

KIDNER

The origins and history of a family



Peter W.E. Kidner

PART 3 – Durston, West Monkton and Thurloxtton

based on a

A One-Name Study of **KIDNER**

And its variants and aliases, namely -
Ketenore, Kidenore, Ketnor, Kitnor, Kitner, Kydnor

Peter Kidner asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of
this work

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Cover: St Giles, Thurloxtan. Photo © Simon Kidner 2004

INTRODUCTION

It has been said that nothing is certain in genealogy. Written records were often prepared long after the event and were based on oral accounts or on hearsay. Names were spoken and the writer wrote down what he heard - or thought he heard. Parish clerks were often poorly educated and easily confused. There was always scope for error!

In drafting this study I have had two specific aims. The first and obvious aim has been to occupy my retirement years with something which has a great fascination for me and which, at the same time, seems to be constructive and of probable interest to others - the history of our family name.

My second aim has been to carry on the research started by my father, William Elworthy Kidner, which occupied much of his later years. Although he studied the whole of our family history from the Conquest to the present century, he specialised in the medieval period. His research notes are comprehensive, detailed and accurate; and incorporate extracts and translations of all the more important source references. But he never attempted to put together a coherent sequence of events which could form the basis for a narrative account; nor did he pass on his findings to any but a few close friends and relatives. It is my hope that I can complete such a narrative, either publish it or, at least, deposit it with the Society of Genealogists and the Somerset County Record Office. At the same time, I would edit my father's notes and deposit them also, so that both become available to others who may study - and perhaps extend - the research we have both done.

In preparing this study, I have adopted the following method which seems appropriate:-

- o to assemble and collate all the available and relevant facts; from these, to prepare an initial scenario which satisfies the facts and, at the same time, to tell a coherent story, even though some parts may be little more than informed guesses.
- o to use the scenario so drafted to identify the additional information needed to fill the gaps and confirm the less well-established assumptions, and to consider how and from where that information might be obtained.
- o to search for those further facts needed, and then to revise the scenario to satisfy all the facts both old and new.

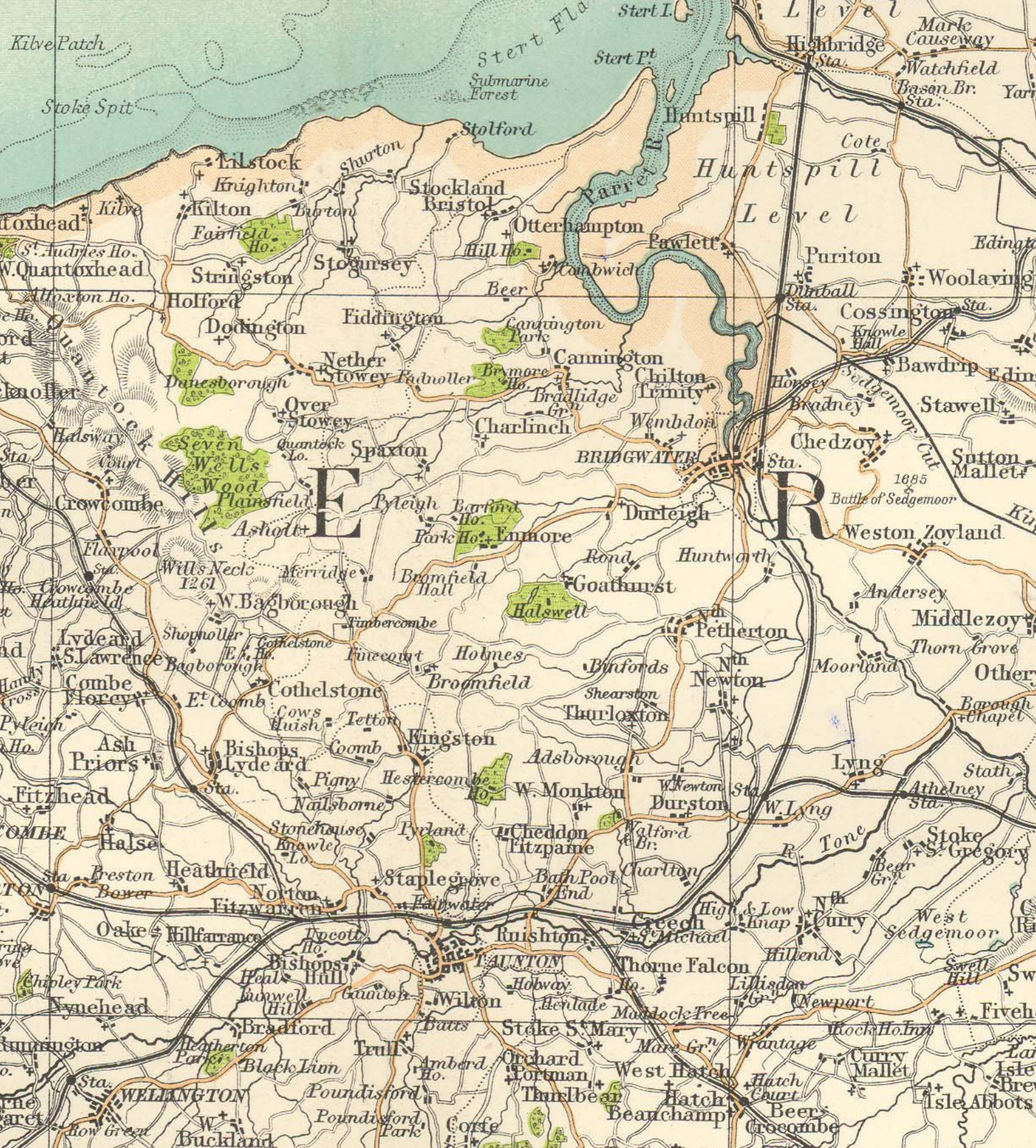
Few of our Kidner ancestors named in this study were either famous or important in the context of national events. So our story must be one primarily of social change, from knighthood in an age when rebellion and war were the norm, to landowner, farmer, craftsman and merchant, sometimes in England and, in later years, often in the colonies and empire. I hope to include all in the later parts of this study.

This Introduction was intended primarily to accompany Part 1 of the study, covering the Middle Ages, in which I used the Domesday spelling of our name, that is Chetenore or Ketenore. In Part 2 the name is found in various forms, including Kitnor, Kydner, and Keedner. However, when quoting from a contemporary document, I have used the spelling found there. Thus it is possible to follow the gradual changes in the name and its spelling over the years and in different localities.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all those who have contributed ideas and information.

P.W.E.K.

August 1996.



Central Somerset and the Quantocks, showing Bath Thurloxtan, Durston and other family sites around Taunton. The map is from Bartholomew's *The Royal Atlas of England and Wales*, published in 1892.

