1930's and my grandfather in 1937 or 1938. He was was one of four brothers, Fred, George, Henry and Stephen, all of whom came ultimately to Chicago where they lived all their lives. They are all dead now of course, as are all of their children.

"My father, Edward James was born in 1883 and lived in or around Chicago all his life. He died in 1953. My parents had two children, my sister Dorothy who is still living and myself, each of us now senior citizens but of the youthful variety if there be such. My sister, a widow, lives in Sebring, Florida.

"One of Henry's children, Herbert, was for a long time a doctor in Elgin, Illinois, about 30 miles from Chicago. He retired to Florida and has since died. His widow and his son Donald live in Sebring, Florida. Another of Herbert's sons, also called Herbert is a doctor practising in Elgin. Donald is another son. His son Barry lives in Corpus Christi, Texas.

"I'm not sure I can identify the "rich relation". To my knowledge my grandfather never went back to Bristol, nor did my father. However, my sister tells me that that Henry, one of grandfather's brothers did make a trip to England and Bristol in the 1920's. I doubt whether he was really rich, but if it was he, I can understand from my knowledge of him while I was growing up that it would have been easy for him to give that impression.

Unfortunately, my aunt Florence, my father's sister, the last of that generation died in 1969. Her son Robert La Nier who lives at Slingerlands, New York has the Family Bible.....but when I last spoke to him he thought 'the history' did not go back further than the names of my and his grandparents mother and father."

My correspondence with Douglass continued until his death on 8 November 1883. I was informed of the sad news by his wife Harriet who herself died shortly afterwards in a fall at home. Unfortunately neither ever came to England, a trip Douglass was putting off until his retirement, but a few years later, their daughter Carol Daw came here on holiday with her husband Paul and sons Peter and Nathaniel, the latter named by a happy coincidence, for of course they knew nothing of the earlier Nathaniel Pillinger. We spent an enjoyable day together sightseeing in the Bitton area, and finally visiting Brunel's famous steamship Great Britain which made many transatlantic crossings and is now preserved in Bristol harbour. Carol became a committed Anglophile, and she and her family would make frequent visits thereafter, particularly to London, which she loves, and the friendship continues to the present day. I was glad also to welcome Robert La Nier and his wife Connie when they visited Bristol and as it was a Sunday, we went first to Bitton Church, where so many of the family married, arriving at the end of matins, but Robert's especial thrill was standing on the site of No 1. Hanham Road which had been the family address in 1871, and well known to him from the Family Bible.

Later my name was passed to Bill Pillinger of Aiken, South Carolina, grandson of William Alfred.

William Alfred was Douglass's "Uncle Fred". The family knew nothing of his marriage to Fanny Thirza Hill, and perhaps she died on the voyage. William Alfred remarried in 1880 at Austin, Illinois, Edith Maria Webb. George who was born in 1862 married Alice, and had two daughters who died during a 'flu epidemic. Henry [Harry], 1864-1931 apparently began life as Joseph, the name by which he is recorded on the English census of 1871. [I have lost count of the number of times Pillingers have changed their first names.]

Bill told me that the four brothers had "emigrated from Bristol to Oak Park, [formerly Austin] Illinois, about 9 miles WNW of downtown Chicago and is part of the greater Chicago area and the politically nefarious Cook County...[where]...they engaged in selling shoes, and building construction" - those houses again - learned at their grandfather's knee no doubt! - "and banking. Stephen, Fred and Harry founded the First National Bank of Oak Park and Harry's son, Harold was the cashier at one point. They were very affluent until the bank failed." [Did the citizens of Oak Park rally round as in that icon of small town America, Capra's film 'It's a wonderful life'?)

Harold's great grand-daughter is Tori Pillinger, who represented her country at downhill skiing, and whose career was tragically cut short by a horrific accident. I read about her in the Daily Mail of 13 February 1989, under the heading "Hard, fast and beautiful":

"Vail, Colorado: The most poignant sight among the princes and poseurs who gathered here over the past fortnight was not that of Arnold Schwarzenegger drinking beer by the steinful and pining for the Fatherland in a mock Tyrolean bar. Nor was it Gerald Ford remembering what it was like to be President of the United States as he pottered about making speeches.

"No it was when you caught a glimpse of Tori Pillinger, the apple-pie hope of American skiing just a year ago that a lump came to the throat.

"It is 14 months since the bubbly girl from Park City came hurtling down a Swiss mountainside, strove to clip a hundredth of a second off her time for the Leukerban women's downhill but instead of crossing the line, crashed into a solid steel post supporting the finishing marker.

"Tori Pillinger was a few days short of her 21st birthday. The fracture was a compound, splintered, agonising mess requiring metal pins which still hold the leg together.

"Not only will she never ski again, but it is doubtful she will ever walk unaided. Ask her is it was worth it and she shrugs her shoulders, plucks up a smile as bright as the Colorado sunshine and limps away to watch her former rivals pitch themselves down Vail Mountain at 70-miles-an-hour."

To return to Bill: "Harry's other son, Herbert, was a medical doctor. Stephen's son Edward was the largest Oldsmobile dealer in Chicago, and in Illinois from 1921 until the 1940's."

William Alfred (Fred), Bill's grandfather was taught to read and write by his wife Edith. He was a general contractor and did so well financially that he was able to offer his sons Ralph (Bill's father) and Milton the choice of a college education or a trip round the world. "Ralph took an architectural engineering degree from the University of Illinois, Milton took the trip." [Was he Great Aunt Flo's "rich relation?"] "Ralph who died in 1924 became sales manager for the Dodge automobile dealership in Miami, Florida. Milton stayed in Oak Park as a general contractor.

Another voyage to America

When we last heard of Elizabeth, the widow of Jacob who was killed at Easton Pit, she was living with her children at Blackhorse Road.

In 1851, with their address given as Filwood, Hamlet of Oldland, near Kingswood School, they were recorded by the census:

Elizabeth Pillinger	Head of House	Widow	51	Laundress	born	Bitton
Esther Joy	daughter	unmarried	24	shoemaker	"	"
Thomas Joy	son	"	20	coalminer	"	"
Jacob Pillinger	son	"	16	coalminer	"	"
Elizabeth Pillinger	daughter		12		"	"

On 14 January 1855, Elizabeth made her mark and her son Thomas Joy signed the register of Holy Trinity as witnesses to the marriage of Samuel Francis Brunning aged 21 and Mahala Johnson aged 23. Brunning was a teacher and Mahala a servant at the Kingswood Reformatory School. As Elizabeth took in washing, it was probably the school that supplied the bulk of her work, and somehow through this the family become friends of the bridal pair. [This marriage certificate was sent to me by a descendant of the Brunnings requesting information about them, and by sheer coincidence I was interested in the witnesses.]

In 1857, Jacob and Elizabeth's son Jacob, described as a warehouseman married Hannah Stone at Bitton. She was the daughter of William Stone, a collier. Hannah, their daughter was born at Old School Lane, Two Mile Hill on 10 February 1859, when Jacob was "a wholesale grocer's warehouseman" - and surely an employee of Samuel Budgett, whose grocery empire had moved from Kingswood into Bristol after a devastating fire in 1842. This was surely preferable to the life down in the mines which had killed his father. For Elizabeth there was a daily reminder, for by 1861, aged 63, she was living at The Old School with her daughter Hester, still single, but who now called herself Hester Pillinger, and three young grandsons, Matthew aged 17, Robert, 15 and Samuel, 13, all coalminers, the sons of Elizabeth's other daughter Hannah Joy and her husband John Britton.

Jacob's interlude in the grocery trade came to an end, and by 11 January 1863, when his son and namesake, yet another Jacob was born, he was once again mining coal. This return to the trade was the prelude to a great adventure. "Go West Young Man....and seek your fortune" was the current exhortation, and Jacob, Hannah, his wife, young Hannah, their daughter, and a new baby, Elizabeth, set out with a Kingswood party for America. They were to work in the mines of Gilberton, Pennsylvania. Jacob who had become a local preacher for the Wesleyans was sure his God would provide. We know nothing of the journey, and next to nothing of their life in Gilberton. A son, William Bramwell, named after the son of the founder of the Salvation Army was born in America in 1867.

Back home, in 1871, Jacob's mother Elizabeth Pillinger, appeared on the census for the last time. Only one of her children remained at home, the spinster Hester, aged 44, a shoemaker. Elizabeth herself, after a lifetime of toil, was described "a pauper". At least she had kept out of the workhouse.

At Gilberton, the children attended the Methodist Sabbath School. The superintendent had a name straight out of the Witches of Salem, Eli Pickersgill. In 1873, little Jacob, aged 10, was presented with a prize for learning his lessons at Sunday School, a little book, "Little Humpy and other stories", a piece of sentimental quasi-religious tosh, in which the eponymous main character, through divine intervention, is cured of being a hunchback as a reward for his sunny personality and overall goodness. It occurred to me that young Jacob may have suffered from scoliosis, the S-shaped curvature of the spine which afflicts my brother and myself, in which case his prize was even more offensive. Mr Pickersgill should have known better.

Altered - replace with amended version

In November that year, Hannah wrote home:

Gilberton, November 17/73.

Dear Mother, brothers and sisters

We embrace the present opportunity of writing these few lines to you hoping to find you well as it leaves us at present, thank God for it. Dear mother, we received your kind letter and was glad to hear from you and to find that you was better. We hope by this time you are quite well. Although there is a great distance between us, we do never forget you. The poet said our bodies may far off remove, but still we are one in heart and such is the case with us. Dear mother, we are very much obliged to you, to bro Henry and to our Hester and William and Susanna for the presents you sent us it was very kind of you and we hope to return the compliments some day. It was almost more than we could desire. We were glad that Hester liked the garters we sent her. We hope to send you something else after a while and hope some day to see you again that would be a happy meeting dear mother we hope amidst your affliction you are putting your trust in the Lord, dear mother, try to make your peace with God so that if we never meet again on Earth, we may meet in Heaven. Dear mother we hop[e] you liked the caps we sent you they were not so good as we wish for it was out of the season. But we intend to try to get you two more prettier ones and two American shawls knitted and send you when we see someone coming home. We should like to know if you wear any underflannels because we think you ought to for they are highly recommended in this country. They may save you

from taking another stroke. You must take care of yourself dear mother we are glad to inform you that William does not forget you and we inclose for you a draft for two pounds so you see that he has still the affection of a son towards you & he feels almost like coming home to see you sometimes for we believe he would take it very hard if anything serious were to happen to you. He is still living with us and has a good constant place of work and is in good health. He attends church regular and is a teacher in the sabbath school. Dear mother we must bring our note to a close sending our best respects to Bro Henry to our sisters and to Hester & William and tell them we are glad to find that they are steady and will cleave close to the Lord. Give our best respects to uncle George Lewton & wife, for Doctor Burgess & family, for John Stone & family, to Betsy Clements and family, to Elizabeth Hussy & the family and to all inquiring friends and accept the same yourself from your affectionate daughter and sons,

Hannah & Jacob Pillinger and William Stone.

It is unfortunate that Hannah supplied almost no information, apart from devotional activity, about daily life in Gilberton. Likewise none of the younger generation of Pillingers were mentioned, not even Henry Wesley, an infant born the same year as the letter was written. As for the rest of the children, Hannah, now 14, Elizabeth, 11, Jacob, and William Bramwell, they were all seen and not heard. No regards were passed to Jacob senior's mother, Elizabeth: perhaps no-one worried whether she was wearing underflannels or not. Presumably this new fangled American garment was that which became known as "Combinations" or "Coms" for short.

In previous chapters I have recorded the arrest and removal to the hulks of the first Jacob Pillinger who thereafter disappeared; the tragic death at Easton pit of his nephew, Jacob the second; now little Jacob, great great nephew of the first and grandson of the second, the recipient of "Little Humpy" died. A stigma seemed to attend the very name Jacob Pillinger, and nemesis was soon to come to the last remaining Jacob. The dangers of coalmining were by no means lessened by a move to another country, and some time after the letter of November 1873 was sent he sustained head injuries in a coalpit in Gilberton. In the first instance his life was despaired of. Upon partial recovery he expressed a wish to be allowed to die in his own land. It is said that his standing with the Kingswood Methodists was such that a public subscription [headed by the famous mining engineer Handel Cossham] was raised to enable his return.

He had returned to England by July 1875, and another of Hannah's letters survives, written from Gilberton where she and the children remained:

Gilberton, July 15th 1875.

Dear Husband

I received your kind and Welcome letter yesterday the 14th day of July and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you are well and I was glad to hear that you had a good passage. We got to know when you landed in Liverpool two days after you landed it was a good passage. Dear husband I received the letter you sent when you got to Liverpool on the 5th of July but I thought I should wait till you wrote again before I did write to you dear husband, has a family we are all well at present thank God for it in

First Pages of the letters from Gilberton

Gilberton November 17/73

Dear Mother, Brother & Sister
we embrace the present opportunity of
writing these few lines to you ~~hoping to~~
find you all well as it has been of
Parents thank God for it. Dear Mother
we received your kind letter and was glad
to hear from you and to find that you
was better. we hope by this time you
are quite well. although there is ~~a great~~
distance between us we do not
forget you. The Poet said our
bodies may far off remove but
still we are one in heart. and
such is the case with us. Dear Mother
we are very much obliged to you
to Bro. Henry and to our Sister
and William ^{& Susanna} for the Presents you
sent us it was very kind
of you and we hope to return

Gilberton July 15th 1875

Dear Husband

I received your kind
and welcome letter yesterday
the 14th day of July and was glad
to hear from you and to hear
~~that you are well and I was~~
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at present thank God for it
in regard to the work here
all are working on the 20 per

regard to the Work here all are working on the 20 per cent drop. Dear husband thear was a Sunday School picnic hear on the 5th of July and it was a good one. I should think thear was 4 or 5 hundread of people thear and thear was a good time thear and I send you this paice of New paper to let you hear it came off.

Dear Husband in Regard to what you said about staying in the old Country you can do what you think Best about it. I tould you about it before you went that you should do the Best you can, so you can do what you think Best. So I now bring my few lines to a clouse by sending all of our kind loves to you all Hannah and Elizabeth and William and Henry and Samuel and Jane send thear kind loves to all and Robert and William and receive the same your self form me so no more at present from your kind and loving wife

Hannah Pillinger
Gilberton
Schuylkill Co, Pa.

This time the surviving children are mentioned: Hannah, Elizabeth, William and Henry. Presumably the second William is Hannah's brother, William Stone. The others named are unknown. Hannah says nothing about her own health: in fact she must have been well advanced in pregnancy. Her last child, Martha was born in Gilberton in the latter part of 1875.

It is worth mentioning that the letters are in different handwriting, with the second poorly spelt. In all probability neither was written by Hannah herself: she was either helped by a friend from the chapel or employed a scribe.

In Kingswood, old Elizabeth Pillinger was nearing her end. At least her son saw her again before she died. She was buried aged 80 at the Wesleyan Chapel on 21 August 1876. Jacob's thoughts turned to his own mortality, and in his debilitated state made up his mind that his wife and children should rejoin him. Hannah dutifully obeyed. Overland from Gilberton to New York; across the Atlantic to Liverpool and by train to Bristol, with such worldly goods as she could bring with her. Such a journey with two teenagers, a nine year old, a toddler of three and a babe in arms would be no fun even today, but she made it, and they all came safely home.

Jacob, although he was never able to go down the pit again, obtained lighter work as a weigher at the colliery, and for a time appeared to be on the mend. The remission was short lived and he died on 4 May 1878 aged 43, from "a disease of the brain occasioning epileptic fits" brought on, it was said, from the injuries he had received in America. The death certificate was signed by H.M. Grace, surgeon to the Kingswood colliers, and father of the world famous cricketer, Dr W.G. Grace.

Despite finding Hannah's extreme piety hard to swallow, I can but marvel at her resilience. She had travelled upwards of three thousand miles with her children to get home to her sick husband, had nursed him in his illness, only to be widowed by the coalpits like her mother in law before her. Then like Ann, the widow of an earlier Jacob, she set herself up in commerce. Not, of course in a pub, for she must surely have eschewed the evils of

strong drink. No, she took a little shop at 1 Lorne Terrace, St George, and it is there in 1881 that we next meet the family.

Hannah Pillinger	Head of House	widow	48	general shopkeeper	born St George	
Hannah	"	daughter	unmarried	22	bootmaker	" "
Elizabeth	"	"	"	19	"	" "
William	"	son		14	scholar	born Gilberton, America
Henry	"	"		8	"	" "
Martha	"	daughter		6	"	" "

Of the children, Hannah junior died unmarried aged 59, and had, in the vernacular of the day, been put away, for at her burial at the Wesleyan Chapel, she was described as "of the lunatic asylum" Wells. Henry witnessed the marriage of his brother William Bramwell Pillinger to Sarah Jane Flook on 15 April 1895, and himself married Louisa Jay at Bitton in 1896. William Bramwell owned a small boot factory in Staple Hill, and became a Justice of the Peace. He lost his wife Sarah Jane in 1933 when she was "accidentally knocked down by a push bicycle" in Staple Hill High Street and died from her injuries.

A newspaper article entitled "Bill's attic is full of History" brought me into contact with William Bramwell's grandson, John Edwards in July 1980. Bill Millard had rescued a number of apparently unwanted church books relating to defunct non-conformist chapels, and I wrote to him enquiring if any contained the name Pillinger. One did, a member of Zion who had been removed from the book on going to Swindon, and Bill added, "I am sending your letter to our district archivist Mr J.B. Edwards, a direct descendant of the Pillingers."

Through John I learned the full story of Jacob's tragic fate, and was able to copy Hannah's letters which had been handed down within his family. By a happy chance, later in 1980, John was invited to preach at America's Mahoney Plain where his forebears had briefly lived.

I was amused by the following exchange he heard as a child, shades of Great Aunt Flo:

Wife - sobbing with religious ecstasy: "Oh what shall we do in the swellings of the Jordan?"

Husband - more taciturn: "Drown, if thee bisn't ready!"

The Zion member mentioned by Bill Millard was Harry Pillinger, who had been deleted in December 1895. I was convinced that Harry was Henry Wesley, the brother of William Bramwell. John had never heard of an "Uncle Harry", though he had come armed with a family tree which showed William Bramwell's sibilings. John believed he was the very last of the line, and childless himself so that after his death Jacob and Hannah's seed would be no more. He was wrong. The Swindon branch were going strong.

I found them through a roundabout route. My article "Pillinger was here!" about the Australian Pillingers appeared in the Journal of the Gloucestershire Family History Society, and a member passed it to Dennis Pillinger, a Maidenhead architect, the son of Herbert, already mentioned in

despatches, who was serving on the Western Front at such a tender age in 1914. An interesting and fruitful correspondence began: Dennis had long been keen on the family history, but had previously confined his operations to those Pillingers who had joined the Colours. In one of his letters, he told me he had come across a David Pillinger, chairman of the Stroudwater Canal Trust. We contacted David, who was a descendant of the Box family, and he was very keen. He xeroxed my letter and posted it off to various Pillingers in the telephone directory. Among several responses was one from Ian Pillinger of Broad Hinton, whose father was Percy Frederick and whose grandfather was....Henry Wesley! "Was there a tradition in your family," I asked Ian, "that your grandfather was born in America?" At the end of the telephone there was a sharp intake of breath. "How on earth," Ian said, "Did you know that?"

Henry Wesley, who had unknowingly returned to his Wiltshire roots, was a bootmaker and commercial traveller. With his wife Louisa, he had four sons and a daughter, Clarice, Harold William, Percy Frederick, Reginald and Leslie. They were living at 5 Lansdown Road, Swindon when Louisa died in 1936. Henry died in October 1939 at 104 Kingsmill Road. Percy Frederick, their youngest child, was a railway clerk who trained as a teacher after the Second World War, and became senior master at Sanford Boys School. He married Gladys Elizabeth Myers, and they had two sons, Stuart and Ian. Sadly Gladys was suffocated in a holiday flats disaster at the Algarve in Portugal. Ian, a teacher, is also an author and illustrator. He married June Louise at Alton Priors, in Wiltshire in 1963.

Back to Kingswood

Meanwhile, back in Kingswood, Stephen and Jane's youngest daughter Mary, aged 2, died in 1855; Hannah married William Clark, a farm labourer at Bitton on 8 June 1856, and Jane junior, born in 1840, married James Ford, a collier, at Bitton in 1859.

The census of 1861 was taken on 7 April and by now, Stephen, the third son of Stephen and Jane had left home. He had married Ann Britton in 1858, and they had Mary Ann in 1859, Alice in 1864, [married Frederick Bolwell, at Warmley 1887], Annie in 1866, [married Frank Raynes, at Warmley 1895], George Gilbert in 1870, Stephen in 1876, and Ernest in 1879. A coalminer in 1851, Stephen was a shoemaker in 1861 & 1871, a gardener in 1881, and by 1912, when he lived at Stanley House, 26 Blackhorse Road, "a clicker", a shoe factory operative. He died 10 February 1912, aged 74, and was buried at Wesleyan. Probate of his will of £83.5s.0d was granted to his widow Ann. Ann was living at 368 Two Mile Hill when she died aged 84 in 1921.

Stephen's son, George Gilbert who married Harriet Leonard in 1892 at Warmley, was a grocer, and lived to the great age of 97. His son Ralph, born 1897, became a tobacconist, and I often visited his kiosk in Small Street for cigarettes when I worked in a travel agency in the same street. We were then unaware of the exact connection but talked in a friendly fashion. Ralph served in the First World War, and was in Cologne in 1919 with the Army of Occupation. He married Blanche Davis at Holy Trinity Kingswood, and they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1979. I

continued the acquaintance with their son Colin, born 1936, who later took over the business. I told him that my brother was also called Colin Pillinger. He looked at me with greater interest. "THE Colin Pillinger?" he said. "The Moon Man? I often receive his mail - and his 'phone calls. He's famous!"

Ralph Pillinger was able to give me information about his uncle, Stephen, born 1876, a son of Stephen and Ann. He married Henrietta Stone at Whitfield Tabernacle in 1898, and "emigrated to Port Elizabeth, South Africa about 1912 and worked in a shoe factory there. The owner of the factory was a Mr Cox, who also emigrated there. Stephen was quite a scholar, a local preacher and a linguist. He had at least two sons who are probably still residing in South Africa."

I am sorry to say I have not yet found any members of the South African family. *

A photograph of Stephen and Ann's youngest son, Ernest, 1879-1935, as a young man, taken by Chas. Hook at the Richmond Studios in Kingswood, came via his mother's family the Brittons when it was handed to my friend, the late G. [Judy] Britton Spilsbury when she was writing her book, The Brittons of Kingswood Chase. Judy kindly passed it on to me. Ernest, [who as a music teacher should have swapped notes with Aaron], married Lilian Maud Ford in 1907. She celebrated her 100th birthday on 30 March 1984.

We return to the census of 1861 at Kingswood Hill, and see that the Clarks were living at home, and that Stephen had left coalmining, and joined the hatting trade as a fur cutter, along with his daughter Hannah.

Stephen Pillinger	Head	Married	51	fur cutter	born	Bitton
Jane	"	wife	"	52		"
Thomas	"	son	"	19	farm labourer	"
John	"	"	"	17	"	"
Sarah Ann	"	dau	"	15	scholar	"
Ann	"	"	"	13	"	"
Elizabeth	"	"	"	11	"	"
William Clark	son in law	"	"	29	farm labourer	"
Hannah	"	dau	"	28	fur cutter	"
Mary	"	granddau	"	4		"
Jane	"	"	"	2		"

Later that year, Thomas and his brother John got into a little hot water, and appeared before the magistrates at Keynsham Petty Sessions. A report in the Western Daily Press of 3 December 1861 reads:

"John Pillinger, Thomas Pillinger, Stephen Hayden and James Palmer, all of Bitton, Gloucestershire were summoned by George Buckingham, keeper to Mr Myners for being on land in the occupation of Farmer Broad of Queen Charlton in pursuit of conies on Saturday 3 November. George Smart, assistant gamekeeper deposed to seeing the defendants with a lurcher dog on the day in question, beating for rabbits. He asked them what they were doing and they answered they were endeavouring to find some watercresses. He asked whose dog they had with them, and they said they didn't know, but

Stephen Pillinger 1808-99 with Lavinia and Elizabeth Pillinger



Charles H. Hooker

Studio
1895
BOSTON

they believed it belonged to a farmer up the lane. They gave it something to eat and it followed them. One of the defendants subsequently said the dog belonged to his father. They refused to give their names at first but ultimately did so. The witness was corroborated by Buckingham and they were each fined £1 including costs which were paid by the defendants' friends."

This was not the only trouble Thomas got into. In 1866, he fathered a son, named Frederick Lacey. I was told about this boy by my father, his sister, my Aunt Nell, and by one of Fred's grandchildren. Each of the three believed they were the only custodians of this scandalous information. Unfortunately, this was the extent of their knowledge. In 1868, Thomas married Lavinia Fray at Bitton.

Lavinia and the Frays.

The Frays were "Dutchmen". John Varoy, later called Fray, was amongst a group of foreign workers called Ullis, Frankham, Stegar and Craymer amongst others who bravely came from the continent, presumably on the promise of untold riches, to work at Keynsham Brassworks in the early part of the 18th century. John Varoy apprenticed his son to the company as a wire-drawer in 1745. Young John married Jane Craymer from another immigrant family. Their son George begat Jonathon, who begat Henry, who begat Lavinia, who married Thomas Pillinger. The Fray family continued to work at the mills until the local industry came to an end.

On the 1871 census, taken on April 2, Thomas, now aged 29, a shoemaker, described as "lame", thus confirming the "gammy" foot my father remembered, was living with Lavinia, his son Frederick Lacey aged 5, (whose mother is unknown) and George Pillinger, the son of their marriage, aged 2.

The Clarks by now had their own home at 38 Cherry Wood, and there were three more children, William, 9, Ann, 7 and Kate 3. All the children, including the two eldest were scholars. Also in the household was George Clark, a bachelor, aged 43, a mason's labourer, and perhaps William's brother. Living next door was Hannah's cousin, Sarah Williams, now aged 50, Jacob Pillinger's daughter, with her husband Abraham, a gardener, two stepchildren, Harriet and Henry aged 16 and 14, and her own son Thomas, aged 9.

Alfred was living with his family at Made for Ever, Aaron who would soon go to America was at 1 Hanham Road, and Stephen junior, his brother, at Oldland. Elizabeth had married a carpenter called Samuel Bond in 1869. (Great Aunt Flo called her Aunt Lizzie Bonn (sic) and said she kept a little shop near Kingswood Park. Grave Number 845 at Wesleyan has Samuel Bond died 10 February 1922 aged 72 and Elizabeth Bond, died 25 November 1925, also 72. Both of 111 High Street, Kingswood.)

Stephen and Jane had lost their daughter Ann at the age of 14 in 1862.

Stephen in 1871, aged 61, was now a skin dealer, and he and Jane at last had their house at Potter's Wood to themselves. They were not lonely, however, for next door lived their daughter Sarah Ann - known as Saran -

with her husband Thomas Bright, a collier, who she had married at Bitton in 1868, and their two small daughters, Clara and Elizabeth.

Jane died on 14 June 1875, at Potters Wood, "aged 67", and was buried at Wesleyan. Stephen moved next door to Thomas and Saran Bright's, and lived with them until his death twenty four years later.

By the time the census came around again in 1881, Thomas and Lavinia were living at 43 Potters' Wood with five sons, Frederick Lacey now being known as Pillinger.

Thomas Pillinger	Head	Married	38	shoemaker	born	Oldland
Levina [sic]	"	wife	"	34	"	Keynsham
Frederick	"	son		15	"	Oldland
George	"	son		12	scholar	"
Albert	"	son		7	"	"
Alfred	"	son		4	"	"
Henry	"	son		1	"	"

Next door in number 42 lived Thomas's brother, Stephen, junior and family, in 46 lived another brother, John and family and in 48, their sister, Saran Bright, her husband Thomas and children, and old Stephen senior.

Frederick Pillinger married Alice Britton at Bitton 7 June 1886.

In 1891, Thomas and Lavinia lived at 226 Blackhorse Lane as follows:

Thomas Pillinger	Head	Married	47	bootmaker
Lavinia	"	wife	"	43 laundress
George	"	son unmar	20	bootmaker
Albert	"	"	17	"
Alfred	"	"	14	"
Harry	"	"	12	-
Lavinia	"	dau	9	-
Kate	"	"	7	-
Elizabeth	"	"	2	-

The Pillingers continued to believe in togetherness. In number 224 lived Fred, and his wife Alice, with children Arch [sic], aged 5, George [4] and Alfred [3]. In 223 was brother John and family, and in 225 lived Thomas and Saran Bright, with Saran's father Stephen Pillinger.

GA 415583

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY of BIRTH.

SUPPLIED AT THE SPECIAL FEE OF 6d. APPLICABLE IN CERTAIN STATUTORY CASES.

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSES OF *Unemployment Insurance Act* and for NO OTHER USE OR PURPOSES WHATSOEVER.

The Registrar must state here the station purposes for which the Certificate is issued in the terms in which they are described in the printed Form of Requisition.

Ins margin which the origi

Registration District **KEYNSHAM.**

BIRTH in the Sub-District of *Oldland* in the *County of Gloucestershire*

Columns -	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth
310	<i>Second January 1874</i>	<i>Albert</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Thomas Pillingier</i>	<i>Lavinia Pillingier formerly Fry</i>	<i>Shoemaker</i>	<i>X the mark of Lavinia Pillingier Mother Whitlocks County Oldland</i>	<i>Fifth February 1874</i>	<i>James Miller Registrar.</i>	

I hereby certify that the above is a true Copy of an Entry of Birth in a Register Book in my custody.

Witness my hand this *17* day of *December* 1937

J. Maynard Williams
Superintendent Reg.

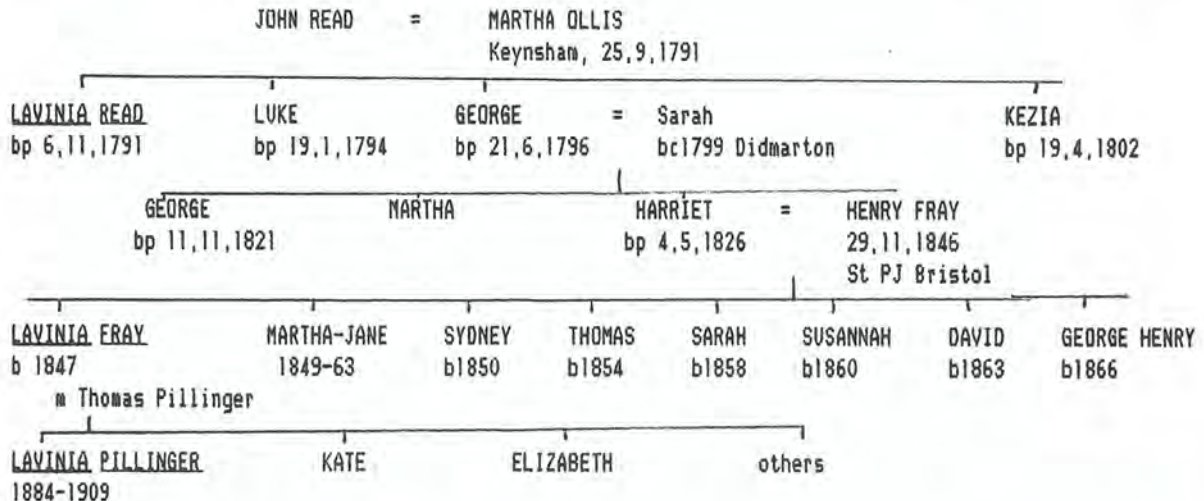
[Note.—The word "Superintendent" to be struck the Certificate is given by the Registrar

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this Certificate or (2) uses it as true knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

Albert's birthday was in fact 25 December 1873. The date was falsified to avoid a penalty when he was registered late!

An unusual first name

Thomas and Lavinia now had a daughter, Lavinia, after her mother. An unusual first name can be followed down the family tree, and so it is with Lavinia:



Little Kate Pillinger aged 10 was buried on 11 February 1896 at the Wesleyan burial ground in grave 1023, which would later be shared by her parents Thomas and Lavinia.

It was probably a year or so later that Elizabeth - Great Aunt Flo - had her photograph taken also at Chas. Hook's Richmond Studios with her elderly grandfather, Stephen, and her sister Lavinia - Vinny.

If we can assume the year to be 1898, the year before Stephen died, then Vinny would be about 15, and Flo, seven or eight. Both girls are very well dressed, Flo slightly crumpled in a full smock decorated with a rosette, and with over-large leg of mutton sleeves; Vinny elegant, with a neat waist, a ruched bodice with a frilled collar and similar, though well fitting sleeves.

From her demeanour and immaculate dress, I would have suspected a "good" marriage and consequent rise in society. But, alas, I knew that Vinny died young - Aunt Flo had told me so.

Nevertheless nothing could have prepared me for the shock when I discovered Vinny again.

The Workhouse Creed Register of Keynsham Union Workhouse contains the following startling entry:

"Admission 7 October 1903. Lavinia Pillinger of Kingswood. Died 28 March 1909."

What can have happened to this lovely girl between 1898 when she was photographed and 1903 when she was sent to the Workhouse, where she seems to have endured nearly six years? Both her parents were alive, as well as

five elder brothers, all of whom might have given her a home. Did they believe her mad? Had she perhaps given birth to an illegitimate child for which many an unfortunate girl was shut away? If this is the case, it reveals plenty about double standards, given her father's youthful indiscretion. Certainly what happened to Vinny was a not to be revealed secret - Flo had simply said that her elder sister had died aged 25. And by the time I came across the entry, Flo herself was long gone.

Pillinger's Road

Stephen and Jane's youngest son was John, born in 1844 and who married Elizabeth Bright, a silkbinder, at the Wesleyan Chapel Kingswood - which had been recently licensed for marriages - on 15 May 1865. He was "a Jack of all trades", a furrier in 1865, a mechanic at an iron works in 1871, an engine fitter in 1881, a grocer and licensee in 1891, a baker in 1892 and a fitter in 1893. He appeared on the Kingswood Electoral Roll in 1874 as "an owner or tenant of property worth more than £50 per annum: this was at Cockshott Hill where he had a freehold house and garden. Up to now, no Pillinger in the Kingswood family had had the vote.

In the census of 1881 the family lived at 46 Potters Wood:

John Pillinger	Head	Married	37	Engine Fitter	born Oldland
Elizabeth	"	wife	"	35 Boot Machinist	" "
Henry	"	son		13 Shoemaker's apprentice	born St George
Elizabeth	"	daughter		8 scholar	
John Albert	"	son		7 "	

In 1891 they lived at 223 Blackhorse Lane, next to Fred and Alice and Thomas and Saran Bright and Stephen Pillinger.

John Pillinger	Head	Married	45	grocer	born Bitton
Elizabeth	"	wife	"	43	" "
Henry	"	son		23 baker	" St George
Elizabeth	"	daughter		18 dressmaker	" Bitton
John	"	son		17 baker	" "

In 1891 John held the licence of the Mechanic's Arms, Oldland, described as a Freehouse [beerhouse/off licence], rental £12, rateable value £12.15s.0d.

Elizabeth, 19, married Joseph Cox, 24, a stonedresser, at Warmley on 31 August 1892.

Henry aged 25, a baker, son of John Pillinger, fitter, married Louisa Britton, 22, at Warmley 14 May 1893. They had a daughter, Edith Winifred who married William Moon at Holy Trinity in 1919.

Sadly, Henry died on 24 August 1894, leaving £19 10s 5d. Probate was granted to his young widow. Louisa remarried and lies buried at Wesleyan between her two husbands. Their tombstone reads:

"Henry, dearly loved husband of Louisa Pillinger departed this life 24 August 1894 aged 27.

You are not forgotten husband dear,
Nor ever will you ever be
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.

"Also of Louisa, dearly loved wife of Henry Whitcombe passed away 31 March 1932 aged 61, loved by all. Also of Henry Whitcombe, beloved husband of the above, died 10 November 1940, aged 70."

John Albert, like Henry, was a baker. He married Sarah Louisa Davis at Warmley in 1894. They had three children, John Albert, 1895, Cecil Baden, 1900 and Stella May, 1912, all baptised at Holy Trinity, Kingswood. Cecil Baden married Elsie May Willis, and they also had three children Sylvia, Elizabeth and John. Sylvia, and perhaps Elizabeth too, attended Kingswood Grammar School, but had left before my time. Teachers frequently called me Sylvia, [a name I had previously chosen for my best doll!], and therefore preferable to Doreen. I was then unaware of any relationship.

John Pillinger is listed in a 1912 Directory as living at York House, South Road, where his wife Elizabeth died on 22 September 1922. John died 30 July 1927, leaving the then considerable sum of £2,976, 13s 10d, with probate granted to his children, John Albert Pillinger and Elizabeth Cox. I cannot but think of Great Aunt Flo's recollection of old Stephen's tears, in connection with John and Thomas. Brother Thomas left nothing at all.

This family has yet one further claim to fame: Pillinger's Road which still exists in Kingswood, off Blackhorse Road, was the site of the bakery.

Jack Johnson, the Champion of the World

From the census of 1891, we have seen Thomas and Lavinia's family, with twenty year old George, Albert aged 17, and Alfred, 14, working as bootmakers alongside their father. Harry aged 12, and his sisters, had no occupations, even as scholars.

They must have known of the bare knuckle boxers of the ancestral Harris family, and this brings me to another family legend, one of Great Aunt Flo's stories. Did you know? she had said, that your grandfather fought Jack Johnson? It appears that Jack, as controversial in his day as Mohammed Ali and Mike Tyson put together, and forced to leave the States through his then scandalous liaison with a white woman, was down on his luck, and was touring the music halls taking on all comers. Aunt Flo certainly thought that her brother Albert had been one of those foolish enough to take up the challenge.

I wrote to the Evening Post in May 1976, asking for information. A Mr Jack Phelps, a boxing historian, wrote confirming that Johnson had been a variety performer: he wore a leopardskin outfit, like an African Chieftain's. He would cross the stage in this garb with three giant

strides, shouting "Who'll take me on?" I suspect that if Albert had responded he would have come off somewhat ignominiously, and the more I thought about it, the sillier it became. Had he really been that stupid? Or that drunk? It is my belief that he was having Flo on.

[True or not, the story always fascinated me, and inspired me to write a play called "Endgames" in which I took a great deal of dramatic licence, and which I submitted as part of my degree as a mature student in 1992.]

I also heard from a Mr Tony Ticktum, the husband of Pauline Pillinger, the granddaughter of Henry [Harry] Pillinger. Tony knew nothing of Jack Johnson, but said it could well have been true as all the Pillingers fancied themselves as boxers. "Did you know?" he asked, echoing Flo, "that George once walked to Birmingham to find work, didn't find any, and walked right back again?" I didn't. "He used to fight in the circus, and in boxing booths, taking on all comers, with the likes of the Bristol boxer, Sky Lines." As George's last official sighting is so far in the census of 1891, perhaps he was lost on the road. According to my father he was, somewhat bizarrely, a pig ringer by trade. As for Alfred, Albert's younger brother, he "once had a stand up fight in Two Mile Hill with a butcher called Billy Jefferies." All of which seems to confirm the remark of another Pillinger, Tony Thompson's mother, Doreen Grace, who said, "they weren't half rough. They used to keep fighting cocks." My father's memories of Alfred were more mundane. "He had ginger hair and had one child who died at the age of 27." Alfred married Kate Edwards at Warmley on 31 July 1904.