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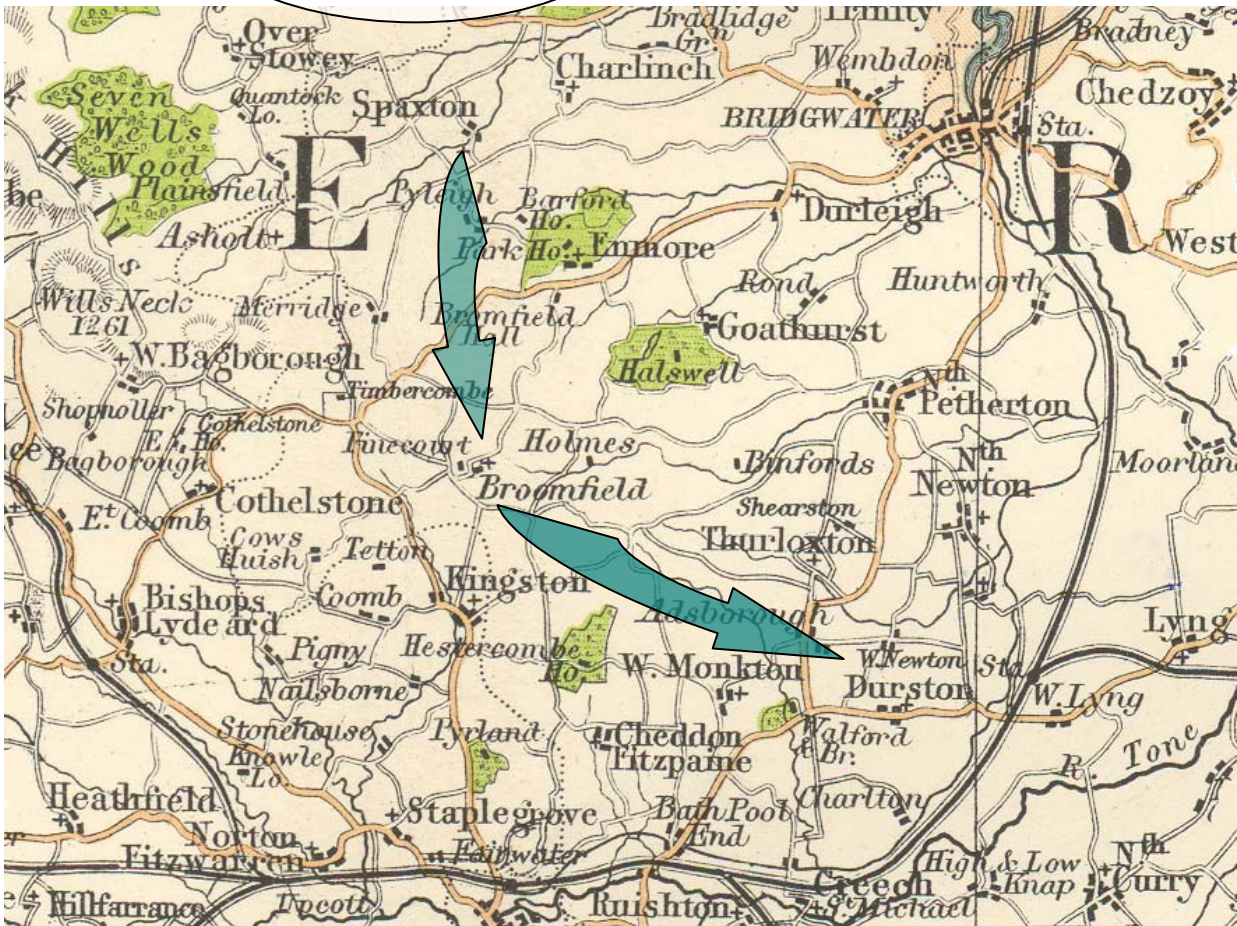
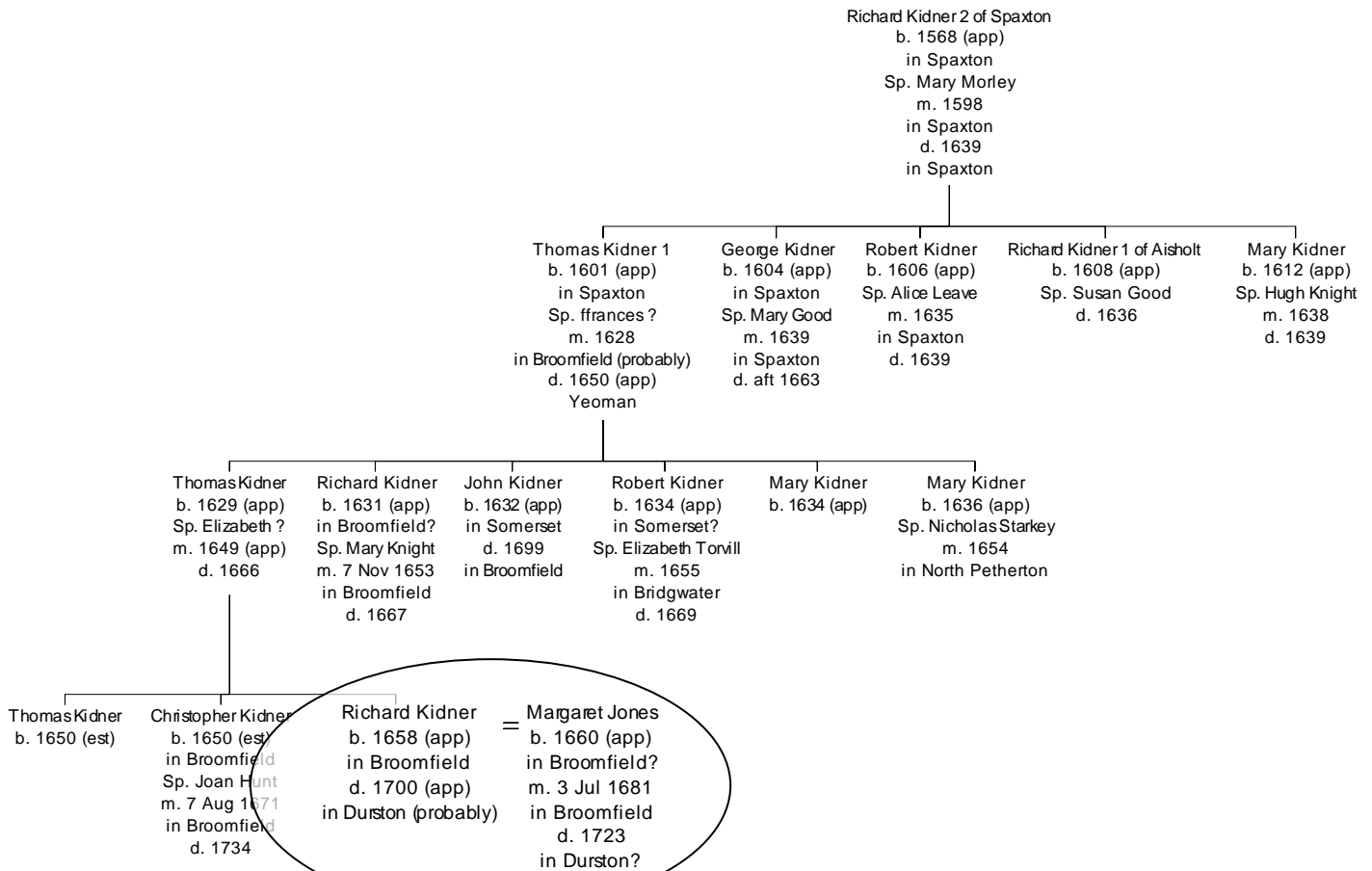
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CHAPTER 1 – Durston, West Monkton and Thurloxtton

The 18th and 19th centuries were a period of great prosperity for agriculture in England for our Somerset families in particular. After the good years in Spaxton before the Civil War the family landholdings had gradually become fragmented and dispersed, and many younger sons had left to seek their fortune elsewhere. New branches appeared in Warwickshire, Essex, North Yorkshire, Kent and London whose origins have not been satisfactorily determined although they certainly lay in the West Country.

Thomas Kidner, the eldest son of Richard of Spaxton 2 (c. 1568-1639) had moved to Broomfield about 1630 after his marriage. Only two generations later, his grandson Richard of Broomfield 2 (1658-c.1700) moved to Durston before he died.