Henry Pillinger married Minnie Baber or Beaver, [these surnames being synonymous in Kingswood!] at Warmley in 1907. They had two children, Clarice Joyce who married Ernest Haskins in 1938 at Holy Trinity and Gilbert Edward who married Lilian Baker. Gilbert and Lilian had Pauline, [Mrs Ticktum], Paul, Roy, David and Brian. David's son Simon was at Brislington School with my children, and only after a great deal of my insistence, [family history being very embarrassing at fourteen], was he brought to see me. I would have recognised him at once: there was no denying the family likeness between him and my son Kevin Lindegaard.

Elizabeth Pillinger [Flo] married William Jefferis at Holy Trinity in 1908. This marriage ended in divorce, the first in the family as far as I know. She later married a Mr Walker, who was not in evidence during my visits. Her father, my great grandfather, Thomas, then of Counterpool Lane, died aged 72 on 12 July 1915. Only one photograph survives of him: looking a bit shifty, and leaning slightly over a wall, in a cloth cap, with Flo and her son, the boy being held aloft on what is obviously the old man's bike. After Tom's death, the widowed Lavinia lived with Flo at 174 Two Mile Hill, where she died aged 89 on 14 September 1936. Thomas and Lavinia were buried in grave 1023 at Wesleyan alongside their daughter Kate.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the Kingswood mines were in terminal decline, and Oldland hatting seems to have all but ceased, perhaps due to the emancipation of the slaves after the American Civil War. Kingswood's main industry was now shoemaking, and when Albert

No. 75629
 RECEIVED
 18 NOV 1916
 ANSD

(Print in this margin any notes which appear in the original Entry)

This Certificate is not available for purpose of Secondary Education.
CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY of BIRTH
 (Issued for the purposes of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.)

Columns— No.	1 When and where born.	2 Name (if any).	3 Sex.	4 Name and Surname of Father.	5 Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	6 Rank or Profession of Father.	7 Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	8 When Registered.	9 Signature of Registrar.	10 Registration Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
1	1902	Alfred	M	Alfred	Heath		Alfred			
2	1902	Alfred	M	Alfred	Heath		Alfred			
3	1902	Alfred	M	Alfred	Heath		Alfred			
4	1902	Alfred	M	Alfred	Heath		Alfred			
5	1902	Alfred	M	Alfred	Heath		Alfred			

I hereby certify that the above is a true Copy of an Entry of Birth in a Register Book in my custody

Witness my hand this 13th day of January 1917

Alfred was always known as Jack!



Boot & Shoe Outworkers at the Bench
as Albert & Hester would have worked.

married Laura Hester Burchill at Bitton on 2 September 1894, both he and his bride were engaged in this work.

Laura Hester and the Burchills

The Burchills lived in Mangotsfield from at least 1700, though Laura Hester's direct line can only be traced to the marriage of Charles Burchill to Betty Pierce at Bitton in 1765. Most of the family were coalminers and at least two Burchills were killed in mining accidents. Charles was one of the very few of my paternal ancestors before the present century who had sufficient wherewithal to make a will, leaving the "The Upper, Middle and Lower Patch", precisely the area where I lived as a child, between his sons. One of these, Francis, a coalminer, begat Francis a shoemaker, who begat Samuel, a coalminer, who begat William, a labourer, who was Laura Hester's father. My father used to "'ave to read to 'un out of the Bible on a Sunday. He couldn't read or write." His daughter seems always to have been known by her second name of Hester. Perhaps Laura was considered rather frivolous, but she certainly liked the name, as she chose it for one of her daughters.

Shoemakers and Cherry Stones

Hester and Albert worked together at the bench as outworkers. Usually the little Kingswood terraced houses came complete with an adjoining "workshop", though most of these have now been converted to downstairs bathrooms. The boots and shoes were made on cast iron "lasts" of varied sizes, from a tiny child's size up to the largest adult's. The workshops had about them the wonderful sweet smell of freshly tanned leather. Mostly, the outworkers made "pieces", or parts of shoes, which would be taken to the factory for finishing, but Albert was a journeyman, who could make a pair of boots or shoes from first to last, from raw leather to finished product. Footwear would also be repaired, "tapped and heeled" and patched until there was no further wear left. To leave both hands free, Albert, like all shoemakers, would hold a mouthful of nails as he worked, deftly removing each nail individually to tap into the sole of the boot or shoe. He had the Pillinger temper. "I've known 'im sling an 'ammer at our Alb, for giving 'im lip", said my father.

Albert and Hester had nine children, Albert, born 1896, Lily 1900, Alfred, my father, later always known as Jack, [after Jack Johnson?], on 11 February 1902, Polly in 1904, Ernest, who was always called Trix, in 1905, Nellie in 1909, Laura in 1911, and Edith Cavell in 1916, named at the suggestion of her brother Albert, then serving in the Great War, after the nurse shot by the Germans in 1915 for helping Allied prisoners escape. She was always known as Cavell, or "Our Cav". The baby of the family was Amelia [Mee], born in 1918.

Though Jack always insisted they had attended Wesleyan Chapel three times on Sundays, I have never found a christening for any one of them. They lived at 1 Peacock's Lane, next door to "Uncle Fred", Lacey, as

was, hence my father having heard murmurings that he was "a love child". They were very poor, and Jack recalled how the little sailor suit which he wore on Sundays would be pressed and taken up to Swache's Pawn Shop where it fetched a few coppers, to be redeemed the following Saturday. On Saturday nights also, Hester would walk into Bristol, to the Castle Street shops and wait until nearly closing time before buying a large joint of meat at a knockdown price, when everything had to go. There were no refrigerators then.

On 13 January 1914 when Jack was nearing 12, a copy of his birth certificate was obtained, and overleaf is printed "The certificate is required for the following purpose, namely" to which the handwritten answer is poignantly given, apparently in his mother's hand, "to give him a trade". Unfortunately this "trade" never materialised to his great regret, and most of his life he worked for the Gas Company. Like his grandfather Thomas, he had a "gammy" foot, supposedly due to falling from a tree when a young boy, though could well have been by inheritance. An operation at the Bristol General Hospital designed to put things right was seemingly botched, and thereafter he was never able to wear shoes. His special boots, one to accommodate the high arch of his bad foot, the other normal, for his perfect foot, were made by his father, heavy with hob nails for work, and lighter for best. After his father ceased work, he was "never to have another comfortable pair of boots in me life". Luckily, Albert continued shoemaking until well into his nineties!

With so many children in a tiny cottage, life was overcrowded and boisterous. Meals were eaten in a brisk fashion, as somebody else would pinch the food off your plate, said Jack. Nellie's job was to peel the potatoes which she did by the bucketful. Conversation was loud, and daunting to company. A shy person called Edna Demmery, nee Britton, who came to tea when cherries were on the menu was too polite to ask what they did with the stones, and swallowed them. The assembled multitude were, it seems, "slinging them in the fire" and how Edna didn't notice this remains a mystery. The abrasive manner of speech adopted by the family made my mother uncomfortable when she first met them. "I had never heard anybody talk to one another like it", she said, but she came to realise that it was their way, with no offence meant or taken. As regards the domestic arrangements, the parents slept in one bedroom, and the children in another, the sexes divided by a curtain for decency. As they grew up, many a time somebody would come home from work to find that an earlier arrival had gone out in their best dress or shoes, or only suit or clean shirt with resulting ructions. The girls in particular were very "dressy" or "smart".

Albert junior survived the War, and married May Thorn. He worked as a gardener for the Bristol City Parks Department. Albert and May had two sons, David and Jack. With his wife Audrey, David ran a restaurant and then a pub. They had two daughters, Tracey and Tina. Jack married Betty Mavis Smith at St Michael's Bedminster. Their only daughter Jane married Paul Brian Boys in 1995. Albert died in April 1987, aged 91.

In January 1921, Lily married James Gregory at Holy Trinity, Kingswood; this marriage was witnessed by the bride's sister and brother, Polly and



A RUSH FOR SURFACE COAL AT CHARLTON ROAD, KINGSWOOD, ABOUT 1912
JACK WAS ABLE TO FIND COAL AS LATE AS 1947.

Jack, who became a habitual witness at family weddings, because, he said, with a glint in his eye, "I was the only 'un who could write," [Untrue]. The marriage was also announced in the magazine of Fry's, the chocolate factory where Lily worked. Jim Gregory was a bootmaker, but later worked for Wills' Tobacco Factory. They had three children, Jim junior born in 1922, Jack, 1924 and Betty in 1927. Lily died at the Bristol Royal Infirmary on May 4, 1930 aged only 31.

Little Betty Gregory was idolised by her grandmother, and my mother, who was by now married to my father, recalled how Hester had "gone out and bought her a little red mackintosh and hat, and a little red umbrella, and she looked lovely in it", but suddenly Betty was dead, aged five, of meningitis. The death, coming so quickly after that of her daughter, "finished" Hester. She was already very thin and ill, and had lost all her teeth save one. In her picture, taken about this time, her face looks filled with grief. She died, aged 56, on September 21, 1933. She was buried at Wesleyan in the same grave as Lily and Betty. My mother always remembered the advice she gave on getting by financially: "Spend a little bit, keep a little bit, owe a little bit", and I have adhered to it likewise.

A year or so after Lily's death, Jim Gregory married his wife's younger sister, Nellie. They had four daughters, Valerie Jean, Janet, Delia and Marilyn. Valerie Jean, born in 1932, like Betty, tragically died of meningitis at the same age, five years. Nellie survived her husband Jim, and in her widowhood lived with her daughter Marilyn and her husband.

Polly, married Walter Flook, described as a boot operator, at Holy Trinity Kingswood in 1933. They lived next door to Nellie and Jim in Blackhorse Road, though in later life moved to Wick and Abson with their daughter Susan, son in law Brian Hodgson and grandson Scott. Polly and Wally, as he was known, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 15 July 1983, when the surviving family members got together, and the three brothers, now very old codgers, resumed their sibling rivalry: "I was allus the odd 'un," said one. "What bist talking about, thee silly old fool?", said another, "I was the odd 'un," and so on. The conversation ended when somebody fell over. Polly died in 1984, and the gentle Wally in 1990.

On 8 August 1935, Laura died aged 24. It was said she caught a chill because of wearing "backless dresses" at dances, which turned to "consumption". In 1937, there were two weddings, Trix to Elsie Austin, and Cavell to William Samuel Risdale, known as Sam. I was amused to note that Cavell's occupation was given as a "stripper". This was something in the boot and shoe trade, and definitely nothing to do with the modern meaning of the word. I also noted that my father, in a smart bowler hat appeared in Cavell's wedding photograph, but not my mother. "Well, of course not", my mother said. "I was having you." Women did not go out in society in those days when they were in a certain condition!

Unfortunately neither Cavell and Sam, nor Trix and Elsie had any children. The last of the family to marry was Amelia, in 1941 to Cyril Crew. Prior to her marriage, Mee lived with us at Victoria Park, when I was only three or four. I remember her vividly singing the Flanagan and

Allen song The Umbrella Man, and causing a sensation by appearing in trousers, which on women were called "slacks". She died young, in her forties leaving her husband and a daughter, Annette.

As previously mentioned, Cavell's wedding passed off without my presence, even in embryo. My existence came about as a direct result of my father whistling at my mother when down a Gas Company hole in Soundwell Road, Kingswood, when she was on her way to work at G.B. Britton's boot factory. She was very quiet and shy, and I imagine blushed with embarrassment, but later on his sister Polly told her "Our Jack wants to go out with you," and taking a chance, she agreed to meet him. They were "courting" for four years until they married on 1 August 1931 when she was 25 and he, 29.

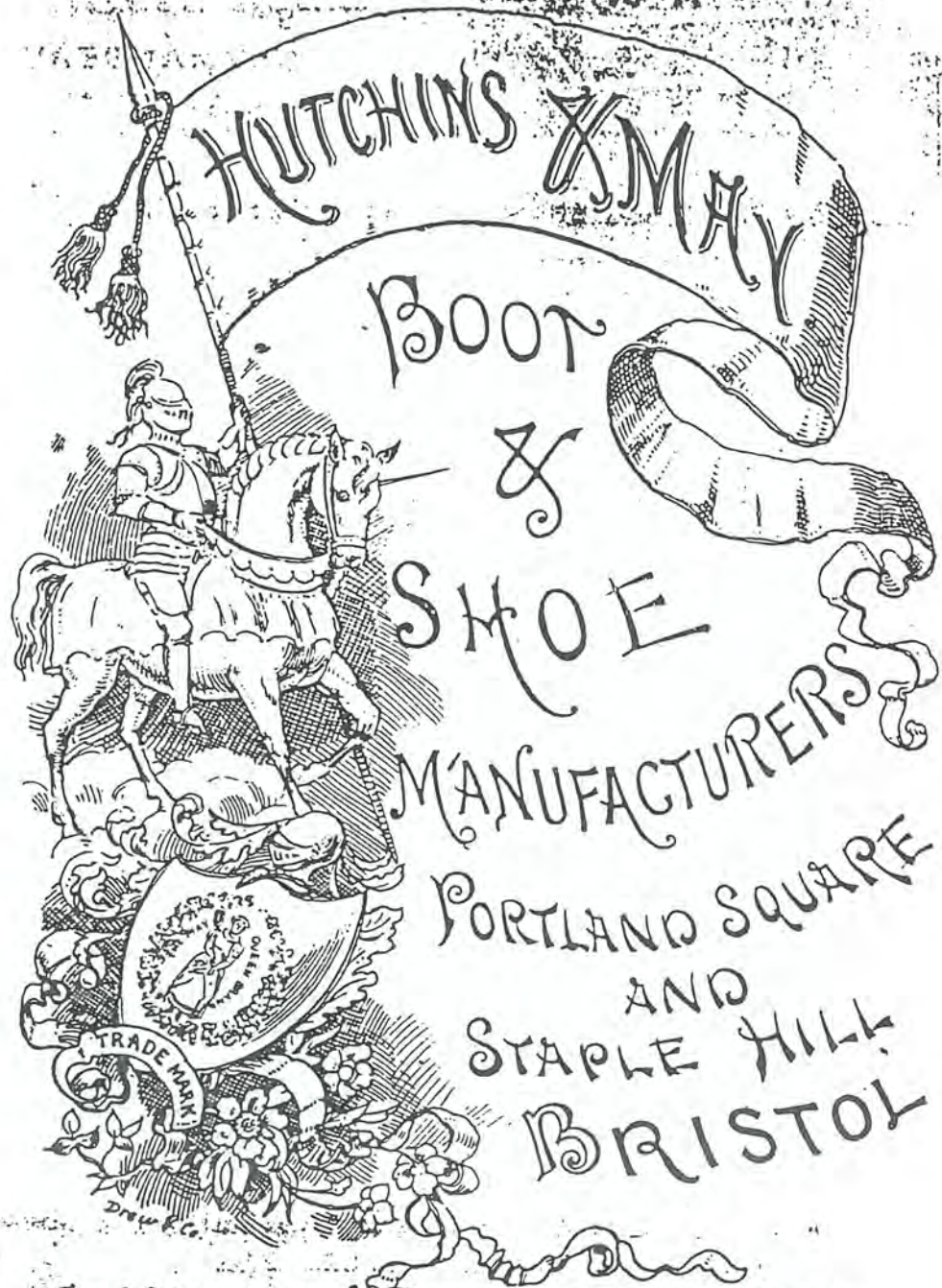
Florence and the Honours.

The Honour family lived in Bedfordshire in the 1500's, and came to Wendlebury in Oxfordshire when Gabriel Honour, a maltster, married Anne Kerry in 1616. Descendants of Gabriel and Anne moved to Ambrosden in the same county and thence to Charlton on Otmoor, where they were tenant farmers for more than two hundred years. My great grandfather, Thomas Honour with his family, moved to Eversley in Hampshire around 1881 where he farmed 247 acres and employed 3 men. My grandfather Levi, after brief army service married his cousin Sarah Honour, and thereafter lived at a great many addresses all over the southern counties of England. Sarah died when Florence was nine and her brother Harry, a year younger. During the First World War, as a former soldier, Levi was "on Government work obtaining fodder for the army" and was sent to Bristol. His two youngest children followed. They lived firstly in Barton Hill and then, when Levi married his second wife, in Soundwell Road.

Victoria Park

Jack and Flo had a "peck and shovel wedding", with Jack's workmates outside the church forming an arch with these implements, and how I wished a photograph survived. They honeymooned in Torquay and returned to furnished rooms in Halls Road until they rented a house in Victoria Park, and never moved again. There was a large kitchen, back kitchen, and front room below, and three bedrooms above. Outside was the ubiquitous workshop, and an outside toilet. We were considered quite posh because it had a flush. There was no bathroom, and Friday night was bath night, in a tin bath in the back kitchen, with water heated in the boiler. Monday was always washing day, with Flo rising at the crack of dawn to boil the whites in the same boiler, and hand washing the coloureds in the tub, before the whole lot was put through the mangle and out on the line.

Flo continued to work at G.B. Britton's until I was born in 1937. War was declared in September 1939, Jack was spared military service by his lame foot, but he went out nightly with the ARP, in his tin helmet, fire



Special Department for South African Business.

Clifford went to South Africa



Ralph & Blanche Pillsper

watching. I would cry bitterly as he went, and can still feel my relief when I heard the crunch of his distinctive walk, his hob-nailed boots sparking the pavement, as he turned into our cul de sac and home. During wartime, many people were on the move, and our house was often a temporary home to displaced sailors, stranded lorry drivers and odd bods of every sort that Jack would find in the Black Horse with nowhere else to go. Two girls, Agnes and Helen Colby, from South Shields who had been called up for munitions work were billeted with us, and they remained for the rest of the war, and became lifelong friends.

In 1943, my brother Colin was born, an event mostly memorable because the midwife arrived the worse for drink, and broke Florence's false teeth which were in a glass by the bedside. Colin's second birthday was celebrated in much greater style. Peace was declared at 8 in the evening of 8 May 1945, and the following day, the 9th May, was Colin's birthday. It was the occasion of a magnificent street party, with Victoria Park festooned in red, white and blue, trestle tables covered with food of all sorts, that the women had found, goodness knows where, from some hoard or other, sandwiches made from spam or the stunningly bright yellow "reconstituted dried egg" [which people said you could also use to sole your boots, but which I rather liked], tarts and cakes and jellies. Endless cups of tea were served and there was singing and dancing, with some wearing fancy dress. I remember Chrissie Lavis in a man's suit, which was considered very risqué. In the middle of it all, my baby brother was stood up on the table and the assembly sang "Happy Birthday to You". The party ended with a bonfire on "the Patch", where Hitler and the rest of his gang were burnt in effigy.

In due course we grew up, in love with books, and our mother Flo would read to us round the fire, Milly Molly Mandy, Enid Blyton, What Katy Did, Little Women, graduating to Treasure Island and Kidnapped, EveryChristmas, Scrooge, Bob Crachit and Tiny Tim joined us. Neither is the influence of the wireless to be underestimated. Every Sunday night there was a classic serial, and . . . we became acquainted with Lorna Doone, Jane Eyre, Nicholas Nickleby, David Copperfield, Barnaby Rudge and Henry Esmond. One radio programme, of about 1952, which had the greatest influence of all was not written by Bronte, Dickens or Thackeray, but by Charles Chilton. It was called "Journey into Space." Everybody, and I mean EVERYBODY, not just our family tuned in; on a Monday night between 7.30 and eight, the streets would be deserted in a manner probably not seen again until the TV transmissions of the Forsyte Saga or the World Cup Final of 1966. The exploits of Jet, Doc, Mitch and Lemmy gripped the public imagination, and none more so than my little brother. From that time on, I believe destiny took over, though he would be the first to underline that it took a lot of work as well.