Durston lies some 5 miles north east of Taunton and to the south east of the Quantock Hills. It is a scattered village of about forty houses spread along the old Taunton to Glastonbury turnpike road, divided into two settlements known as Higher and Lower Durston. The Church and Manor House, the latter known as Lodge Farm since the mid-eighteenth century, lie mid-way between them¹. The Manor House dates from the fifteenth century and is of considerable architectural interest.²

Durston is one of a group of villages all of which have strong Kidner connections. Within a radius of 2½ miles of Durston are Lyng, North Curry, Creech St Michael, West Monkton and Thurloxtton.

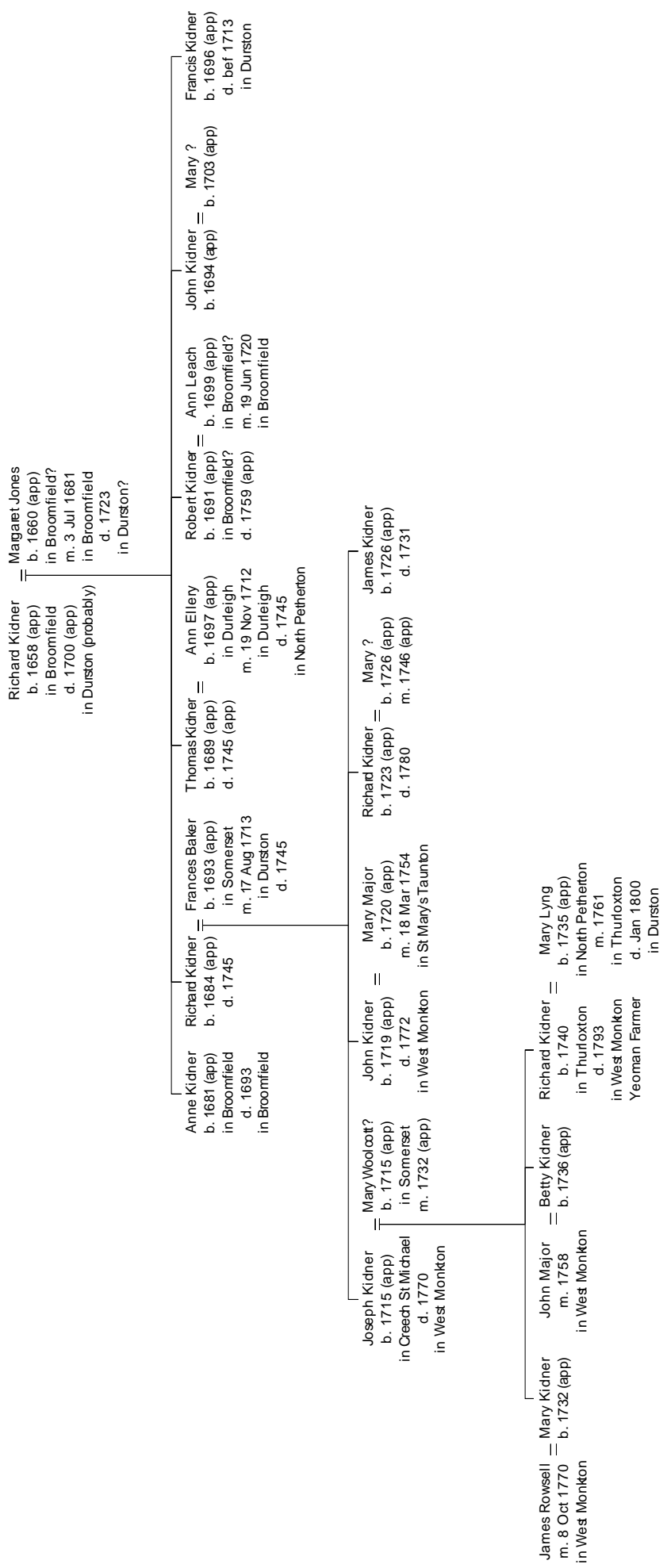
There were five principal farms in Durston parish during the 18th and 19th centuries. Cogload and Buckland Farms to the south east occupy the site of Buckland Priory, an Augustinian House founded in the 12th century. Lower Durston Farm, also known as Gardner's after a former tenant, lies across the main road opposite Buckland Farm. Lodge Farm, at the centre of the village, occupies the site of a mediaeval park established in 1223. By the middle of the 15th century the park comprised some 200 acres of woodland and 60 acres of meadow, and supplied timber for building in North Petherton and elsewhere. To the west, in Higher Durston, lay a scattering of small farmsteads and closes. Most of the holdings were small and the boundaries changed often as tenants moved and fields became vacant.

I have not discovered where Richard of Broomfield first lived after his move to Durston in about 1700, but it may have been in Higher Durston near the farm now known as Drake's and, in the 19th century as Late Porter's (see map on page 9), for there can be found two fields known as 'Kidner's'. These names are those of earlier owners and can date from the enclosures of the 17th century. Another clue is the discovery in the 19th century of a bronze bowl, probably of bell-metal, bearing the letters 'WMK' and the date 1670. Sadly, neither the date nor exact location of this find were recorded.



¹ Victoria County History of Somerset (VCH), Vol. 6 p.257 et ff.

² Pevsner, Durston



It has always been assumed that 'WMK' are the initials of a William or Walter Kidner, and the bowl probably commemorates some event such as the recasting of a church bell, a fairly frequent event for which churchwardens would have been responsible. The letters might, on the other hand, represent a 'W' Kidner and his marriage to 'M', although there are no obvious candidates for either interpretation.

Richard of Broomfield married Margaret Jones at Broomfield in 1681 and they had one daughter they named Anne and five sons, four of whom survived childhood. The eldest son, Richard of Durston, married Frances Baker of North Petherton at Durston in 1713. Richard and Frances had 4 sons: Joseph, born in 1715; John, born in 1719; Richard, born in 1723; and James born in 1726 who died when only five years old.

Joseph, the eldest boy, married in about 1735 and moved to West Monkton where he lived at Sidbrooke – probably holding Sidbrooke Farm about a mile south of the village of West Monkton. His wife was named Mary, probably Mary Woolcott although this is not firmly established as no record of the marriage has been found (but see below).

John stayed on at Durston, taking over his father's farm when Richard died in 1745. He married Mary Major of Thurloxtan in 1754 and so established a link with Thurloxtan which was to last for 150 years.

Richard, the youngest surviving son, settled in North Petherton but very little is known of his life there. There were two Richard Kidners married in North Petherton, in 1745 and 1747, and it is uncertain which is which or even whether either was Richard from Durston.

Joseph and Mary of West Monkton had three children: two daughters, Mary and Betty, and one son, Richard, born in 1740. Mary married James Roswell of Taunton at West Monkton in 1770, when the two witnesses who signed the register were George Woolcott and Elizabeth Rowsell. It is George Woolcott's attendance at Mary's wedding that suggests her mother was also a Woolcott.

Betty, the younger daughter, married John Major of Thurloxtan in 1758. The Majors were a farming family and it was probably John's father who was the subject of an anecdote told by Parson Woodforde in his diary³. Woodforde was curate of Thurloxtan for three months in 1764/5. He found lodgings with Squire Crosse at the Manor House. On 28th October 1764 he relates how Farmer Major of the parish spent the afternoon and evening with Mr Crosse, neither of them eating, only drinking – "I left them drinking when I went to bed" he says. Early the next January Farmer Major came for afternoon dinner and "he and Mr Crosse sat drinking from ten in the morning till eight in the evening".

It was on Guy Fawkes Day 1764 that Parson Woodforde read prayers in Thurloxtan Church, as was the custom, and the bell ringers clashed out a merry peal. In case the new curate should ignore a time-honoured custom, they sent him a gentle reminder. "The ringers", Woodforde records "desired me to give them something to drink, it being a custom. I sent them 0.1.0d".

Joseph's son, Richard, married Mary Lyng of Thurloxtan on 23rd March 1761. Mary was the daughter of Marmaduke Lyng and his wife Joan née Warren, the widow of Stephen Baker of Taunton. The Lyngs were an established yeoman family perhaps descended from a William de Leng who held land at Glastonbury in the 13th century, and from a John de Leng who was sent to Westminster as MP for Bridgwater in 1341. From the 16th century onwards the family held considerable property at North Petherton and Thurloxtan.⁴

When Marmaduke Lyng died in 1762 without a male heir, his three daughters,

³ Ansford Diary by James Woodforde

⁴ Somerset Record Society vols 5, 6 and 48

of whom Mary was the second, each inherited one third of his estate. Consequently, when Mary married, she brought considerable wealth including land said to command an annual rent of £150 a year – perhaps as much as 200 acres, probably in the Manor of Thurloxtan and including the Glebe Farm there, which comprised the Rectory House to the north-west of the village and some 60 acres of farmland. Most of this land was probably occupied by sitting tenants at the time and was not immediately available to Richard and Mary.

Richard and Mary had nine children, all of whom survived childhood: six sons and three daughters, born between 1761 and 1779:

John	1761-1851, married Betsy Payne
Richard '2'	1763- , married Elizabeth Bruford
Elizabeth	married, Simon Stone
Joseph	1766-1844
Francis	1772-1836, married Catherine Waters
Anne	1774-, married William Martin
George	1775-1837, married Grace Barrington
Mary	1779- , married William Watts
Samuel	1780-aft 1851, married Alatheia Lane.

In 1765 Richard acquired a tenement of some 25 acres on a 99-year lease terminable on his own death but with provision for a further term.⁵ Although this land had been held earlier by the Lyng family it is not thought to have been part of Mary's inheritance. At about the same time, Richard obtained the lease of an adjacent 12 acre tenement, and in due course the two holdings were combined. For the lack of any other name I will call this piece of ground '37 Acres'. It was located to the south of Sidbrook near the village of Bathpool at the south-western corner of West Monkton parish. Initially at least, Richard farmed '37 Acres' as part of Sidbrooke Farm and probably until his death in 1793.

The inventory⁶ which accompanies Richard's will valued '37 Acres' at £540. The total value of his estate is given as £1,369-7-0d, including allowances of £382-4-2d granted to his widow Mary which were made up of £150 for a "year's rent for the estate Deceased occupied" and £168 due for "principal and interest on Thurloxtan Estate", and other lesser items. The balance of £987-2-10d was to be divided $\frac{1}{3}$ to Mary and $\frac{2}{3}$ in equal shares to each of his nine children. This latter $\frac{2}{3}$ included the £540 for the lease of '37 Acres', so there must have been much discussion between the children before Mary found the resources to keep the parcel of land intact.

Mary died in 1800, and in the years since Richard's death must have given a lot of thought to the disposal of her own estate. Firstly, there was the challenge of a satisfactory marriage for her two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. Anne married William Martin on 6th July 1795 at West Monkton, and the following year William took over Lower Durston Farm, probably as Anne's dowry⁷. It is possible that Lower Durston Farm was part of Mary's inheritance from her father; it had certainly been held by the Lyng family early in the 18th century.

Mary's eldest daughter Elizabeth married Simon Stone on 31st July 1797, and Simon seems to have taken over '37 Acres' as Elizabeth's dowry. He apparently farmed the holding until his death in 1813 when it passed to his elder son George Stone. George was only 14 years old at the time and the farm must have been kept on by Elizabeth until George had gained the experience to manage it himself. But it appears that George was not content with the life of a farmer, and on 10th April 1839 '37 Acres' was advertised for letting in the *Taunton Courier*.

⁵ Indenture of lease dated 30th August 1791 for 25 acres of land in the Manor of Thurloxtan

⁶ Inventory dated 26th January 1793

⁷ Letters – Mrs Mary Miles of Durston

COMPACT and DESIRABLE FARM,
near TAUNTON

To be Let by Tender

For a term of 5 or 7 years from 25th Day of March, instant

All that FARM and Lands Situate at Bathpool, in the parish of
West Monkton, Somerset, comprising:

A roomy and convenient DWELLING HOUSE, with garden,
stable and outbuildings attached, two orchards, seven closes of
meadow and pasture, and three closes of Arable Land,
containing altogether 38 Acres statute measure.

The tenant will be required to pay all rates and taxes, to use
good husbandry, and do the necessary repairs, being allowed
rough timber for that purpose.

If desired, the land will be let separate from the house, and
may be tendered for accordingly.

Tenders for taking the above, to be delivered to Mr GEORGE
STONE, at his office, in St James's Place, Taunton, on or
before the 15th day of April next of whom, or of Mr Blake,
Holway, near Taunton, further particulars may be known.

All letters to be post paid.

Taunton, 25th March, 1839

George and his family moved to Bermondsey where he lived at No. 1 Mill Pond Street, and set up business as a butcher. His uncle, Samuel Kidner, also a butcher, lived at No. 10 Mill Pond Street and it is possible that he and George entered into partnership.

Meanwhile, it seems that Mary was required to vacate the Sidbrooke Farm within one year of Richard's death. Perhaps she moved with those members of the family still living at home to the Old Rectory House at Thurloxton – but there is little hard evidence that she did so. What we do know of the Rectory is that it was rebuilt in about 1799 or 1800 on a slightly different site, and that her grandson John Kidner occupied the house and the adjacent Glebe Farm some time before the 1851 census. Maybe the rebuilding followed Mary's death in January 1800 and the house was re-occupied by the family on completion.

The inventory accompanying Richard's will is well worth examining in greater detail, for it affords a glimpse of life at Sidbrooke Farm and the way of life there in the later years of the 18th century. The stock and contents of the house and farm are listed under various headings: Hill Barn, Home barton; Malt House and Cellar; Pump House; Kitchen; Dairy House; Milk House and Cellar; and Hall and (five) chambers, which include a separate kitchen and must comprise the main farmhouse.

The stock at Hill Barn and Home Barton included 35 head of cattle including ten 'plough steers' and eight milch cows, three with calves and four in calf; a mare and seven yearling colts; 150 sheep and 15 pigs. There were also stocks of hay, barley, oats, wheat, peas and beans; and 25 acres of wheat 'in ground'. And at Home Barton were three hogsheads⁸ of cider and 28 empty hogsheads; two wagons, various farm implements, harness, yokes, bows and chains.

In the Malt House were a malt mill, eight tubs and vats, twenty bushels of barley for malt, and other brewing items; in the cellar, eight further hogsheads of

⁸ a large cask containing about 54 gallons of cider

cider and ten empty hogsheads, with two more hogsheads in the Pump House.