Jack continued at the Gas Company. It was hard, heavy, and sometimes dangerous work, out in "all winds and weathers", but steady, and he stuck it out, usually greatly frustrated for he was capable of better things. On "Standby" he would be called out to deal with escapes of gas, and occasionally Colin would go with him, sitting proudly in the cab of the lorry. For a girl, this was simply not done, and I never went in the waggon, although I knew Jack "idolised" me, and as far as I know the

only misdemeanour he ever committed [or for which he was ever caught!] was for letting me ride on the cross bar of his bike. He was fined 10 shillings, which seems a bit harsh. Though I could not go out on "Standby", if ever he was working near my school, he would let me go and sit in the cabin, with the men, warming myself at the coke brazier, where they would fry bacon on their shovels and drink tea brewed on the fire in an enamel jug, which came out strong, smoky and boiling hot, sweetened with condensed milk, and had all the tea leaves floating on the top. I can taste that tea and bacon now, and in my head is father's voice telling of "Young Frank with the peck and shovel, I on the compressor and Old Bill on the punner."

In the 1950's Jack was with his mates working opposite the Horse Shoe at Downend outside a chemist's shop. The chemist, John Uren, came out and took a photograph of the gang working on "the Gas Company Hole" which became locally famous. From 1939, and 1981 Mr Uren claimed the hole had been dug up 100 times. To mark the 100th hole, he charged shoppers 2d to look down it, with the proceeds to charity. I love the photograph: even now, people are less often snapped in their working clothes than in finery at weddings and casual on holiday.

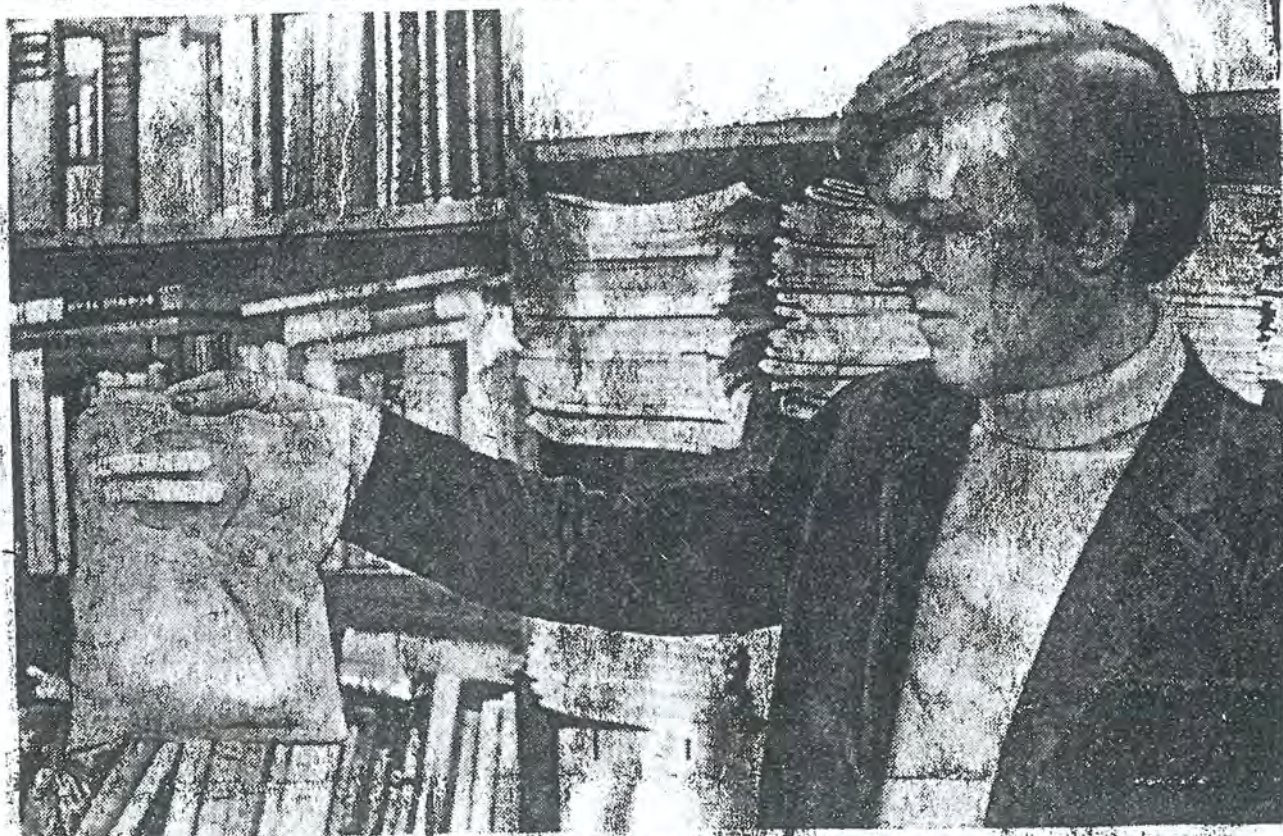
In 1948 I "passed the scholarship" to Kingswood Grammar School where the lineal sons and daughters of those rough Kingswood colliers of old were given a classical education undreamt of by the Sunday Scholars of only a century before. My only criticism of KGS, which after all would eventually boast two Fellows of the Royal Society, one of them a Pillinger, is that our plebian heritage was ignored by our teachers, swept under the carpet in the manner beloved of educators of native peoples, such as the American Indians, with whom we had once been compared. Leaving school in 1953 without going on to further education remains my greatest regret, and was only rectified nearly 40 years later, when in 1992, as a very mature student, I was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree. Colin followed me to KGS in 1954, and after O Levels and A Levels he became the first of the local Pillinger family to go on to University, at Swansea, where he read Chemistry.

Meanwhile, grandfather Albert had remarried, a widow called Lilian Beatrice Stone, about whom we could boast in a silly chant, "My grandfather's second wife's sister's husband was Lord Mayor of Bristol." Lil's brother in law, Charlie Gill's interesting progress from pit boy to Lord Mayor is a story in itself, and is perhaps being chronicled by a former student of mine. When teaching family history at an evening class, I often used various Pillinger certificates to illustrate points, and on one occasion when I mentioned Albert, who we all called Pap, a voice from the back called out, "He was my Pap too!" This voice belonged Diane Wring, formerly Stone and Lil's granddaughter who I had known as a child when visiting 64 Foxcote Road, Ashton, where Pap and Aunt Lil lived, but not recognised in her grown up state. Florence Gill and Lilian Stone were the daughters of Charles and Laura Cox, and Diane kindly supplied me with a family tree of all Pap's step relatives.

I have mentioned that Albert made my father's boots; as a very old man he continued in his trade, and put up a little sign outside his house, "Boots and Shoes Repaired". Somebody complained to the Council, and he

only misdemeanour he ever committed [or for which he was ever caught!] was for letting me ride on the cross bar of his bike. He was fined 10 shillings, which seems a bit harsh. Though I could not go out on "Standby", if ever he was working near my school, he would let me go and

A BIT OF MOON ON THE 1.15



Dr. Pillinger and the priceless package

A Journey into Space: 24 October 1969

Specialised

Dr. Pillinger is one of the six-man team from the Chemistry Department of Bristol University which will analyse the moon dust.

The team is led by Dr. Geoffrey Eglington, who will probably open the sample of dust today.

Because of the specialised investigation to be made by the Bristol team — a search for highly ordered biological compounds — their sample had to be packaged in a new product to keep it free from contamination.

It came West on luggage rack

By Leo Clancy

PASSENGERS on the 1.15 from Paddington to Bristol didn't suspect a thing.

But the battered old briefcase tucked into a luggage rack on the fourth coach contained something from out of this world.

Sealed inside the briefcase, enclosed in a metal box, was a piece of the moon.

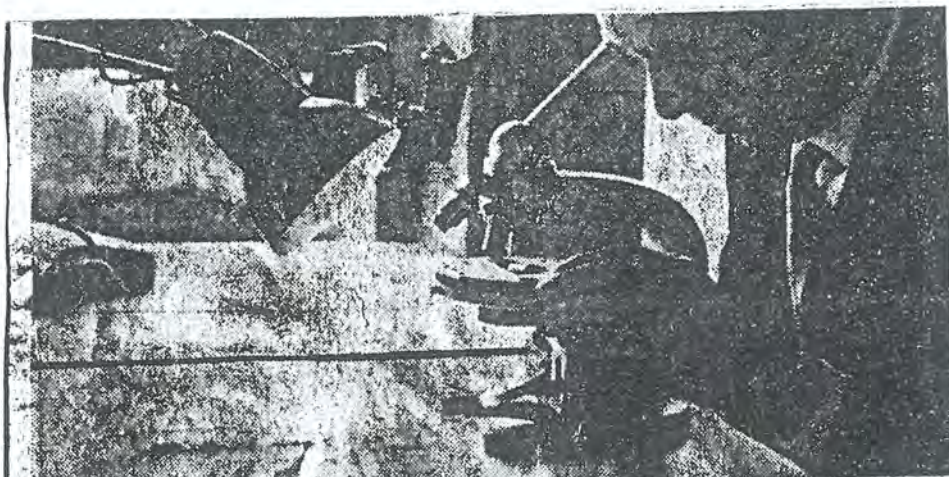
It weighed 105 grammes. And, at a conservative estimate, moon dust is worth £1,000,000 a gramme.

Without fuss

There were no security guards on the 1.15. The rarest cargo in the world was protected by a casually dressed young man in polo-kneek sweater and corduroy jacket.

"It seemed the best bet not to make a fuss," said 26-year-old Dr. Colin Pillinger. "I kept a careful eye on the sample."

"I didn't keep my sandwiches in the briefcase or anything like that and I'm sure none of the passengers suspected what was in



Mr. N. Firth analysing samples of moon dust for study today. Dust from the moon can be seen in the glass tube.

Asteroid 15614 is Pillinger



Space honour: An image of an asteroid; and right, Professor Colin Pillinger, who now has an asteroid named after him

THE Bristol scientist behind the Mars lander Beagle 2 project has had an asteroid named after him.

Open University space scientist Professor Colin Pillinger, of Kingswood, is celebrating after his name was given to an asteroid in recognition of his scientific discoveries and contributions to planetary science.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) – the body that oversees names and designations of planets, satellites, asteroids and comets – has given the scientist's surname to Asteroid 15614.

Senior NASA scientist Dr Everett Gibson, who nominated Prof Pillinger and presented him with the award at the fourth European Astrobiology Conference, said: "I was very happy to nominate him and even happier when the IAU accepted."

"Prof Pillinger is one of the most deserving scientists in the world today. For more than three decades he has been an enthusiastic NASA team

by Olivier Vergnault o.vergnault@bepp.co.uk

member and a world-class research scientist."

The asteroid belt, between Mars and Jupiter, is littered with remnants of planets.

Thousands of solar system objects and features have been named by the astronomical community, but most are unknown to the general public.

Dr Gibson said that the process was still taken very seriously.

He said: "There is a little piece of Prof Pillinger now moving between Mars and Jupiter."

"We have awarded him a certificate signed by NASA's chief astronauts and attached a Union Flag."

"He is now the proud owner of a British flag that flew to the International Space Station on board the 100th space shuttle flight."

Prof Pillinger said he was very proud of the honour.

He said: "This is particularly

special for me. It is nice to know that something named after me will be existing for the next billion years.

"But more importantly,

Asteroid 15614 was

discovered by the Lowell

Observatory and its

founder, Percival Lowell,

produced some of the most

fascinating insights into

Mars, so the honour is very

meaningful for me."

Prof Pillinger is planning a

new mission to Mars after the

failure of Beagle 2.

He does not know at this stage

how much the new programme is

going to cost, but is hoping to attract

funding from a variety of sources. The

Beagle 2 project cost £45 million, half

of which came from the Government.

Beagle 2 was supposed to conduct a

search for signs of past or present life

on Mars using a battery of highly

sophisticated instruments. But the

lander failed to make contact and has

been declared "lost".

Men-on-Mars mission may call for Beagle 3

By **Chris Roe**
c.roe@bepp.co.uk

WEST scientist Professor Colin Pillinger could be closer to launching another mission to Mars, it emerged yesterday.

The Bristol-born expert saw his £50million Beagle 2 craft disappear on Christmas Day as it was due to land on the Red Planet.

He suffered another blow last month when a Nasa sun probe, on which he had worked, crashed on its way back from a three-year mission.

But the possibility of a "Beagle 3" mission received a boost yesterday as the Government announced £5million backing for the European Space Agency's ambitious Aurora programme.

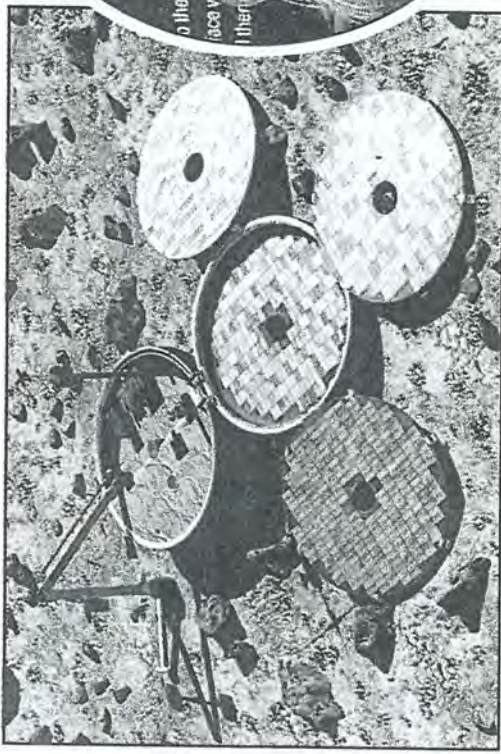
The cash will help pave the way for the overall aim of landing astronauts on Mars in 2033, by defining a "road map" and starting work on its first robotic missions.

It also establishes Britain as a leading player, giving it some clout over the direction of the project.

British space scientists say the UK is ideally placed to play a leading role in Aurora, because of the experience and technology used in Beagle, despite the mission's ultimate failure.

Prof Pillinger, 61, told the Western Daily Press he believed a new version of Beagle would be perfect for the project.

"Beagle 3 would be the obvious step to demonstrate we could do the technology," he said. "I am not



Space mission: Beagle 2, which disappeared on Mars on Christmas Day, above; and right, Professor Colin Pillinger

saying we had it right before, but we should be collaborating with the European Space Agency to show that we can do this.

"As far as I am concerned Beagle is unfinished business. I am lobbying people to say we want a Beagle class of lander.

"We have put an awful lot of effort into developing equipment that nobody else has. It is on the shelf at the moment."

The UK contribution came from the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC).

Yesterday, the council's spokesman Peter Barratt told the Daily Press: "Colin's interest in involve-

ment is the prospect of flying another version of Beagle somewhere within the Aurora programme."

Hopes for another Beagle should be treated with some caution, warned Mr Barratt, because the final programme for Aurora was still being completed.

But he added: "We would sincerely hope we can build on the expertise of Beagle and use some of its technology in the missions."

The present Aurora programme involves landing a robot rover on the surface of Mars, hopefully by 2009, followed by a mission to bring rock back to Earth.

Prof Pillinger was in the audience at yesterday's news conference about British involvement. Unveiling the money, Lord Sainsbury said: "Space exploration has always been a voyage of discovery and today could be the start of another journey which greatly expands our knowledge of the world in which we live."

The commitment of funds is only a first step. Experts say playing a part could demand an investment from the UK of about £35million a year over five years.

"Beagle 1" was HMS Beagle - the ship on which Charles Darwin began his famous voyage of discovery in 1831.

WEST PRESS, SA.

was made to take the sign down, something we considered particularly mean as he was then over ninety and proudly still at work. He was hale and hearty, but gave up smoking when he was ninety four, because, he said to me, "It wasn't doing I any good." He was still putting sixpence each way on a horse - he had once been a great attender at Ascot, and other race meetings, and enjoyed a drop of whisky, holding nightly court in his own corner at the Hen and Chicken pub until a few weeks before he died on 28 September 1973, by which time he was just three months short of his 100th birthday, which would have been on the following Christmas Day. He never, ever, mentioned Jack Johnson. He was buried at Wesleyan with his little granddaughter, Valerie Jean Gregory. Within a couple of months, Lil, and "Uncle Frank" their elderly and long-time lodger, were also both dead. It was widely believed their work was done. It was, my mother said, as though they had just stayed alive to look after Pap.

The newly fledged Dr Colin Pillinger, BSc, PhD, returned from Swansea in 1968, and went into Space. He became one of a six man team from the Chemistry Department of Bristol University chosen to analyse "moondust" brought to earth by the historic Apollo 11 mission. Under the headline "Bristol is to get slice of moon" this caused a great stir, and in October 1969 Colin brought a precious cargo to Bristol sealed in a metal box in his briefcase, "the rarest cargo in the world protected by a casually dressed young man in a polo-necked sweater and corduroy jacket. 'It seemed the best bet not to make a fuss,' said 26-year-old Dr Pillinger. 'I kept a careful eye on the sample.'" The "moon-rock" lab stayed open in Bristol until 1976, and moved to Cambridge with Colin as team leader, by which time he was married to Judith Hay, and they had a daughter, Shusanah [Shusy]. Their son Nicolas Joseph [Joel] was born in Cambridge in 1977.

On 9 July 1985, Colin was awarded with the degree of Doctor of Science at Bristol University, in recognition of his work and the ceremony was attended by Judy and the children, Jack and Flo, and myself. Jack was almost bursting with pride: it was a happy day, and almost the last he would spend as a well man. Within the next month he was diagnosed with cancer of the liver and died at Frenchay Hospital on Boxing Day, 1985. His end, though expected, came suddenly, and to my deep regret, we were not with him when he died. I am glad to say that our mother Florence, now in her 91st year continues in good health, and still lives independently at Victoria Park.

Colin's star continued to rise and it was as Professor Pillinger that in March 1993, he received the accolade of being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. The Bristol Observer's headline was "Prof's final frontier?" but this was far from being final, and at the time of writing in 1996 he is a leading figure in the great "Life on Mars Debate".

Judy too gained a PhD, and Shusy and Joe are at Cambridge University studying engineering and veterinary science respectively.

And as to me, my adventures are too numerous to be told here. I married Norman Lindegaard, whose ancestors are Danish and Irish. We have three beautiful and talented children called Caroline, Celia and Kevin, but they are Lindegaards, and that of course, is another story.

Post Script to The Pillinger History, Part 1 – from Yatton Keynell to Outer Space.

John Pillinger and Chippenham Workhouse

We last met my great great grandfather John Pillinger on page 39 of this history, ^{when} ~~hen~~ he made an appearance in the 1841 census at Leather Heaven, in Made For Ever, New Cheltenham, Kingswood, living with Dinah Brimble, (who I believe was his step daughter) and her husband, James Brimble.

For years I looked for his burial in every graveyard in Kingswood to no avail. It was only when the indexes to the holdings at the Bath Register Office recently went on line (2007) and (unlike the General Register Office early listings) revealed the crucial information of the deceased's age that I found a record which I believed might refer to him. The death of a John Pillinger aged 80 was registered in the June Quarter of 1848 at Chippenham. Chippenham? The last detail was a mystery, but with the other information appearing to tally, I felt it was worth risking £7 and sent for the certificate.

My optimism was rewarded when the certificate arrived. There was no doubt it was our man. John Pillinger died on 9th January 1848, his age given as 80 years, occupation: hatter. His address was simply stated as "Chippenham" and the cause of death: Died suddenly in Bed. Visitation of God." The informant was the Coroner, William B. Whitmarsh, who for some reason failed to register the event until 18th April. There had obviously been an inquest and the lack of an address suggested to me that he had died in the Workhouse.

It was not until 29th October 2008 that I was able to set out, accompanied by my daughter Celia for further sleuthing at the spanking new Wiltshire Record Office at Chippenham.

Unfortunately the Chippenham Workhouse admission registers for this early date have not survived, but the parish church register showed that he had been laid to rest there on 13th January. This time his abode was stated to be "Asylum". Had he lost his mind as well as well as being destitute? The local asylum was at Devizes, but its admission registers are likewise lost. Though feeling that an inquest on an eighty year old man who died in bed was unlikely to have caused much of a stir, I checked the appropriate local paper, the Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette and surprisingly found a report likewise dated 13th January. Under the heading "Inquests" it was short and to the point: "At the Chippenham Union Workhouse, on the body of John Pillinger, an aged man, who was discovered dead in his bed by an inmate who had gone to him with his breakfast. Verdict "Visitation of God."