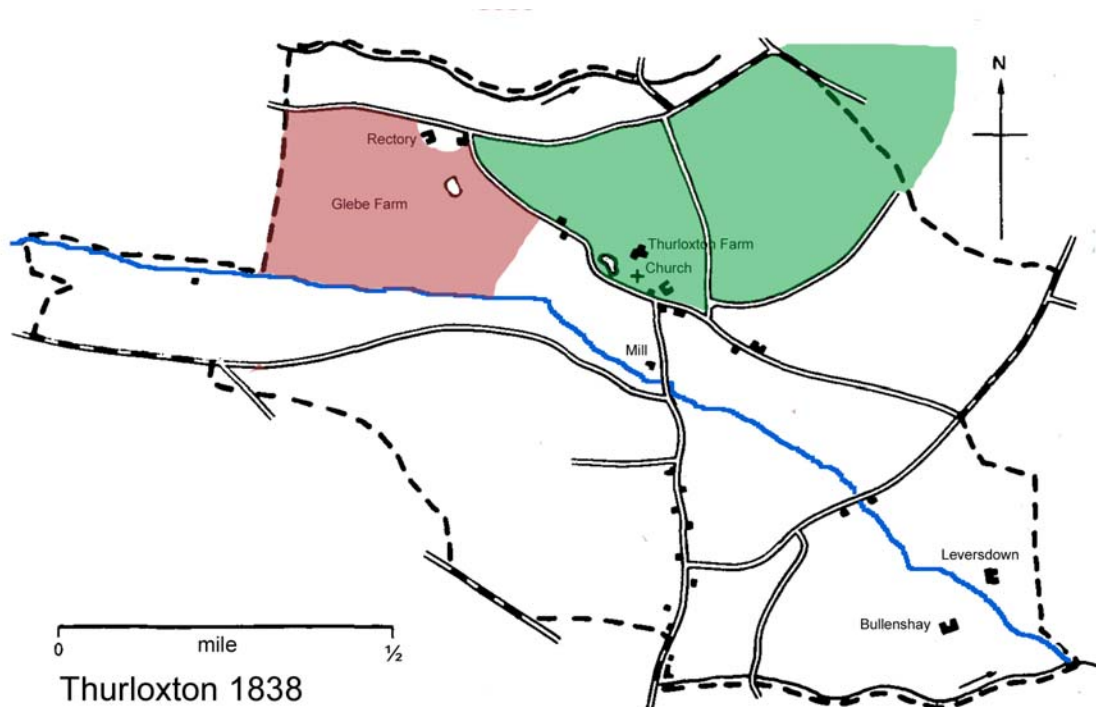
In the kitchen were two tables and two settles, seven pewter dishes and twenty pewter plates; six spits, a 'Jack Candlebox' and a pair of stilliards (ie steelyards); a brass pan, a skillet fire pan, knives, skimmers, ladles and other cooking implements. The farm hands were well catered for!

In the Dairy House and Milk House and Cellar were a cheese wringer, a beam and scales, tubs, pails, three pottage pots, a boiler, a calander, three pewter dishes, three 'dish kittles', six brass pans, one kittle, three salters, a safe, a fire pan and other small items and several empty barrels of various capacity.

And then in the Hall and Chambers which made up the main farmhouse there were all the furnishing to be expected including a clock, three tables, twelve chairs and two 'armed' chairs; fifteen pewter dishes and thirteen pewter plates, a weather glass, six brass candlesticks, firedogs; six bedsteads, chest of drawers, coffer, a looking glass and so on.

Finally there is a list of debts due, including a bank balance of £60-0-0, and various smaller sums due from Mr Martin, Mr Stone for hide, Mr Henry Paul for sheep and wheat, Mr James Smith for three quarters rent, Mr Burnett for barley, and Messrs William Pocock, Floyd and Warren for unspecified items.

The overall impression given is of a prosperous mixed farm of, perhaps, about 150 acres employing some dozen farmhands. But there are few signs of wealth, and such capital as exists is all held in the form of land.



Thurloxtton

One might expect to find, after Mary's death in 1800, the Rectory and Glebe Farm passing to her eldest son John, but no good evidence of this has been found. John may have held Higher Durston for a time, and he took on Lower Durston Farm in 1803 when it was vacated by William Martin. The Rectory, perhaps, and probably Glebe Farm, was taken on by Richard's third son Joseph with those of his brothers and sisters not otherwise catered for. The new Rectory House was large, with four bedrooms, a main living room, kitchen and outbuildings.

By 1810 the situation had changed, in that Francis, Samuel and George were all married; Francis and Samuel had moved to London; and George, having married Grace Barrington of North Petherton on 30th May 1810, moved to Lower Durston Farm. In the meantime, John must have moved to Glebe Farm, since Higher Durston had also been vacated and the tenancy taken by William Richardson, a family friend and executor of Richard's will in 1793.

It is relevant to note here that John had been churchwarden of Durston from 1804-1809 and that his four elder children were all baptised there; William and Elizabeth were baptised at Thurloxtton, in 1802 and 1810 respectively, as were (probably his two younger children, Samuel and Joseph, born between 1810 and 1814). It does appear that John moved away from Durston in 1809 or early in 1810.

The whole period from Richard's death in 1793 until the 1840s needs further study. It is not until 1841 when the census provides some firm facts that confirmation of what is otherwise speculation becomes available. The census, taken on 30th March, records John's eldest son, another John, and his wife Eliza Phillips living at the Rectory House with their two children, George and Elizabeth. No indication of the size of his holding is given until the 1851 census, when he is described as a farmer of 110 acres employing 5 men.

In 1841 his parents were living half a mile or so to the south of Rectory House, two households up from Leversdown House. Betsy died in 1843 and by 1851 the widowed John was living with his daughter Anna and son in law, John Lockyer, at Stoke St Gregory. He died in May 1851, shortly after the census had been taken, at the age of 89.

John and Eliza must have prospered during the following years, as did many Somerset farmers – for example Samuel Kidner of Durston. By 1871 he had moved to Late Cross, Thurloxtton (next to the Manor House), and is described as 'Landowner and Farmer of 460 Acres employing 14 men, 6 boys and 4 women'.⁹ It is clear from these figures that he had acquired Thurloxtton Farm, the only one in the parish approaching such a size (even though almost half of the land actually lay in the parish of North Petherton). Thurloxtton Farm, adjoining the churchyard, was said in 1763 to be 'good enough for any nobleman'¹⁰ and in 1791 was 'a small house with neat gardens'.¹¹ It was substantially rebuilt in the mid 19th century, but incorporates the structure of an earlier house. The farm was originally quite modest, but had been amalgamated with other holdings and comprised some 441 acres by 1861. It is quite possible that Glebe Farm had also been incorporated.

John retired from farming sometime after 1881, when he was 76 years of age and the farm was 484 acres in extent. Eliza had died in 1871 at the age of 58. His son and daughter, Joseph and Anna, both single at that time, were living with their father at Thurloxtton in 1881. Before John died in 1904 at the age of 99, he and Joseph had moved to Blagroves Farm near Milverton.

⁹ Census reference RG10/2383/13 page 12

¹⁰ Ansford Diary of Jas. Woodforde, i. 76. Source: Thurloxtton: Manor and other estates. A History of the County of Somerset: Volume VI, R.W. Dunning (Editor) (1992).

¹¹ Collinson, Hist. Som. iii. 102

Joseph married Esther Milligan of Thrapston about 1880, but they had no children. He continued farming at Blagroves until about 1920. He was a founder member of the Dorset Horn Sheepbreeders Association and, in 1902, kept a pedigree flock of 103 breeding ewes, 66 ewe hogs and two rams.¹²

DURSTON

The story of the early years at Durston, up to 1810, has already been told in this chapter. In that year George Kidner married Grace Barrington and took over Lower Durston Farm, where he lived until just before his death in 1837. Grace bore him no children, and died in 1852 aged about 59. Both are buried in Thurloxtton churchyard.



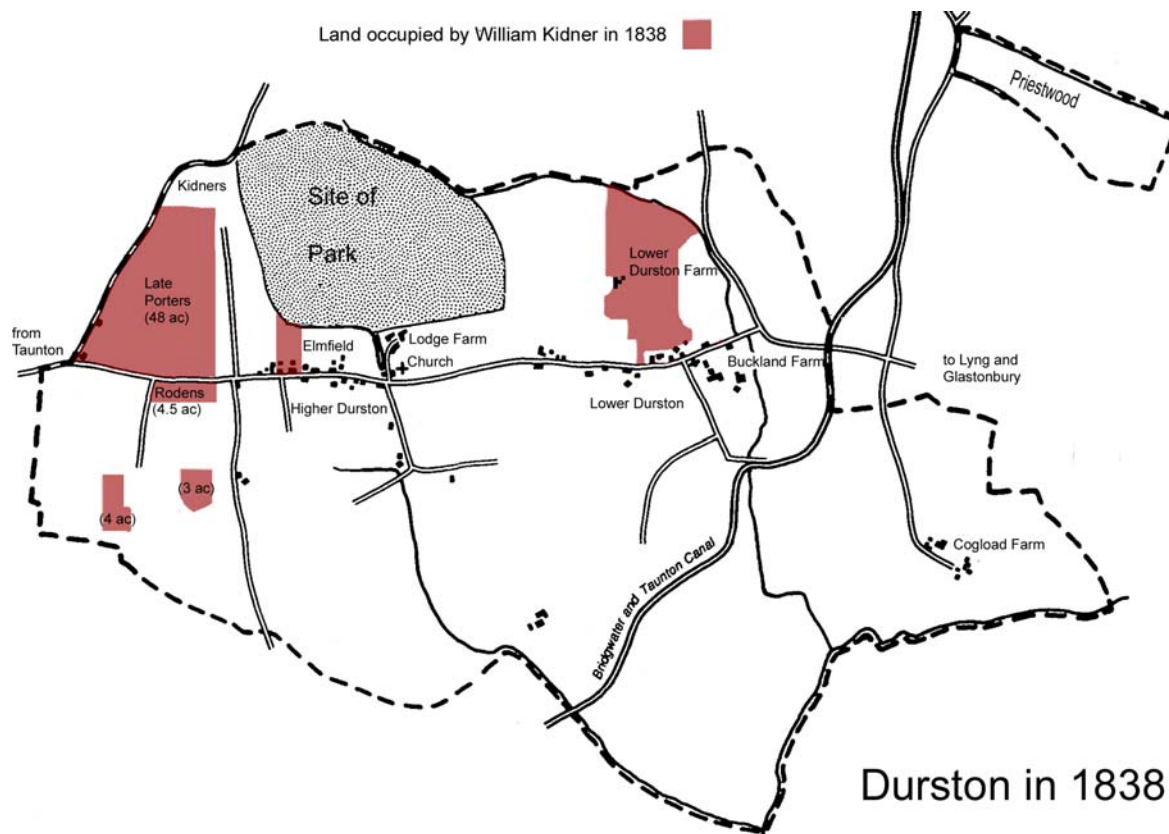
Left: Kidner graves (the middle row) in Thurloxtton churchyard include those of George and Grace née Barrington; John and Betsy née Payne; and John and Eliza née Phillips and four of their children – Joseph, George, Samuel and Alathea.

There is a house in Lower Durston, just to the east of Lodge Farm, known as 'Broomhayes', which had been occupied by a Philip Stone in 1782 and by a John Stone in 1838. It seems likely that this was Simon Stone's home before he married Elizabeth Kidner in 1797, but the relationships have yet to be verified.

Before George's death, the whole of the stock and equipment, and the grazing for a period following the sale, on both Higher and Lower Durston farms were sold by auction in October 1836. But the tenancies were retained and passed to George's nephew William Kidner (later of Bickley Farm, Milverton)¹³. The Durston tithe map shows William's landholding in 1838.

¹² Dorset Horn Flockbooks Nos. 1 and 11 of 1892 and 1902 respectively

¹³ Notice of Sale, 7th October 1836, SRO HWD/17



When Samuel Kidner, William's younger brother, married Elizabeth Champion in Q3 1843, he took over the Higher Durston Farm including the house and orchard known as 'Elmfield', while William retained Lower Durston Farm. But William was looking for a larger property and, in 1849, took the lease of Bickley Farm, Milverton, on the other side of Taunton. After William's move to Bickley, Samuel moved to Lower Durston Farm while William kept on Higher Durston as an "off-farm".¹⁴

William died in 1855 at Bickley. His widow Ann ran both farms for a few years until her youngest son, born in 1848 and named after his uncle Samuel of Durston, was old enough to take over. In 1859 she relinquished Higher Durston, all the stock and equipment not required at Lower Durston Farm being sold by auction¹⁵, and the tenancy passing to Thomas Mead who retained it until at least 1873.¹⁶

Samuel (senior) obtained the lease of Lodge Farm before 1861 and this, together with Lower Durston and some smaller holdings, brought his farm land to a total of some 210 acres¹⁷. In the 1881 census return he is listed as holding 300 acres, although where the additional land lay is, at present, unclear.¹⁸

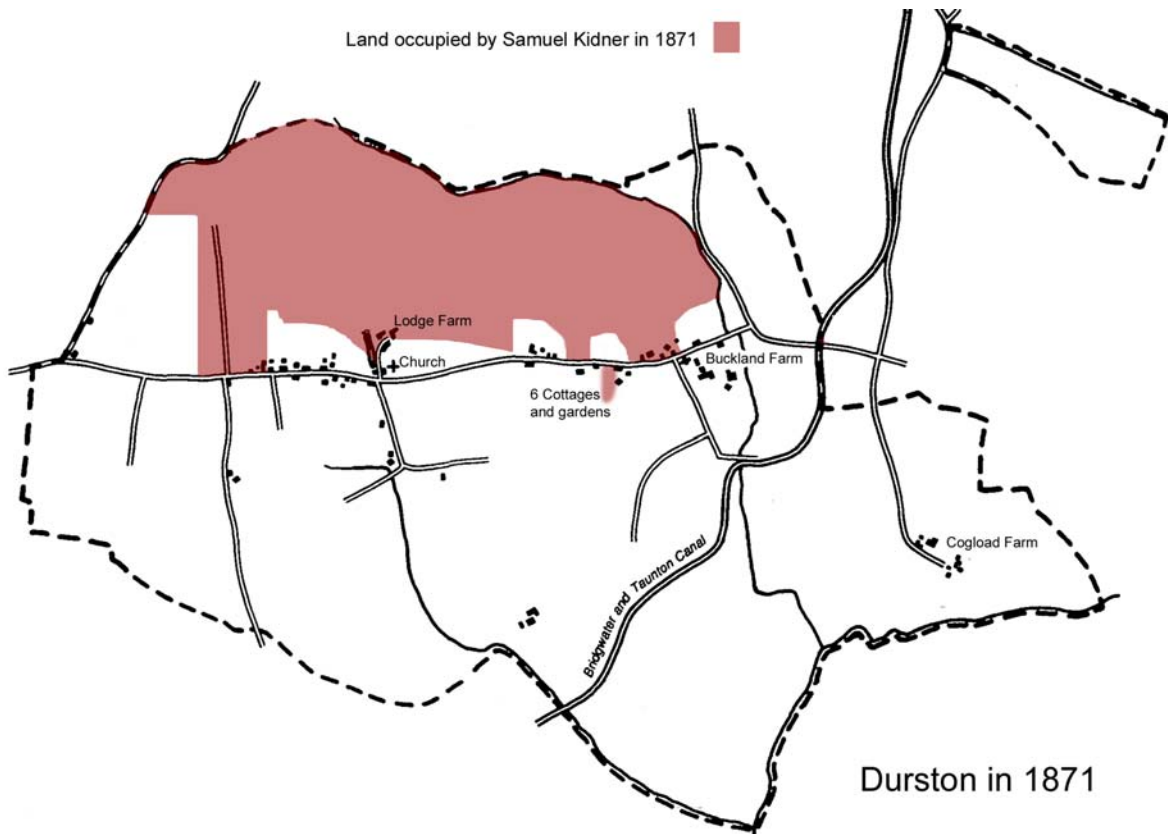
¹⁴ "Prominent Agriculturalists – Mr Samuel Kidner of Bickley". *Agricultural Gazette* 1910