I was grateful at least that he had found a friend at the last in this nameless fellow inmate who had waited on him and hoped the man had attended John's pauper's funeral. Did Stephen or the rest of his surviving children know of his death? Why had none of them taken him in?

I thought of the significance of that letter which the Yatton Keynell officials had handed to him some years before. He must have applied to them again "in need" and because Yatton Keynell was in Wiltshire, and within the Chippenham Union, it was to this grim place he was sent to die.

On Christmas Eve 1847 the Guardians recorded an order for provisions "for an extra dinner on Christmas Day to the inmates:"

"40 lbs Beef and Suet
28 lbs Flour
2 Bushels Potatoes
56 lbs Carrots
1 Bushel Turnips
12 lbs Raisins
12 lbs Currants"

The Guardians' minutes revealed no information when John entered the Workhouse and likewise his death went unmentioned, but a few weeks later on 21st January, 1848, the Treasurer paid the Master a cheque for £1. 5s. 2d to pay the expenses for the previous quarter for "indoor" funerals which must refer to those who were inmates.

William the vagrant

John Pillinger was not the only family member who fell on exceptionally hard times – in fact most of the Pillingers' history is a chronicle of similar misery. William Pillinger, the son of Arthur and Joyce (page 4) appears to have attempted to seek a better life at Romsey in Hampshire, but alas, was apprehended as a vagrant on the road.

The sorry tale is told in a document which records his sad progress across country: "the said vagrant being brought to Alderstone in the County of Wiltshire and delivered to the Tythingman thereof in order to be further conveyed to Marshfield in the County of Gloucester.....which the said Tythingman is to be allowed the sum of twelve shillings and six pence for conveying one vagrant fifty Miles. Given under my Hand, the Eleventh Day of August 1787."

A few spots of bother

In 1843, a "John Pillinger" of Bitton aged 25, was accused of the theft of brass at Mangotsfield. This John makes no appearance elsewhere and seems to have slipped through every net, unless 25 is a mistake for 15. John, the son of William, John the hatter's brother, was born in 1828.

A couple of decades later yet another of our family was in trouble and his misdemeanour is documented at Gloucester Record Office (GRO. 1861. Q/Gc6/4.)

Aaron Pillinger of Kingswood Hill, shoemaker, aged 26, was charged on 30th May, 1861 with the theft of five chickens, the property of James Bryant at Mangotsfield and of stealing 18 fowls, the property of Robert Hathaway at Frampton Cotterell on 3rd May 1861.

He was described as: "5 ft 5 ¼ in tall, hair light sandy, visage long, complexion fresh. Small blue spot over right eyebrow, moles on throat, neck and shoulder blade. A native of Kingswood Hill, married, three children. Has been working for Mr. Cafsam (sic - probably Handel Cossham the well known mining engineer, pit owner and Member of Parliament) for the last 18 months. Methodist."

Aaron was found guilty of larceny on the 4th July, 1861 and sentenced to four months with hard labour in the penitentiary. His term of imprisonment expired on 3rd November 1861, and he was discharged from Gloucester Gaol the next day.

In 1869, he was caught thieving again, now said to be a gardener, aged 33, with a physical description almost identical with that previously given. This time he was sentenced to twelve months with hard labour. He was a "Wesleyan, married, 5 children, born Bristol, known to Pc Hawkins 9 years. Has been here before, stealing."

He was released on 20th October, 1870, having served the full year minus one day.

On 15th April, 1878, he sailed from Bristol travelling steerage aboard the ss "Somerset" of the Great Western Steamship Line, crossing the Atlantic with his wife Esther, (Hester), three sons, a daughter, a daughter in law and an infant grandson. Nowadays, I believe that those with a criminal record are refused entry to the USA! In any event, Aaron didn't settle and returned home following his wife's death. He remarried a widow, Sarah Ann Fry in 1882 at Barton Regis.

In 1885 he appears on a deed (offered in a list compiled as "Beryl Anderson - Documents for sale" reference 105/45, for £31. I did not purchase.) It seems he now had a dollar or two in his pocket: "**Bristol / St George - 1885** - George Stewart Bessell (Wrexham, Denbigh) had applied to the Guardian Permanent Benefit Building Society (Bristol) for a mortgage on 1 Rodney Cottages, Two Mile Hill, St George's, to be advanced on the surety of **Aaron Pillinger** (St George's, Glos). **Signed** by Bessell & Pillinger, and witnessed by **H. Jennings** (solicitor's clerk, Bristol.)

In 1891, he was aged 56, described as a butcher, living at Bell Hill, St George with Sarah Ann, aged 50, her mother Ann Bessell, a widow of 69 and a visitor, Florence Price, aged 10. All were born in Bitton. (These people must have been known to my Dad as the name Bessell was one mentioned by him as having family connections.)

By 1901 Aaron was retired, the family having moved to Hill Street, Kingswood where on census night as well as him and Sarah Ann, were Emily Williams, described as "sister" and Florence Lovelace, a visitor, aged 17. Aaron died aged 68 in 1904 and Sarah Ann in 1914 aged 75. *was living at 48 Two Mile Hill in 1911, still with Emily Williams died in 1914 aged 75*

The Railway ran through the middle of his House

At the time of the 1841 census, my great great grandparents Stephen and Jane and their children were living with Jane's mother, the widowed Rachel Summerell at Siston. (page 39). In November 1846, notice was given of a proposed branch of the Midland Railway from Mangotsfield to Bath "diverging from the said intended railway in the said parish of Siston near to a certain farmhouse there, belonging to Thomas Pexton Peterson and now or late in the occupation of Stephen Pillinger....." I imagine that Rachel said "that'll be the death of I" and it duly was. Three months later she was dead of phthis (TB) aged 76 still living at Siston Common. As the informant on the certificate was given as John Stone, "present at the death" Stephen with his wife and children may have already decamped for Kingswood. The farmhouse must have been demolished.

Mysterious Brother Aaron

On page 49, I wrote about another Aaron who was the above Stephen Pillinger's elder brother and John the hatter's son. He was christened in 1831, aged 15 years and 9 months at the same time as Stephen and Jane's son Alfred but thereafter I had found no trace of him.

Now some of the gaps have been filled, although his early life remains a mystery. He makes no appearance in the 1841 census and currently I have no access to that for 1851. Because of his occupation "musician" (in comparison with the horny handed rest of them) and his apparent absence from his wife and children, including baby twins in 1861, I had marked him down in my imagination as flighty.

I eventually discovered him living in Manchester in 1861, where he was in lodgings at 10 Byrom (*sic*) Street, with another musician, George Whitford, in the household of a grocer and general dealer called Edward Williams. He said he was born in Bristol, was single (!), called himself Aron and gave his age as 36, when according to his christening record he was 45.

It may be recalled that in 1861 his wife Mary Ann and the children were living at 23, Chapel Street, Kidderminster:

She was aged 32, a musician's wife, born Kidderminster, her daughters Clara Louisa and Teresa were aged nine and eight respectively and they were followed by sons Alfred, 3, and Harry and William, twins, eleven months old. Apart from Clara Louisa who was born at Holmfirth, Yorkshire, the rest were all born at Kidderminster.

Aaron returned to his family and in 1864, a son, Bartholomew was born, followed by a daughter Leah in 1866.

Aaron died sometime in the June Quarter of 1868, his death registered at Kidderminster as aged forty nine. His last daughter Eliza was born posthumously.

aged 76 still living at Siston Common. As the informant on the certificate was given as John Stone, "present at the death" Stephen with his wife and children may have already decamped for Kingswood. The farmhouse must have been demolished.

and dispose of any part or parts of the lands and hereditaments belonging or hereafter to belong to them, and also to enable the said Governors to exchange any part or parts of the lands and hereditaments so belonging or hereafter to belong to them, for any other lands and hereditaments, either upon even terms or by means of an equalizing payment; and also to enable the said Governors to purchase lands and hereditaments with the monies from time to time paid to them; and also to enable the said Governors to borrow money upon the security of their said estates, or any part thereof; and also to enable the said Governors to alter or enlarge the chapel erected by them in the parish of Walsall, under the powers of an Act of Parliament passed in the 37th year of the reign of King George III, intituled "An Act for enabling the Governors of the Free Grammar School of Queen Mary, at Walsall, in the county of Stafford, to sell certain mines under part of their lands, and to sell or exchange certain parts of their lands lying dispersed for improving and extending the benefits of the foundation of the said school, for enlarging the trusts and powers of the said Governors, and for enabling them to build a chapel, and for other purposes," in case such alteration or enlargement should hereafter become necessary; and also to enable the said Governors to sell and dispose of, and transfer the said chapel to any commissioners, trustees, or other person or persons who may be authorized to hold the same on the formation of any parochial or ecclesiastical district or otherwise in case such disposition or transfer should hereafter be considered to be for the benefit of the said Governors; and also to enable the said Governors to erect new schools and school-houses, and for all or any of the above purposes and to enlarge the power given to them by the said Act.

Walsall, November 9, 1846.

Charles F. Darwall,
Solicitor

Liskeard and Launceston Branch Railway.

NOTICE is hereby given, that application is intended to be made to Parliament in the ensuing session, for an Act to make and maintain a railway with all proper works and conveniences connected therewith, to commence from and out of the Cornwall Railway, at or near a place called Doublebois, in the parish of Liskeard, in the county of Cornwall, passing thence, from, in, through, or into the several parishes, townships, and extra-parochial or other places following, or some of them, that is to say, Liskeard, Saint Pinnock, Saint Neot, Saint Cleer, Northill, Linkinghorne, Altarnun, Trewen, Lewannick otherwise Lawannick, the River Inney, and the bed and shores thereof, Lezant, Southpetherwyn, Saint Stephens by Launceston, Saint Thomas the Apostle, Saint Thomas-street, otherwise the Hamlet of Saint Thomas and Saint Mary Magdalene, in the said county of Cornwall, and to terminate at or near the junction of the Exeter New Road, and the road or street called the Race Hill, near the south gate in the said parish of Saint Mary Magdalene, in the borough of Duheved

otherwise Launceston, in the said county of Cornwall.

And notice is hereby further given, that it is intended to take powers of levying rates and tolls upon such railway, and also for the powers usually conferred for the compulsory purchase of lands and houses, to be described upon the plans after mentioned, and to incorporate a company for executing such works.

And notice is hereby further given, that maps and duplicate plans and sections of the said railway, with books of reference thereto, will be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Cornwall at his office at Saint Austell, on or before the thirtieth day of November instant, and copies of so much of the said plans, sections, and books of reference, as relates to the several parishes aforesaid, will be deposited on or before the said thirtieth day of November, with the parish clerk of each such parish at his residence.

Dated this ninth day of November, 1846.

Gurney and Lethbridge Cornwall,
Solicitors for the Bill.

Midland Railway.

Proposed Branch from Mangotsfield to Bath, and alteration of existing Gauge.

NOTICE is hereby given, that application is intended to be made to Parliament, in the ensuing session, for an Act to empower the Midland Railway Company to make and maintain a railway, with proper works and conveniences connected therewith, and approaches thereto, commencing by a junction with the Bristol and Gloucester line of the said Midland Railway, in the parish of Mangotsfield, in the county of Gloucester, near to the Mangotsfield station on the present line of the said railway, and terminating at or near certain gardens, in the parish of Bathwick, in the county of Somerset, known by the name of the Villa Fields, and near the bridge over the River Avon there, called Bathwick Bridge, at the highway in the same parish, leading from Rochford Place to the said bridge, and passing from, in, through, or into the several parishes, townships, extra-parochial, and other places of Mangotsfield, Siston, Pucklechurch, Wick and Abson, otherwise Abston or Abbotston, Doynton and Cold Aston otherwise Cold Ashton, or some of them, in the county of Gloucester; Weston, Langridge, Swainswick, Tadwick otherwise Tatwick, Wolley otherwise Woolley, Charlecombe, Walcot, Saint Saviours, Bathaston, Bathampton, Bath, and Bathwick, or some of them, in the county of Somerset, and Walcot and Saint Saviours, within the city of Bath.

And also to make and construct a connecting line or branch railway, diverging from the said intended railway, in the said parish of Siston, near to a certain farm-house there, belonging to Thomas Pexton Peterson, and now, or late, in the occupation of Stephen Pillinger, and terminating by another junction with the Bristol and Gloucester line of the said Midland Railway, in the said parish of

Mary Ann continued to live in Kidderminster, where several of her children took up crafts in the carpet trade for which the town is noted.

Her son Bartholomew, who had been a creeler, one who minded machinery which twisted textiles for carpets, evidently tired of this occupation and by 1891 was lodging at Smethwick as a blacksmith. His marriage to Jessiemon Parson is recorded at Bosworth, Leicestershire in 1894.

By 1901, Bartholomew, now 36, a shoeing and general smith, born Kidderminster was living at Prestwood, Kinver, Staffordshire, with his wife Jessiemon aged 30, born Normanton, Yorkshire, their son Gilbert, aged 5, born Kidderminster and an 18 year old apprentice, John Corfield.

No member of this branch of the family has ever contacted me.

Jacob's family

The story of Jacob is related on pages 17-19. He had married a St George girl, Ann Muntin and they moved to Bedminster where their children were born: Mary Ann, 1791, John, 1793, Elizabeth, 1796, Ellen (or Elinor) Dent, 1797, Ann, 1800, Sarah, 1802, Charlotte, 1803, and William, 1807. Of these children only Mary Ann, Ellen, Ann, Charlotte and Sarah survived.

Jacob, as we already know was sentenced to transportation at the Bristol Assizes in 1809 for the theft of sugar. He is next mentioned in a petition for leniency by James Buck, also convicted, submitted by himself and 25 inhabitants of Portishead. (HO 47/42/21). The document contains the additional information that Jacob was a boatswain. Buck, a Custom's House Officer and Fryer, the other accused, a constable, which must have made it all the more shocking. The theft took place on 20th October, 1808, from the vessel "Nelson" belonging to a Mr Miles, then in the floating dock at Bristol. Buck was last heard of "sent to Guildford" (page 19) in 1810, so the petition may have been fruitless. Fryer obtained Free Pardon in 1813, having spent the ensuing years imprisoned in a hulk, from which Jacob escaped, date unknown.

Meanwhile, back in Bristol, Ann Pillinger, now a single parent made the best of it and became the licensee of a pub, the Talbot on Redcliffe Hill where I left her, until through the joys of the Internet, I was contacted by her descendant, Pamela Hunt of Australia who kindly addressed me as "the expert on the Pillinger family" which sent me on the trail again.

Ann's surviving daughters grew up and married: Mary Ann to Francis Clark, Ann to Thomas Francis Sinnett, (described as an accountant at the baptism of their son, Frederick at St Mary Redcliffe in 1816), Ellen Dent to William Pines, Charlotte to William Trowbridge and Sarah to William Farler.

On the 23rd April 1823, Ann was fined £5 for “offences against her licence”, but remained in charge until her daughter, Ann Sinnett, by then, presumably also a widow, took over the licence in 1826.

The marriage of William Pines and Ellen Pillinger “both of this parish” took place on 25th October 1824 at St George where three years previously her sister Ann had also been married to T.F. Sinnett. No doubt Muntin family members still lived in the parish.

William and Ellen Pines returned to St Mary Redcliffe, where their children were baptised as follows:

- 15.10.1826: Emma daughter of William and Ellen Pines, mariner, St Mary Redcliffe
- 21.12.1828: William son of William and Ellen Pines, mariner, Langton Street
- 24.10.1830: John son of William and Ellen Pines, mariner, St Mary Redcliffe
- 11.7.1831: Ellen daughter of William and Ellen Pines, master mariner, Bedminster
- 10.11.1833: Charlotte daughter of William and Ellen Pines, master mariner, St Mary Redcliffe
- 3.12.1834: Matilda daughter of William and Ellen Pines, master mariner, Montague Street. (This baptism was at St James’ church in Bristol.)
- 30.9.1837: Jessey Ann daughter of William and Ellen Pines, master mariner, Richmond Terrace, Bedminster, at St Mary Redcliffe
- 6.9.1838: Frederick Pitt Pines, born at Richmond Terrace, Bedminster (birth certificate.)

In 1841, Ann Pillinger, age given as 60, her daughter Ann Sinnett, 35, the Sinnett children Henry, 18, Eliza, 15, and Matilda and George, twins aged 10 and a servant, Anna Jones, aged 15 were residing at the Talbot.

William Pines had been in and out of the Port of Bristol for the last twelve years and Ellen evidently had had enough of it. With the exception of William, their eldest son, a pupil at Colston’s School, the family went to sea. Young William, allegedly aged eleven in 1841 is the only family member who ever appears on a census! He next makes an appearance in 1847, with his brother John among the crew aboard the “Hudson” a barque of 511 tons sailing out of Liverpool for Sydney. (William was said to be 18 and John 19 though it should have been the other way round.) According to an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald, of 12th January 1848, the “Hudson” was “a new fast A1 sailing barque” leaving for Liverpool and seeking wool and other cargo. Lloyds Register (Sydney Harbour papers) of 24th August 1847, Liverpool to Sydney, 26th December 1848, shows “William Pines, master, cargo “general” nine cabins, with 18 crew, 2 steerage passengers and Mrs Pines, with one son and three daughters!”

The widow Ann Pillinger, now stated to be aged 75, died on 20th October 1849. She left a complicated will. James Evens of Redcliffe Hill, wine merchant and John Farler of the same, grocer (presumably a relative of her son in law William) were named as her trustees. Her daughter Charlotte Trowbridge and granddaughter Ann Chappell were to receive £80 each for their sole use, and not for use by a husband or any future husband. (It amuses me to suspect that Ann evidently hadn’t much time for husbands, whether her

own, or anybody else's). Ann Chappell was to receive her money in instalments of £1 per month. William Pines, her grandson, the old boy of Colston's School was to receive £50, with the same sum to her grandson Henry Sinnett. To daughter Mary Clark she left "all my wearing apparel"; to daughter Ann Sinnett, "two silver salt cellars and salt spoons marked with the initial letters of my name. Also my clock which I request she keeps in the family." The bed, bedstead and all the furniture in the bedroom at the Talbot was to go to grandson Henry Sinnett. Then there was considerable property: "messuages, dwelling houses in Harford Street, New River Street, North Street and elsewhere to Ann Chappell and Charlotte Trowbridge with the interest divided between the children of Mary Clark and Ann Sinnett.

A codicil added 28th June, 1849 left another property at Hillsbridge Place shared between Henry Thomas Sinnett, Eliza Sinnett, Matilda Ann Sinnett, the children of Ann Sinnett and Sarah Reed the daughter of Mary Clark.

The will and codicil were endorsed by the "x" of Ann Pillinger and proved by the trustees on 1st August 1849, with effects amounting to £450.

It is interesting that the only member of the Pines family to receive a mention in Ann's will is William. Was there a rift between Ann and Ellen? Perhaps she did not approve of her going to sea. ("Amongst a lot of coarse sailors. Common!" Though anyone who kept a dockside pub was scarcely a blushing flower.) The pub remained a family affair when Ann's son, George Sinnett took over in 1852.

According to family legend William Pines senior died somewhere "off Liverpool" and he may be the William Pines whose death is registered at Liverpool in December 1851, though this is just as likely to be William, junior, or the child of another Pines family. A likely relation, Philip Pines married Elizabeth Hill in Liverpool in the September Quarter of 1846 and she appears in the Liverpool census of 1851 living in the household of her father, William Hill, a book keeper. Elizabeth was aged 27, a mariner's wife, born Nottingham. She had two boys, Philip aged 3, and William, one. Men named William Pines married at Liverpool in 1856 and 1864.

Philip's wife Elizabeth turns up at South Place, St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol in 1861, with only one son, Philip, a thirteen year old office boy.

By an extraordinary co-incidence, in 1871, Elizabeth, by now a widow of forty seven is a servant in the household of Isabella Ker Ranken, the widow of the Rev. Charles Ranken, sometime curate of Brislington, who knew the Brislington Pillingers well and whose life and works are covered extensively in Part 2 of the family saga and my "Brislington Bulletins".