¹⁵ Notice of Sale, 3rd September 1859, published in the *Bridgwater Times* of 7th and 14th September 1859

¹⁶ Notice of Sale of Durston Estate. Sale held at the London Hotel at Taunton on 21 June 1873. See also VCH VI pp 260-261

¹⁷ VCH VI p. 263

¹⁸ 1881 census reference RG11/2365/118 page 4



It should be noted that the sale of Durston Estate by Henry Seymour in 1873 was a sale of the freehold and did not affect the leaseholders. The whole estate was bought by Edward Viscount Portman. Samuel's lease was unaffected – though he may have taken the opportunity to extend his lease where other tenancies were relinquished or allowed to lapse.¹⁶



Left: Lodge Farm, Durston, c. 1860

During much of the 18th and 19th centuries, the standing and reputation of the family in farming circles seems to have risen steadily over the years. Richard Kidner's marriage to Mary Lyng in 1761, and the extra wealth that marriage brought, was the first identifiable step along that route. After 1800, we find John Kidner elected churchwarden of Durston, and appointed Land Tax Assessor and Collector. His

brother George was also Assessor and Collector for several years between 1818 and 1832; and he was churchwarden in 1825 and 1834. Both brothers were Overseers of the Poor for two years each between 1829 and 1839. As farmers, the family became well-known for their high standards of husbandry.

In the Notice of Sale of 1859 at Lower Durston, the auctioneer, Bucknall, states in particular that "the hay is first rate... the horses well-known for the excellent working qualities and general usefulness... the corn grown on highly cultivated land and the yields and sample can rarely be surpassed". The same trend can be discerned at Thurloxton, though the evidence may be less factual.

In 1851, Samuel is recorded as employing 8 labourers at Lower Durston Farm. By 1881 he had 6 men, 3 women and 2 boys, in spite of a much increased landholding. The 1881 figures suggest a switch from arable to pasture, with emphasis on cattle and sheep rearing, a trend agreeing with the statistics for Durston as a whole. Samuel was noted for his experimental use of lime dressings. When he died in 1889 Lodge Farm was taken over by his son John Champion Kidner.



Left: Lodge Farm in 2003

John Champion quickly established himself as a noted sheep breeder, joining his cousin Joseph as a founder member of the Dorset Horn Sheepbreeders Association. The Dorset Horn had the unique ability to lamb at any time of year, and potentially twice a year – although three times in two years was more usual.

It is worth noting that the Association's first flockbook of 1892 listed no fewer than eight Kidners who were members:

Joseph of Blagroves Farm, Milverton;
John Champion of Lodge Farm, Durston;
John of Heywood Farm, Nynehead
Samuel of Bickley Farm, Milverton;
William of Fennington Farm, Kingston St Mary;
John of Blackmore Farm, Cannington;
Francis of Haygrove Farm, Trull; and
Edwin of Manor Farm, Catherstone, Dorset.



Samuel of Bickley had also taken a leading role in the establishment of the Association.

John Champion retired from farming in the last years of the nineteenth century and moved to Rettenden Grange, Battlesbridge, Essex. He had married Sarah Ann

Magarey in Q3 1883, but they had no children. Elizabeth, John's mother, died at Durston in 1895, and John himself died in Essex about 1910.

About 1865, Samuel's eldest surviving daughter Anna married William Bond at Durston. William's father, Thomas Bond, had held Lodge Farm in 1838, before Samuel acquired the lease about 1860. Sometime between 1838 and 1865 William Bond occupied Buckland Farm in Durston and he and Anna seem to have lived there until William's death in 1901. At the time of the 1901 census they were living in a house called Woodcroft, Wick Lane, on the southern outskirts of Bristol. Samuel George Champion (see below) and his Canadian wife Annie were staying with them. Anna Bond lived on into her nineties and sent flowers for the funeral of Samuel of Bickley in March 1935.

In the spring of 1869 Samuel Kidner of Adelaide, South Australia visited the family at Lodge Farm, Durston and seems to have had a warm welcome, for a contemporary photograph shows the farm gate decorated with evergreens and a banner in front of the house welcoming him. Samuel must have stayed for a few weeks at least – he spent a whole year in the country – and established a close and lasting friendship with Benjamin, son of Samuel and Elizabeth. When Samuel returned to Australia later the same year, Benjamin went with him in spite of his youth (he was only 15 at the time) and the apparently unanimous opposition of his parents and family. The two left together, sailing aboard the Elder Lines' *Duke of Sutherland*, 1047 tons, on 15th September 1869 and arriving at Adelaide on 21st December that year.

There are two further children of Samuel and Elizabeth who must be mentioned: Mary Ann, born in 1848; and Samuel George Champion, born in 1852 and always known as George for obvious reasons!

Mary Ann never married and for the first 40 years of her life lived at home, looking after her parents in their old age. After Samuel died in 1889 and John Champion took over the farm, Elizabeth and Mary Ann moved to a house called 'Mountlands' in Durston where Elizabeth died in 1895. In 1901 Mary Ann was working as a Housekeeper for the family of Edward Jones, a widowed tea merchant with five young daughters, at 5 Spencer Road, Bromley, Kent. All we have discovered about her later life is that in 1935, when she was 87, she sent flowers to the funeral of her cousin Samuel of Bickley.

Samuel George Champion trained as a marine engineer and obtained a job with Cunard Lines in the 1880's. Cunard operated mainly in the North Atlantic and their ships often called at Boston, Massachusetts, where George met and married Annie Bark. As noted earlier, George and Annie were in England at the time of the 1901 census, staying with George's sister Anna and her husband William Bond in Brislington, Bristol. In a letter dated 1st August 1950, Frederick Clinton Kidner of Boston and Detroit, George's second cousin, wrote that he recalled "going down to his boat many times in his boyhood at Boston and having meals with him on board"; and in another letter, he remembers George visiting Boston about 1900 when he was Chief Engineer of RMS *Scythia*.