By 1881, Elizabeth had found refuge from life as a drudge in the household of her son Philip, now 34, a master mariner, his wife Elizabeth and their three young sons. To underline the reversal of fortunes, they had a young maid!

In the meantime, Ellen Pines, nee Pillinger had returned Bristol where she died on 16th February 1866 at York Road, Montpelier..

Meanwhile, in 1857, Pamela Hunt's ancestor, Frederick Pines, the youngest child of William and Ellen's family arrived in Australia. Pamela believes he "jumped ship" as the Gold Rush was in full swing. He died in Australia in 1901. (Interestingly, several of Ellen Dent Pillinger Pines' descendants were afflicted with scoliosis which both Colin and myself both have. Colin's believes however that the condition is passed through a faulty gene present on both sets of parents, so this may be simply coincidence.) Frederick's son, Walter changed his surname to Dunstan for reasons unknown and married four times, so Pamela's family tree is a complicated one.

1901 census – family members

With the publication of the 1901 census, it has become necessary to update certain information and the best way is to list the branches according to the Family Trees at the back of the book. It will be seen that many of the families did not stray far from each other and even those who went away, almost always came back.

Family Tree B:

At 10 Lorne Terrace, St Michaels, Two Mile Hill:

Hannah	Pillinger	Head	Widow (of Jacob)	68	(b1833)	<i>d. 1904 (71)</i>	Kingswood
Hannah	Pillinger	dau	single	42	(b1859)	Boot machinist	Kingswood
Elizabeth	Pillinger	dau	single	39	(b1862)	"	Kingswood
Martha	Pillinger	dau	single	26	(1865)	dressmaker	USA Brit Subject

High Street, Staple Hill:

William Bramwell	Pillinger	Head	Mar	34	(b1867)	Boot manufacturer	USA, Brit Subject
Sarah J	Pillinger	Wife	Mar	31	(b1870)		Kingswood
Guy A	Pillinger	son		2	(b1899)		Staple Hill
Grace	Pillinger	dau		1	(b1900)		Staple Hill

79 Avenue Road, Swindon, Wiltshire:

Henry Wesley	Pillinger	head	Mar	28	(b1873)	Foreman Boot Factory	USA Brit Subject
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Louisa	Pillinger	wife	mar	28	(b1873)		Bristol
Clarice	Pillinger	dau		3	(b1898)		Swindon

Family Tree E

Hill Street, Kingswood:

William	Silverthorne	head	mar	45	(b1856)	Boot manufacturer	Tormarton
Harriet	Silverthorne	wife	mar	41	(b1860)		Kingswood
Herbert	Silverthorne	son		13	(b1889)		Kingswood
Alfred	Pillinger	Father in law	wid	69	(b1832)		Kingswood

25 Soundwell Rd, Kingswood:

Aaron	Pillinger	head	mar	49	(b1852)	Farmer	St George
Harriet	Pillinger	wife	mar	50	(b1851)		St Geo
Alfred	Pillinger	son	single	26	(b1875)	House decorator	St Geo
Onslow	Pillinger	son	single	18	(b1883)	House decorator	St Geo
Edna	Pillinger	dau	single	15	(b1886)	Corset maker	St Geo
Idris	Pillinger	son	single	17	(b1884)	Gen lab	St Geo
Harry	Pillinger	son		12	(b1889)		St Geo
Olive	Pillinger	dau		7	(b1894)		St Geo
Marie	Pillinger	dau		6	(b1895)		St Geo

(I have to say I found "Farmer" hard to believe but that's what it says.)

24 Soundwell Rd, Kingswood

Graham	Pillinger	head	mar	23	(b1878)	shoemaker	St Geo
Ann	Pillinger	wife	mar	24	(b1877)		St Geo
Graham	Pillinger	son		1	(b1900)		St Geo

Bath Buildings, Mangotsfield:

Lawson	Pillinger	head	mar	25	(b1876)	Painter/paper hanger	St Geo
Hannah	Pillinger	wife	mar	24	(b1877)	Corset maker	St Geo

Amos is not listed in 1901 and I suspect he was abroad with the Army.

Family Tree E1:

I had difficulty finding this family in 1901, so checked their whereabouts in **1891**:

They are shown as follows at 20 Cross Street, Swindon, Wiltshire:

H	Pillinger	head	mar	28	(b1863)	Lab	Kingswood, Somerset (!)
Ruth	Pillinger	wife	mar	28	(b1863)		Pontypool
Jas Henry	Pillinger	son		8	(b1883)		Kingswood
Alice C	Pillinger	dau		6	(b1885)		Kingswood
Annie	Pillinger	dau		3	(b1888)		Kingswood

In 1901 they are indexed by “Find My Past” as “Relinger” – and I found them by putting “Ruth” and “Pontypool” into the search engine.

Cheltenham Road, Kingswood:

Henry	Pillinger	head	mar	38	(b1863)	Railway Lab	Kingswood
Ruth	Pillinger	wife	mar	38	(b1863)		
James	Pillinger	son	single	18	(b1885)	shoemaker	Kingswood
Alice	Pillinger	dau		16	(b1885)	Boot machinist	Kingswood
Annie	Pillinger	dau		14	(b1887)		Kingswood
Bertha	Pillinger	dau		10	(b1891)		Kingswood
Willie	Pillinger	son		6	(b1895)		Kingswood
Herbert	Pillinger	son		2	(b1899)		Kingswood

Family Tree E2

Ansteys Lane, Kingswood:

Frederick	Pillinger	head	mar	35	(b1866)	Lab, brickyard	New Cheltenham
Emily	Pillinger	wife	mar	35	(b1866)		Hanham
Alice	Pillinger	dau		13	(b1888)		New Cheltenham
Frederick	Pillinger	son		11	(b1890)		New Cheltenham
Emily	Pillinger	dau		6	(b1895)		New Cheltenham

Alice	Doane	sister	mar	27	(b1874)		Hanham
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(Alice Doane, nee Iles, was Emily's sister. She married A.H. Doane in 1894)

Family Tree F – The Clark Family

In 1861 Hannah Clark nee Pillinger, who worked as a fur cutter and her husband William, a farm labourer were living at Potter's Wood with their children Mary aged 4 and Jane aged 2 and her parents, Stephen and Jane.

In February 2009 I was privileged to walk "The Hatters' Trail" with local expert Chris Heal. The following is an excerpt from my blog:

"The work was hazardous. If the mercury, used to raise the scales of the fur to lock them together, called "carrotting", didn't get you ("mad as a hatter") then pneumoconiosis from the fibres in the air might well do so. Hands were likely to be deformed from the agony of being dipped in boiling water: if mercury penetrated any cuts, they would not heal.

The fibres would then be cut from the rabbit skin - my great-great grandfather , John's son, Stephen Pillinger was a fur cutter, as was his daughter Hannah Clark. The fibres would be placed on a bench over which was suspended a bow, like that from an oversized violin, and the vibrations separated the fibres which formed into a mat, called "the batt." The batts were moulded into a cone and reduced by boiling and rolled to create felt. The felt would then be sent to the hatter for shaping.

Urine could be used to speed up the felting process and one of the more intriguing places on the walk is "Penny Lane" where, said Chris, the inhabitants would line up with buckets of urine, to be sold for a penny. This was also one of my Dad's gems of information, so I don't think Chris was joking."

In 1871 they were at Cherry Wood, Bitton

William	Clark	Head	mar	38	(b1833)		Glos
Hannah	Clark	wife	mar	38	(b1833)		Glos
Mary Jane	Clark	dau		14	(b1857)		Glos
Jane	Clark	dau		12	(b1859)		Glos
William	Clark	son		9	(b1862)		Glos
Ann	Clark	dau		7	(b1864)		Glos
Kate	Clark	dau		3	(b1868)		Glos
George	Clark	lodger	mar	43	(b1828)		Glos

By 1881, Hannah was widowed and living back at Potter's Wood, near her family, and was one of the fabled "Kingswood Market Women":

Hannah	Clark	head	widow	48	b1833)	Vegetable hawker	Siston
Annie	Clark	dau	unmar	17	(b1864)	Stay machinist	Oldland
Kate	Clark	dau	unmar	13	(b1868)		Hanham

But change was afoot and in 1883, she found a second husband. Joseph English was a widower with children:

In 1891 they were living at 36 Reformatory Road, Kingswood:

Joseph	English	head	mar	49	(b1842)	Coal miner	St Geo
Hannah	English	wife	mar	58	(b1833)		St Geo
Hannah	English	dau	single	20	(b1871)	Boot machinist	St Geo
William	English	son	single	16	(b1875)	Shoe maker	St Geo

In 1901 they had taken a shop at Two Mile Hill Road:

Joseph	English	head	mar	60	(b1841)	General shop	St Geo
Hannah	English	wife	mar	67	(b1834)		St Geo
William	English	son	Single	26	(b1875)	bootmaker	St Geo

Hannah English's death was registered at Keynsham in March 1905 aged 72 and Joseph in 1916 aged 75.

Family Tree K – The Bright Family:

Thomas and Sarah Bright lived with Stephen Pillinger in 1881 and 1891. In 1901 they were at Blackhorse Road, still in the main Pillinger stamping ground.

Thomas	Bright	Head	Mar	56	(b1845)	Coal hewer	Kingswood
S.A (sic)	Bright	wife	mar	55	(b1845)		Siston
Annie	Bright	dau	single	26	(b1875)	dressmaker	Kingswood
H.S. (sic)	Bright	son	single	13	(b1888)		Kingswood

Family Tree H:
Black horse Rd

Stephen	Pillinger	head	mar	64	(b1837)	Boot maker	Siston
Ann	Pillinger	wife	mar	64	(b1837)		Kingswood
Ernest	Pillinger	son	single	22	(b1879)	Boot maker	Kingswood

7 Waters Rd, Kingswood

Frederick	Bolwell	head	mar	36	(b1865)	Insurance Agent	Kingswood
Alice	Bolwell	wife	mar	36	(b1865)		Kingswood
Harold C	Bolwell	son		9	(b1892)		Kingswood
Hilda P	Bolwell	dau		2	(b1899)		Kingswood

Old School, Kingswood

Frank	Raynes	head	mar	29	(b1872)	shoemaker	Chilcompton, Som
Annie	Raynes	wife	mar	33	(b1868)		St George
Olive	Raynes	dau		1	(b1900)		Kingswood
William	Orchard	boarder	single	17		shoemaker	St George

Blackhorse Road

George	Pillinger	head	mar	30	(b1871)	grocer	Kingswood
Harriet	Pillinger	wife	mar	30	(b1871)		
Arthur	Pillinger	son		8	(b1893)		
Gladys	Pillinger	dau		7			
Sidney	Pillinger	son		5			
Herbert R	Pillinger	son		4			
Hubert A	Pillinger	son		2			
Doris V	Pillinger	dau		2 mths			

1 Fillwood Villas, Two Mile Hill

Stephen	Pillinger	head	mar	26	(b1875)	Upper cutter	Kingswood
Henrietta	Pillinger	wife	mar	27	(b1874)		Tamworth, Worcs

(Also staying in the house were two teachers at the Board School – evidently the then fairly new Two Mile Hill School which is still going strong – (my mother and I are old scholars!). One is incorrectly given as Ellen R. Pillinger, born Stockham, Devon and Annie Ings, born Taunton. Charlotte Sims, 74, a retired servant was also boarding at the house and Henrietta's sister Amy Stone was visiting from Tamworth. Clifford and Henrietta would shortly be leaving for South Africa.

Family Tree I

1901: Potters Wood Lane

Thomas	Pillinger	head	mar	58	(b1843)		
Lavinia	Pillinger	wife	mar	55	(b1846)		
George	Pillinger	son	single	31	(b1870)		
Alfred	Pillinger	son	single	21	(b1880)		
Harry	Pillinger	son	single	19	(b1882)		
Lavinia	Pillinger	dau	single	17	(b1884)		
Florence	Pillinger	dau		12	(b1889)		

Young Elizabeth had now morphed into Florence and in my time she became Great Aunt Flo. After her marriage to William Jefferies in 1908 ended in divorce she married William Walker in 1924. Her son, who must have been born prior to 1915 as he was photographed with Thomas, his grandfather (see page 66) has so far evaded me.

Albert	Pillinger	head	mar	27	(b1843)	Boot maker	Kingswood
Hester	Pillinger	wife	mar	25	(b1876)	Boot machinist	Kingswood
Albert	Pillinger	son		5	(b1896)		Kingswood
Lillie	Pillinger	dau		2	(b1899)		Kingswood
Florence	Pillinger	dau		8 mths	(b1901)		Kingswood

This census revealed a hitherto unknown child. Baby Florence May aged 2 years was buried in the September Quarter of 1902, just a few months after the birth of my father, Alfred (Jack) on February 11th that year.

Strangely, Hester appears twice in 1901 – it seems that her father was so loath to let his daughters go from him, that he recorded them as part of his household at 5 Reformatory Road, Kingswood. As well as William and his wife Elizabeth there were Alice, 28, single, Annie, 26, married, Esther, (sic), 24, married, and Florry, 20, married, all given as Burchill!

A wanderer returns and a tragedy unfolds.

The case was sensational enough to be nationally reported: the headline in "The Times" newspaper of 3rd June 1885 read "Attempted Murder and Suicide" and began "A young man named Rogers, the son of an innkeeper shot his father in law through the head on Monday night at Hanham, near Bristol, and believing he had killed him jumped into the river and was drowned."

The story continues: "Rogers was the son of Isaac Rogers who was the landlord of the Chequers inn on the river-side. The father, who also kept the ferry at Hanham, died about three years ago and left all his property to his widow who was 36 years of age, the son being then about 18.

"About six months ago an Australian named Pillinger, who was stated to have made much money in the colonies arrived at Hanham and shortly afterwards married the widow. Three months afterwards the pair began to sell their house property and at one of the sales young Rogers attended and protested against the auction proceeding on the ground that he had an interest in the property. A fight broke out between Rogers and Pillinger and Rogers was summoned for assault and bound over to keep the peace. The ill-feeling continued and last week it was revived when the sale of the property was completed, with Pillinger receiving the purchase money to the amount of £300. It appears that the Australian and his wife then determined to leave England and on Monday they packed up their boxes and made every arrangement to leave yesterday morning. Rogers hearing of this took a gun and went to the house at Hanham between 11 and 12 o'clock at night* and asked Pillinger if he meant to give him his share of the property. They had an altercation for a few minutes and Rogers then suddenly raised the gun and shot his father-in-law in the face the charge blowing away the lower part of his jaw. He is likely to recover however. Rogers's body was found in the Avon two hours afterwards."

* This seems unlikely. Unless there was a full moon, it would have been dark, even in midsummer, no street lights, and a bystander witnessed the boy going into the river.

It was an easy matter to find the index entry of a marriage between a John Pillinger and a Mary Nightingale Rogers in the third quarter of 1884 and whilst I waited for the certificate to arrive I looked into the history of the Rogers family who lived at the Chequers.

Isaac Rogers married Mary Nightingale Rumbold during the December Quarter of 1860. It was a May/September match for Isaac was more than thirty years her senior and from the census taken the following Spring, it would appear that he had been married before, as there were children of the family aged six and four.

Isaac was then 56, by trade "a carrier by water", born Bitton; Mary was 23, born Exton, Hampshire. The two little girls were Rose and Mary Ann, both scholars. Also in the household was Edith Pollinger aged 76, a servant, who was deaf. (As has been mentioned before, the Pollingers turn up in Bitton at the same time as the Pillingers but apart from the odd spelling mistake, clerk's error or general confusion, the twain only apparently mingled once – see Pillinger – Part 2.) The final inhabitant in the house at Hanham Mills was Henry Jones, aged 16, a driver of barge horses.

By 1871, the family had considerably increased for though Isaac was said to be aged 70, he was still working as a barge proprietor, and was certainly lusty enough, having produced five more children in the interim with his wife Mary Nightingale, now 33. Daughter Rose had left, perhaps married, but Mary Ann was now 14, and she was followed by Mary Nightingale's own children, Jesse Isaac aged 8, Alfred, 6, Lewis, 4, Aaron, 3, and Gilbert an infant in arms.

Isaac Rogers died "aged 80" early in 1880 and when the census was taken the following year, the widowed Mary Nightingale Rogers, 43, was described as a baker/grocer. Mary Ann, now twenty four was grandly described "Governess – Professor". Jesse Isaac aged 18 was a "butcher – unemployed" but his brothers Alfred, 16 and Lewis, 14, were earning, as shoemakers, no doubt as part of the large force of out-workers for which the Kingswood area was well known; thirteen year old Aaron assisted his mother as a baker, Gilbert aged 9 attended school, as did two more children who had arrived since the last census, Lily 9, and Oliver, eight.

There is no doubt that the widow's household was thrown into confusion by the arrival of John Pillinger, an exotic creature, who had returned from foreign parts.

On page 17 I referred briefly to William Pillinger, the half-brother of John the hatter, born to John and his second wife Silvia in 1793. William married Hannah Isaacs in 1821 and in 1841 they were living with their children Mary, born 1824 and John, born 1828. Their elder daughter Elizabeth was by this time married to George Jeffrey and two other children, Ann and Simon had died in 1835 and 1836.

I mentioned on page 74 a John Pillinger, supposedly aged 25 who got into trouble in 1843, and the possibility that "25" is a mis-transcription for "15". If this is so, then he is our William's son, John Pillinger who married Anne White in 1853 at Bitton and thereafter disappeared from the area. Whether having had previous "form" and a further offence led to transportation or whether John went to Australia of his own accord, he was now back "with a vengeance". Mary Nightingale, a mother of eight, previously "an old man's darling" had her head well and truly turned.

They married at St Paul's, Bedminster, well out of the way of gossiping tongues, on 13th August 1884. Once again there is doubt concerning John's age which he gave as 47, perhaps he was sensitive of being younger than his bride, who was correctly shown as forty six. John was an inn-keeper (had he already put his feet under the table?), son of William Pillinger, coalminer, deceased, and Mary Nightingale Rogers the daughter of Jesse Rumbold, a farmer, also deceased. John made his mark but Mary Nightingale signed her name. The couple gave 52 Old Charlotte Street and 2 Willway Street as their respective abodes, but these may have been accommodation addresses, simply to confirm they were "of this parish" for the purposes of the banns of marriage. At this stage there is no hint of the tragedy which was to come. Mary Ann Rogers and Lewis Rogers attended the wedding and signed as witnesses.

As we know, a few months later the couple signalled their intention of leaving for Australia, to the fury of her third son who had already assaulted his step-father. What can Mary Nightingale have been thinking of, that apparently she intended leaving her children behind? The three youngest were still only 15, 13 and twelve. Nevertheless despite the tension, the couple packed their bags.

The local account of what happened next which appeared in the "Western Daily Press" differs slightly to that in "The Times" under the heading "Determined Suicide and Attempted Murder at Hanham".

"It appears that about six months ago, a widow, Mrs Rogers, who kept an out-door beerhouse called The Nightingale's Rest at Hanham Mills was married to a man called Pillinger. This apparently caused some ill-feeling in the mind of Mrs Pillinger's son, a young man about nineteen years of age who had resided with his mother at the beerhouse. Soon after, Mr and Mrs Pillinger, desiring to leave the neighbourhood expressed their intention to dispose of some property (about four houses) possessed by Mrs Pillinger and shortly after a sale took place. These circumstances caused frequent altercations between Lewis Rogers and his parents and he was once summoned at Lawford's Gate petty session and bound over to keep the peace. Affairs reached a climax yesterday. In the morning it is alleged Lewis Rogers came into Bristol and purchased a revolver and in the course of the day after his return to Hanham Mills he again made a disturbance during which he drew the weapon and shot his step-father Mr Pillinger in the face the bullet penetrating some distance. Immediately following the disturbance, Lewis Rogers ran to the river which is only about five yards from the Nightingale's Rest and jumping into the water swam to a shallow spot in the middle. On reaching this spot which is a large mound

discovered what became of the rest of the Rogers children, who would have been left high and dry. Perhaps – poetic justice - they all went to Australia?



The Inn now trading as The Chequers is the house on the right, built 1901. The old Inn, perhaps the Nightingale's Rest, scene of the tragedy is on the left. We often walked to The Chequers on a Sunday night. Our Dad would say "Where shall us go?" and it was invariably "down 'Annum". In those days we all had to wear our "best" clothes on a Sunday and behave accordingly. It was excruciating. Later on, I often played truant here from Kingswood Grammar School.

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From The Western Daily Press

THE WESTERN DAILY

d DETERMINED SUICIDE AND ATTEMPTED MURDER AT HANHAM.

The neighbourhood of Hanham Mills, near Bristol, was thrown into considerable excitement on Monday evening in consequence of a determined suicide and attempt at murder which took place. It appears that about six months ago, a widow, then Mrs Rogers, who at that time and subsequently kept an out-door beerhouse, called the Nightingale's Rest, at Hanham Mills, was married to a man named Pillinger. This apparently occasioned some amount of ill-feeling in the mind of Mrs Pillinger's son, Lewis Rogers, a young man about nineteen years of age, who had resided with his mother at the beerhouse. Soon after the marriage Mr and Mrs Pillinger, desiring to leave the neighbourhood, expressed their intention to dispose of some property (about four houses) possessed by Mrs Pillinger, and shortly afterwards a sale took place. These circumstances caused frequent altercations between Lewis Rogers and his parents, and in consequence of his conduct he was once summoned at Lawford's Gate petty session and bound over to keep the peace. Affairs reached a climax yesterday. In the morning, it is alleged, Lewis Rogers came into Bristol and purchased a revolver, and in the course of the day, after his return to Hanham Mills, he again made a disturbance, during which he drew the weapon and shot his step-father, Mr Pillinger, in the face, the bullet penetrating some distance. Immediately after firing the revolver Lewis Rogers ran to the river, which is only about five yards from the Nightingale's Rest, and, jumping into the water, swam to a shallow spot in the middle. On reaching this spot, which is a large mound of mud, Rogers, who was a powerful swimmer, stood for a few moments looking at the persons who had assembled on the banks of the river, and then deliberately jumped into deep water, and allowed himself to sink. He was not seen alive afterwards. The body was subsequently recovered. Pillinger, it is stated, after being shot, ran after the unfortunate young man, and endeavoured to prevent him from jumping into the water, but was unsuccessful in his efforts. A medical man was sent for as soon as possible, and Dr. Lodge, of Keynsham, who arrived soon after the occurrence, extracted the bullet from Pillinger's face. The wound is serious, but is not regarded as dangerous, and yesterday the wounded man was progressing satisfactorily.

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FROM "The Times"

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.

A young man named Rogers, son of an innkeeper, shot his father-in-law through the head on Monday night at Hanham, near Bristol, and, believing that he had killed him jumped into the river and was drowned. Rogers was the son of Isaac Rogers, who was the landlord of the Chequers inn, on the river-side. The father, who also kept the ferry at Hanham, died about three years ago, and left all his property to his widow, who was 36 years of age, the son being then 18. About six months ago an Australian named Pillinger, who was stated to have made much money in the colonies, arrived at Hanham, and shortly afterwards married the widow. Three months afterwards the pair began to sell their house property, and at one of the sales young Rogers attended and protested against the auction proceeding, on the ground that he had an interest in the property. A fight took place between Rogers and Pillinger, and Rogers was summoned for assault and bound over to keep the peace. The ill-feeling continued, and last week it was revived when the sale of the property was completed by Pillinger receiving the purchase-money, to the amount of £300. It appears that the Australian and his wife then determined to leave England, and on Monday they packed up their boxes and made every arrangement to leave yesterday morning. Rogers, hearing of this, took a gun and went to the house at Hanham between 11 and 12 o'clock at night and asked Pillinger if he meant to give him his share of the property. They had an altercation for a few minutes, and Rogers then suddenly raised the gun and shot his father-in-law in the face, the charge blowing away the lower part of the jaw. He is likely to recover, however. Rogers's body was found in the Avon two hours afterwards.

June 3 1885



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You will receive a confirmation email shortly, a printable receipt is also available below.

your receipt

Your payment details of 30 June 2009 15:45:03 BST
Order reference number: 540010070536440P

Total Payment: £71.95

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THE SUICIDE AND ATTEMPTED MURDER AT HANHAM.

THE INQUEST.

Yesterday afternoon Dr. E. M. Grace, coroner for West Gloucestershire, held an inquest at the Chequers Inn, Hanham Mills, touching the death of Lewis Rogers aged 19, who committed suicide on Monday evening after having made an attempt upon the life of his father. The details of the tragic occurrence, which caused much excitement in the neighbourhood, were fully reported in yesterday's *Daily Press*. It will be remembered that the deceased's parents formerly kept the Chequers Inn, but gave up the house some years ago and went to reside about a hundred yards distant in a house called Nightingale's Rest. The father died about three years ago, and some time afterwards the widow married Mr John Pillinger, who had returned to the neighbourhood from Australia. About three months ago Mr and Mrs Pillinger determined to sell certain property which deceased's father had left, and this seems to have disturbed the deceased, whose conduct at the sale was such that he was bound over to keep the peace for three months. Last week he heard his mother and step-father were going to leave England, and he told a companion that they refused to take him or give him a share of the money which had been realised. On Monday deceased went into Bristol and possessed himself of a revolver and some cartridges, and on his return he went to Nightingale's Rest, where he appears to have renewed his demand for a part of the money, and upon being refused, to have shot his step-father in the face. He only fired one shot, and that struck Mr Pillinger in the cheek, and knocked out some of his teeth, the bullet then glancing off and striking the wall. Mr Pillinger, though bleeding from the wound, closed with the deceased, the revolver fell, and then Rogers ran out of the house, jumped into the river, and was eventually drowned. Yesterday Mr Pillinger was reported to be progressing favourably and to be able to walk about, but both he and Mrs Pillinger were absent from the inquest. The revolver was a large one, the chambers were loaded with cartridges about a third of an inch in diameter, and the only wonder is that, with such a formidable weapon and at such a short range, Mr Pillinger was not more seriously injured. The first witness called by Constable Cole, who had charge of the case on behalf of the police, was George Bruton, quarryman, who stated that he had known the deceased for several years. He saw him about a quarter past six o'clock on Monday evening, when he ran out of the house, followed by his step-father. Deceased jumped over the wall into the garden, and from the garden he jumped into the river and swam across to the weir. He sat on the weir a few minutes, then went over into the water below. He was not then apparently trying to swim, and after floating a few yards he held up his hands and went down.—The Coroner: You think he did it purposely?—Witness: Well, sir, it is a question for the jury whether he met with a blow or not, and whether they can bring it in accidental. Deceased was a good swimmer. He seemed lately to have had something preying upon his mind, and witness had heard it had to do with his mother. His mother and step-father were supposed to be going abroad, and he did not think the deceased liked it. There was, he believed, a money question in the case. Witness heard the report of a pistol before he saw the deceased and his step-father come out of the house. Witness believed the deceased lived happily at home until the sale of the property at the Maypole a few months ago. A juryman said the deceased seemed to be under the impression that Mr and Mrs Pillinger were going to get what money they could together and then leave the country, and that he would be done out of

Application to be registered as electors

ER3

For Office Use only

Part 1 - Current Address

Part 2 - Previous Address

a) Please give previous address and date of move:-

b) Please give name and address (if known) of your previous Council:-

Please check including Post Code

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER

In case there is a problem with your form, please enter a daytime number on which you may be contacted (not obligatory).

The Register of Electors has effect from 3 December 2007. In order to be included in the Register a person must:- be resident at a qualifying address in the area; state their nationality and be a British or other Commonwealth Citizen, a Citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or a Citizen of a Member State of the European Union; not be subject to any legal incapacity to vote (age apart); be aged 18 years or over by 30th November 2008; or have made a Service Declaration, Declaration of Local Connection or Overseas Declaration.

Part 3 - Names to be added to the current register.

1. Add the names of those resident at your address and complete the other columns as applicable.
2. EACH PERSON LISTED MUST SIGN THEIR NAME IN THE SIGNATURE COLUMN IN ORDER FOR THEIR NAME TO BE ADDED TO THE REGISTER. Please complete in BLOCK LETTERS.

Title	Surname	First Forename & Initial	Nationality <small>Please state your nationality</small>	Postal/Proxy Voting		16/17 Year olds <small>Please give dates of birth of 16/17 Year olds born between 03 DEC 1989 & 30 NOV 1990 inclusive. In this column opposite name.</small>	Jury Service <small>If 70 or over by 03 DEC 2007 enter "X" in the correct box below.</small>	Signature <small>All persons listed in Part 3 MUST SIGN BELOW against their names. Anyone who does not sign against their name can NOT be added to the Register. I declare that the particulars given are true and correct and that I am a British or other Commonwealth Citizen, a Citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or a Citizen of a Member State of the European Union.</small>	Persons not wishing to appear on the register <small>If the person does not wish for his or her name to appear on the edited register enter "X" below</small>
				Postal	Proxy				

Please Date _____

THE PILLINGER FAMILY TREE

Mary (1) = **SAMUEL PILLINGER** = (2) Sarah Boteller = (3) Susan
 bur Box 1692 of Bradford war Bradford 1693 bur 1736
 bur YK 1743 bur 1706

Elizabeth Gale (1) = Sallia = (2) Mary Mary Thomas Elizabeth Nathaniel Samuel Samuel Sarah Samuel
 bc1685 d1776 bpYK1695 bp1697 bp1699 bp1703 d1703 d1706 bp1705 1715-20
 = Ann = ?

Nathaniel 1716-1755 = Sarah d 1755	Arthur 1721-68 = Joyce	William bp1727 = Hannah Salway 1749	Mary bp1730 = William Taverner 1756	William d1736 = Richd Rex 1754	Ann bp1733 = Thos Osborne 1764	Sarah bp1735 = Thos Thomas 1759	Mary 1740-1742- 1758 = Thomas 1748-1759	Hannah 1742-1759 = Amy 1742-1759	John 1744-1764 = Jacob 1754-1759	Samuel 1745-1759 = Betty d1759	Samuel 1732-34
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Betty
bp1745
John
bc1741
= (1) Catherine Lear, 1761
= (2) Silvia Haines, 1785

Sarah
= Richd
Bancroft
1782
William
= ?
Jane?
Jane bp 1777
Betty
bp1754
Mary
1752-69

Nathaniel 1761-1815 = (1) Mary Yeales 1787 = (2) Betty Tyzick, 1798	Sarah bp1763 = Wm Jay 1785	John 1767-1770 = Ann Muntin 1791(d1849)	Jacob bp1770 = (1) Hester Britton 1794(d1805) = (2) Ann Stone (nee Harris) 1805(d1833)	John bp1772 d1848 1797	Mary 1775-1778- 1797	Simon 1778-1786- 1779	Simon 1786-1789- 1758	Robert 1789-1793- 1758 = Mary Bryant 1810 d 1879	William 1793-1799- 1821 = Hannah Isaacs	Ann 1799-1805
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John b1787	Mary Ann 1791-1793- = Francis Clark	John 1793-1796- = William Pines 1824	Eliz 1796-1797- = William Pines 1824	Elinor Dent 1800-1807- = William Farler 1822	Ann 1800-1807- = William Farler 1822
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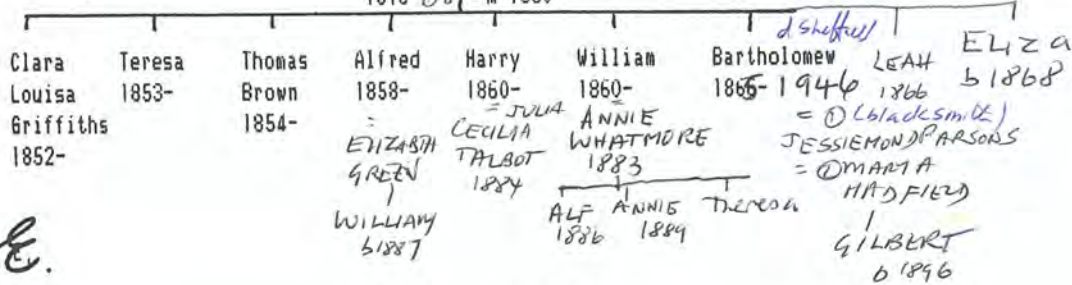
Elizabeth 1822-1839 = George Jeffery	Mary 1824-1853 = William Potter, 1868 (Mary=Samuel Kirby)	John 1828-1836 = Anne White	Anne 1827-1836	Simon 1831-1835
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Isaac 1795-1806	Elizabeth 1796-1838 see B	Jacob 1798-1838 see B	Hester 1801-1807- = Joseph see C	Evangelist John 1807-1807- see C	Stephen 1808-1899 = Jane Summerell 1828, (d1875)	Harriet 1816-1816- see D	Aaron 1816-1816- see D
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Alfred 1831 see E	Hannah 1832 see F	Aaron 1833 see G	Stephen 1837 see H	Jane 1840 = Jas Ford 1859	Thomas 1841 see I	John 1844 see J	Sarah 1846 see K	Ann 1847-62	Elizabeth 1849-50	Elizabeth 1852 -	Mary 1853-55
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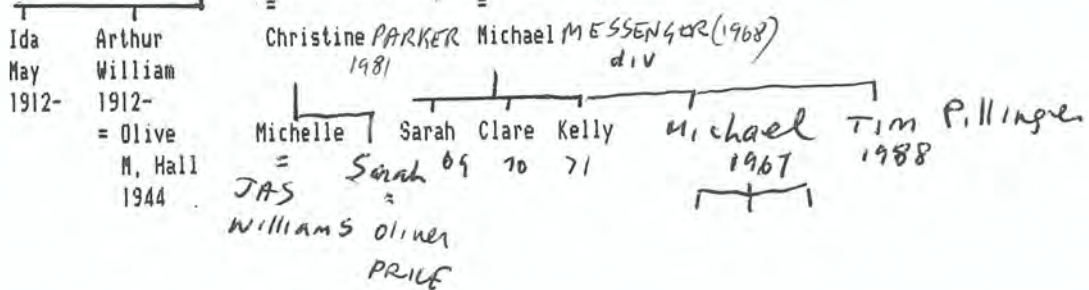
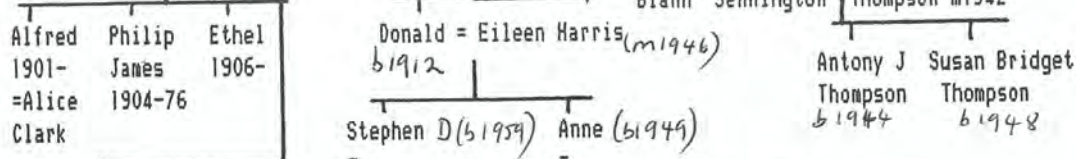
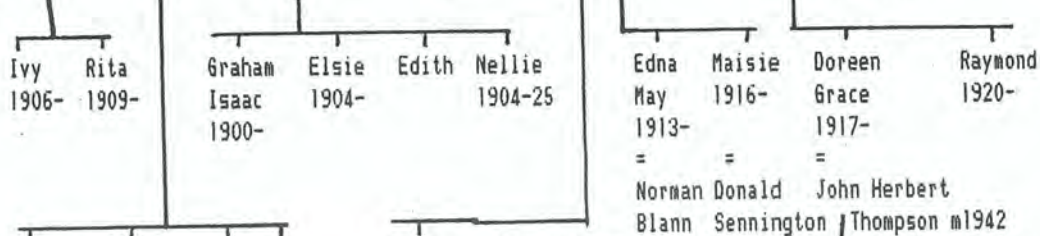
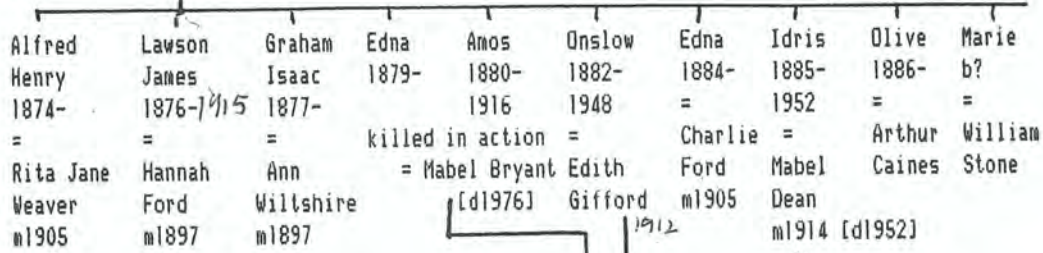
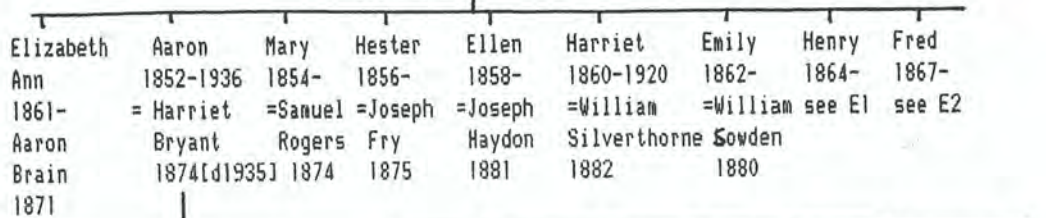
D.

Aaron = Mary Ann Griffiths (d1908)
1816-68 m 1850



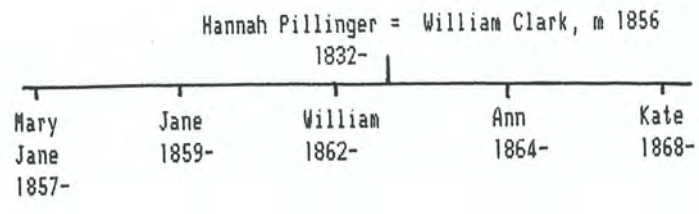
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Alfred = Ann Hale
1831-1921 m 1850 [d1900]



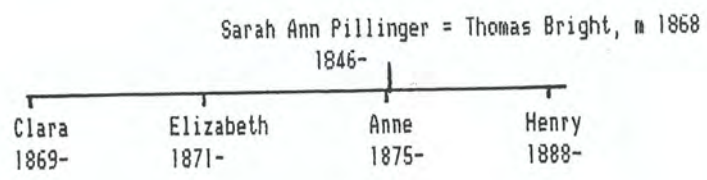
LC

The Clarke Family

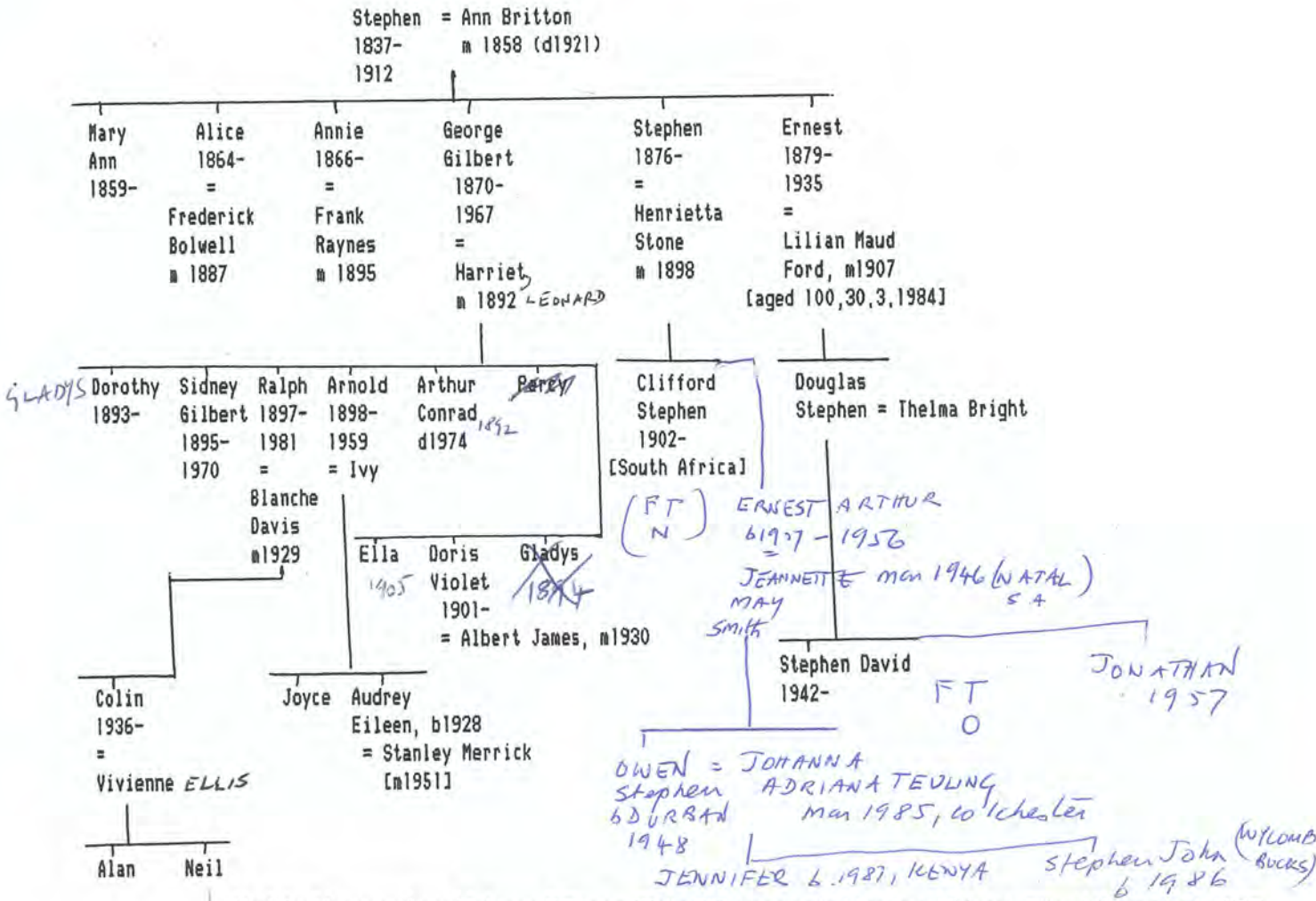


RC

The Bright Family



Jf



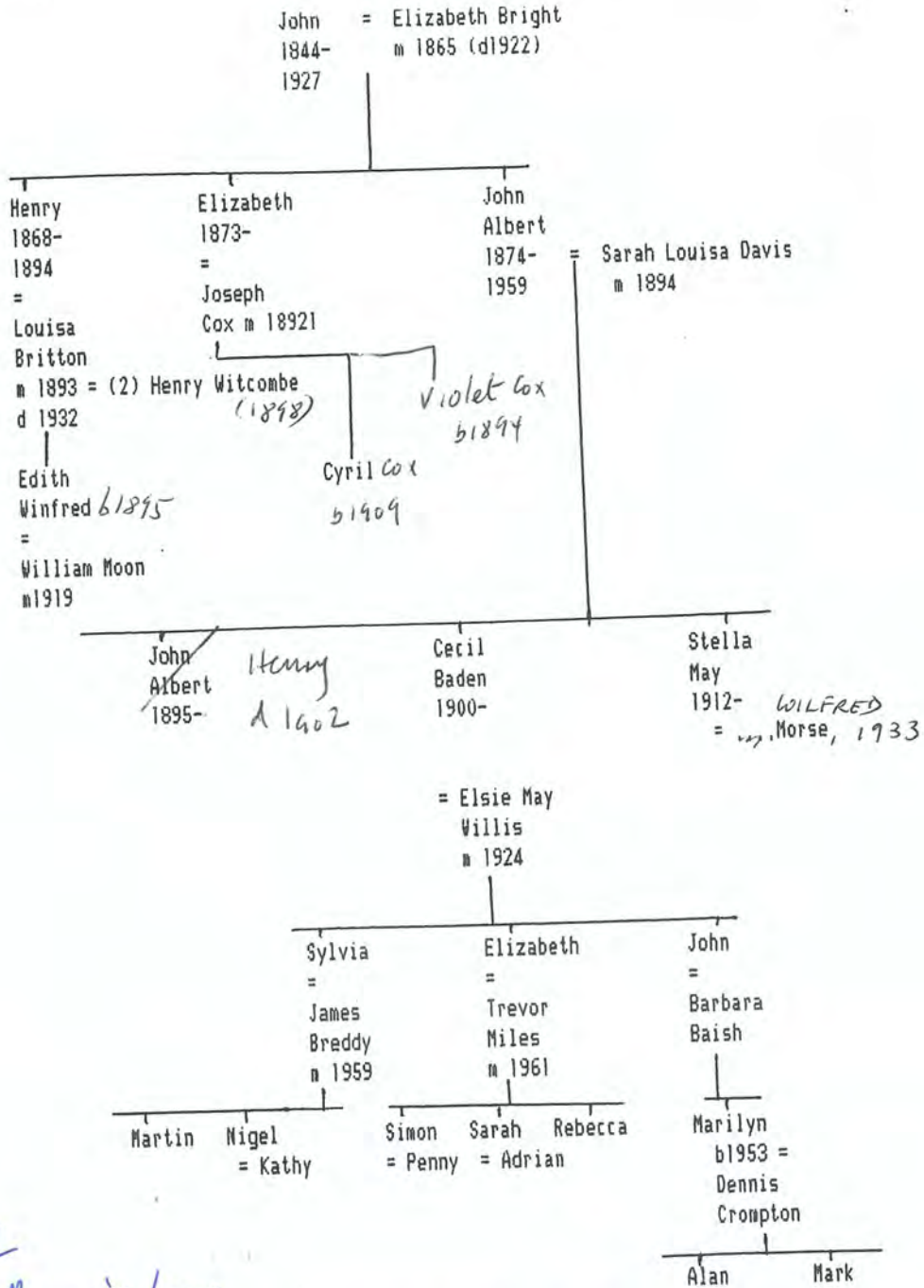
Update: Message from Vivienne Pillinger: (Colin Pillinger married Frances Vivienne Ellis at Kingswood, 1957) (2010)

I think you visited our shop and spoke to Ralph my late father in law when he gave you information on Stephen Pillinger. My husband's father had three brothers and two sisters. One brother married and had two daughters, the other two men were rather strange. They seemed to lie about the house not working except for growing tomatoes in a large heated greenhouse at the bottom of the garden. The family owned a field which was sold and became Pillingers Road, Kingswood. Gladys never married and became mentally ill and ended up in a mental home in Gloucester. Her sister married and had a son, John and I am still in contact with him and his family. They live in Cardiff. We had two sons, Alan born in 1960, now lives in Rome and he is a linguist speaking about 7 languages. Neil, born 1962 married a lovely girl from Tasmania and they have one son, Andrew, now 15 and doing very well in School. They lived in Melbourne for 10 years but now live in Kings Stanley near Stroud. His wife is principal of a university department in Gloucester. In Tasmania there is a road called Pillinger's Road, and they sent us a picture of it. Sadly my lovely husband died in August 2004 so I live alone. He went to Cotham Grammar School, worked for Imperial Tobacco. then ran the shop in Small Street when Ralph retired.

My Colin was very tall, 6ft 7ins, a real gentle giant, we met at 15 and married at 21. His hobbies were cricket and chess, and he played chess for Gloucestershire and was chairman of the Bristol and District Chess League. We were married for 47 years. I am from Swansea, but came to live in Hanham when I was 11. My father found a job in the Bristol Arcade as a watchmaker after the war. He lived in digs in Cock Road with my mother's great aunt,,Mary Brain. Now here comes the strange part, my mother's family originated in Box!

There seems to be a lot of autism in the family, and sadly my beloved grandson is autistic but mildly so, and very intelligent. He is already planning to go to university. Of course the word autism was not used when we were young, and my son Alan probably has Aspergers, but makes a good living teaching in Rome.

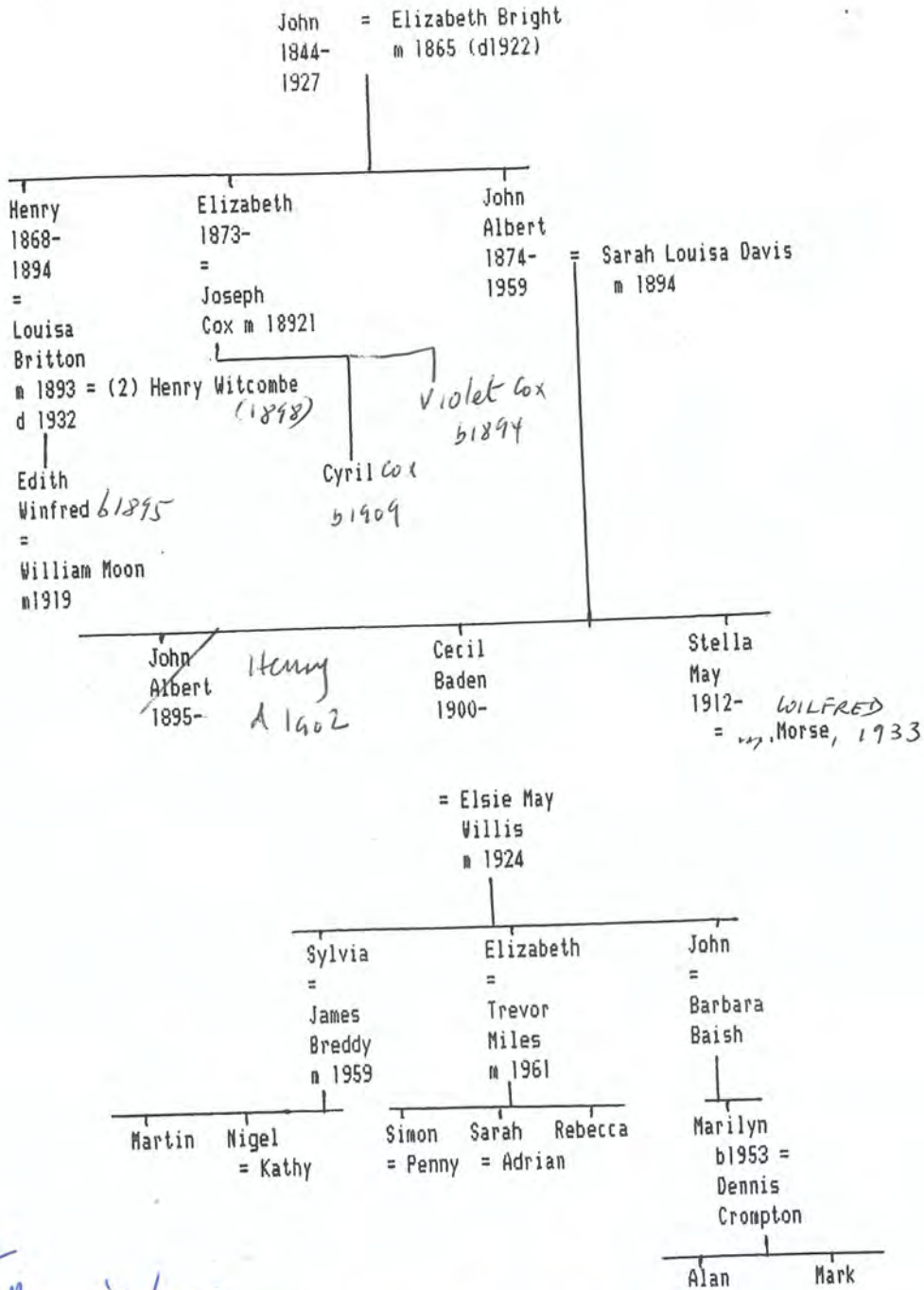
J



1939

1 Pullinger's home
 Cecil B. Pullinger 30-5-1900 Master Baker
 Elsie M " 17-6-1899 Unpaid Dom Duties
 John " 23-9-27 school - + 2 closed.

J

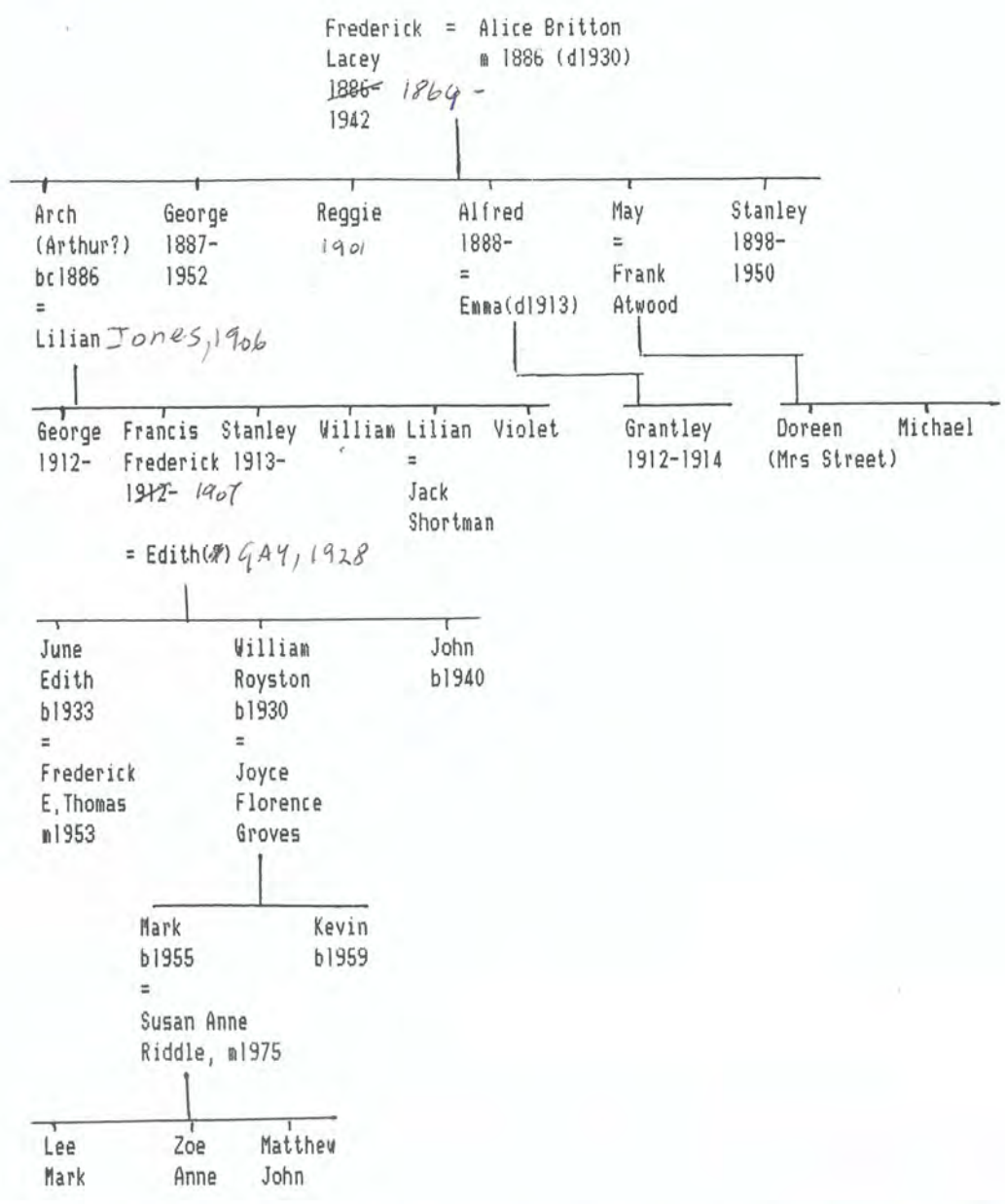


1939

1 Pillinger's home

Cecil B. Pillinger 30-5-1900 Master Baker
Elsie M " 17-6-1899 Unpard Dom Duties
John " 23-9-27 school + 2 closed

M



1939 Peawodes have
 Fred Pillinger m 5-11-64 Ret'd Book maker M S
 Alfred " m 4-1-89 BM M
 Stanley " m 25-7-95 BM v repairer S
 Reginald " m 22-6-97 BM S
 George m 15-11-87 BM 9

Addendum:

ALDERWICK'S (KINGSWOOD) FUNERAL BOOK

PILLINGERS

Stanley Pillinger aged 7 months, Wesleyan 17.2.1893. 4 white falls 14 shillings

Henry Pillinger aged 27, Wesleyan, died 24.8.1894, funeral 26.8.94, elm coffin, black and gilt, carriage and pair, 2 cards, £5.6s.0d.

Stephen Pillinger aged 90, Wesleyan, died 21.2.1899, funeral 26.2.1899, Elm Coffin, brass furniture top and sides, beaded. No2 Carriage and pair 100 double cards, £7.1s.6d

Edith Pillinger, 9 ½ months, Wesleyan, 16.4.1898, funeral 23.4.98, elm coffin, nickel furniture, walking, 2 dozen double cards.

John Henry Pillinger, 16.3.1902, 6 years 11 months, Wesleyan, 1st class baby coach elm coffin, beaded, nickel furniture 50 cards, 5/- £3.0s.0d

Aaron Pillinger 3.1.1904, 68, Wesleyan, 68, funeral 6.1.904, coffin and attendance, car, 2B and 4B, £10.0s.0d.

Ruth Caroline Counsell (should have been Pillinger) 2.11.1911, 48, KW Ch, Elm Coffin, brass furniture, no 3 car plus 2 dozen cards 4/- £3.15s.0d

John Pillinger, died 30.7.1927, 83, funeral 3.8.27, unpolished oak coffin, brass rings, car and pair, 4 bearers, brougham and pair, £16.0s.0d

Aaron Pillinger, 66, St Michael's Two Mile Hill, elm coffin, casket fitted, carried. 17.3.1936, £6.0s.0d

Elizabeth Ann Pillinger, 69, Kennard Road, d. 16.12.38, St Michael's, 21.12.38, elm coffin, casket, funeral car, 2 coaches, 4 bearers, £14.5s.9d

*Emily Pillinger, 79, Hanham Road, 24.2.40, KW Ch 29.2.40, oak coffin, casket, motor hearse and 2 hands, 4 bearers, £18.12s.0d

Joyce Pillinger, 21, Blackhorse Road, 13.8.44, KW ch 18.8.44, casket, £18.10s.0d

* I believe Emily is one of the Pillingers who originally came from Brislington and appear in Book 2.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 1493105-1



REGISTRATION DISTRICT **KEYNSHAM**
 DEATH in the Sub-district of **Keynsham** in the County of Somerset

Columns:-- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

1144	District 11 Twenty Sixth March 1907 Northwood Keynsham U.S.	Laruna Pillingier	Female	75 years	Quarster At no registration Pillingier U.S.	Epileptic convulsion As certified by Charles Harrison M.R.C.S.	Mrs Pillingier Brother 150 St Michaels Terrace Two Mile Hill Bristol	Thursd March 19 07	H. G. Mould Deputy Registrar
------	---	----------------------	--------	-------------	---	---	--	--------------------------	------------------------------------

H. G. Mould

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 11th day of August 2009



See note overleaf

DYC 408293

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 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

RJW



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 1493105-2

1884. Marriage solemnized at *St Paul's Church in the Parish of St Paul, Westchester in the County of Middlesex*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
397	August 13 th 1884	John Pilkington Mary Highgate, nee Pilkington	47 46	Widower Widow	Iron Worker —	52 St Mark's St & Althorpe St	William Pilkington Mrs Mary Highgate	Coal Miner (General) Iron worker (General)

Married in the Parish of *St Paul's* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *Richard Herbert Lee* or after *Richard Herbert Lee*

This Marriage was solemnized between the *John Pilkington* and *Mary Highgate, nee Pilkington* in the presence of us, *Richard Herbert Lee* and *James William Highgate*

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Bedminster
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 10th day of August 2009

MXE 483447



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