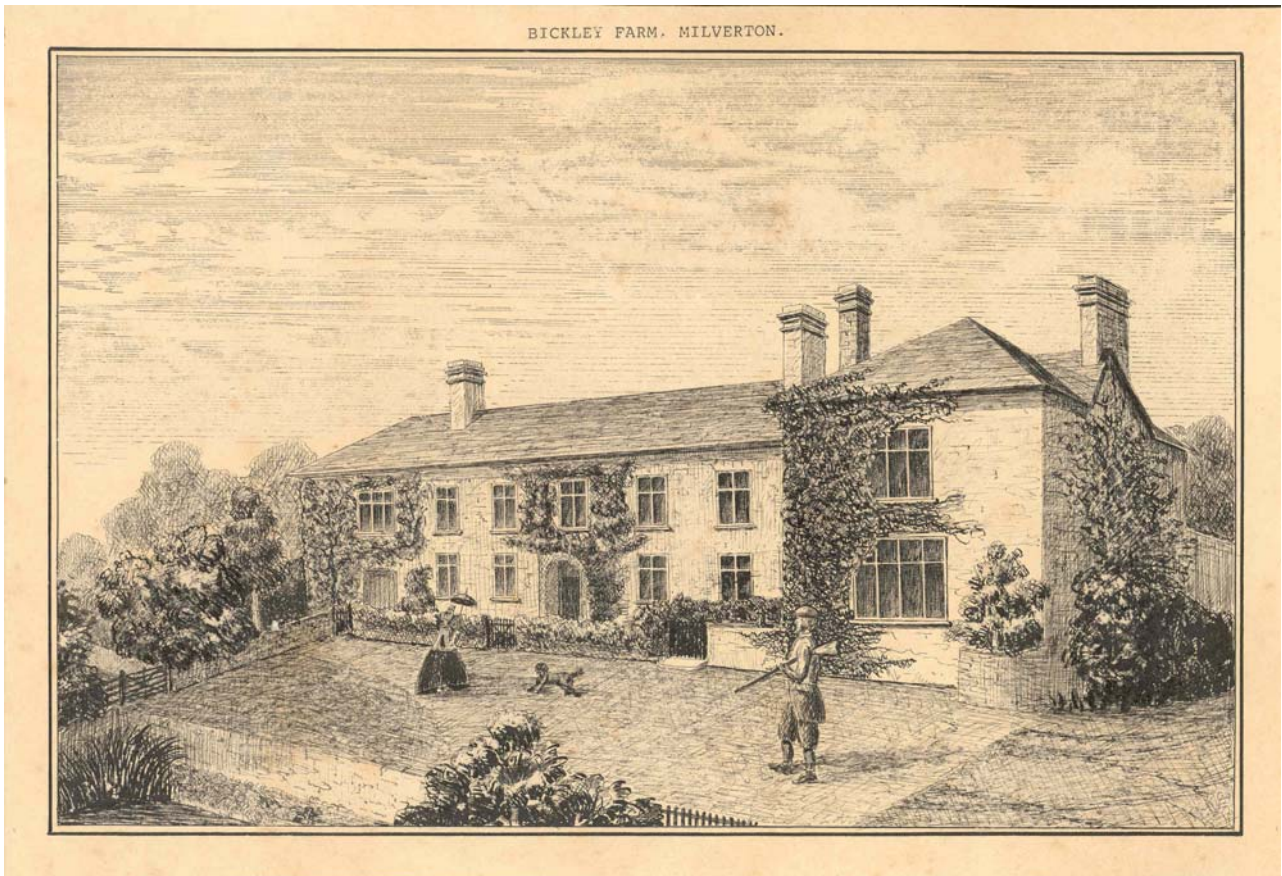
In a letter dated 1st August 1950, Frederick Clinton Kidner of Boston and Detroit, George's second cousin, wrote that he recalled "going down to his boat many times in his boyhood at Boston and having meals with him on board"; and in another letter, he remembers George visiting Boston about 1900 when he was Chief Engineer of RMS *Scythia*.

I have discovered nothing more about George's life. But a possible clue to be

followed up lies in the flowers sent by a Miss Bark for Samuel of Bickley's funeral¹⁹.

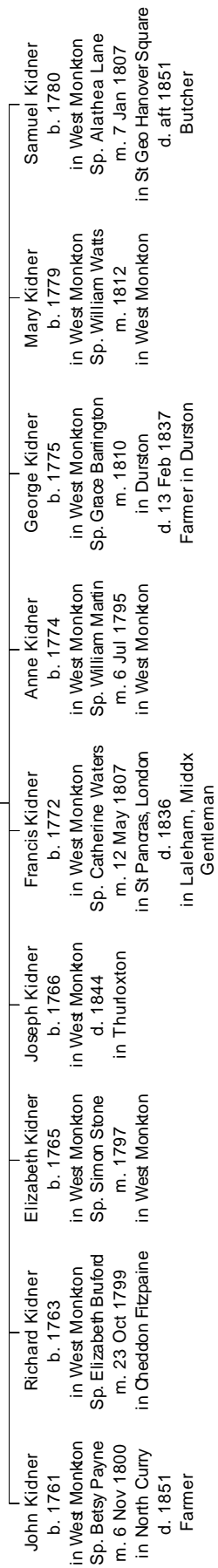
The late Mr Samuel Kidner held Bickley, a Somerset freehold of 240 acres at Milverton, so that it is not surprising that, as the particulars state, "the farm is in very good heart". Messrs. W.R.J. Greenslade and Co. (Taunton) offered the estate by order of Mr R.T. Naish, with possession next Michaelmas. Lot 1, the first-rate house and buildings and 239 acres of pasture, orchards and barley-growing land, subject to land tax of about £14, and title of £79, was bought by Mr W. Wright for £10,200, with £115 for timber. Bickley Lodge and one acre made £1,000 and three acres of grass an additional sum of £130.

The Times, Friday 27 July 1928, page 10



¹⁹ Obituary Notice, Somerset County Gazette, 23 March 1935

Richard Kidner
 b. 1740
 in Thurloxtan
 Sp. Mary Lyng
 m. 1761
 in Thurloxtan
 d. 1793
 in West Monkton
 Yeoman Farmer



The Descendants of Richard and Mary

“Wise yeoman always ensured that one son at least was apprenticed to the trade of slaughterer and butcher”²⁰

Yeoman families of the 18th and 19th centuries suffered from the intractable problem of finding rewarding employment for their younger sons. With large families and the economic necessity to combine smaller parcels of land, only the one or two elder sons could expect to inherit enough farmland to provide an acceptable standard of living. The others had to look elsewhere, and that meant seeking work in the towns and cities or in the colonies overseas. It was a challenge they rose to and which, in most cases, led to success and prosperity. In earlier days the younger sons had been content to work on the family farms as labourers. With improving education and a greater awareness of status this ceased to be acceptable. In any case, there was a growing surplus of farm labour and agricultural wages remained pitifully low, leading to the Great Agricultural Depression of the late 1860s and 1870s when large numbers of young men moved to the industrial north.

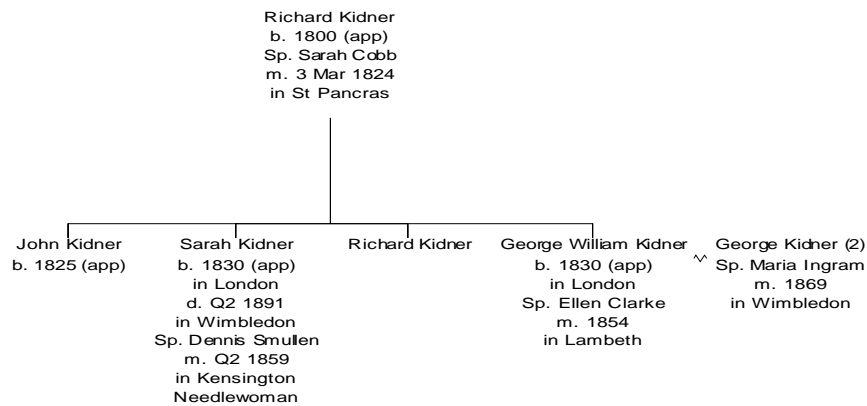
Richard and Mary’s family was lucky in being amongst the better off but, nevertheless, three of their six sons had to seek work away from Somerset. Only John, Samuel and George continued in the family tradition as farmers. This chapter will look at the course the others – Richard, Francis and Samuel and their descendants – chose and what they achieved.

Richard of West Monkton

Richard was born in about 1763 at West Monkton. For ease of identification we will call him Richard 2 for there are several others of that name. He married Elizabeth Bruford at Cheddon Fitzpaine on the 23rd October 1799, just ten weeks before his mother Mary’s death in early January 1800. His parents do not seem to have made any significant provision for him, although it is possible that Elizabeth brought with her some property, perhaps as a dowry in the same way that Mary had provided for her own two daughters. Richard 2 and Elizabeth remained in Somerset for a few years, and their first two children, Mary and Richard 3, were baptised at West Monkton; but by 1805 they had moved to London. I have not discovered exactly when or why, nor where their other three children were baptised; but all five were married in London between 1824 and 1835: Richard 3 and his sister Elizabeth at St Pancras Old Church and Francis at St Bride’s off Fleet Street.

²⁰ From ‘Double Wedding Ring’ by Patricia Wendorf, a novel based on her Somerset family history

Richard 3 married Sarah Cobb at St Pancras on 3rd March 1824, and they had three sons and a daughter, all of them baptised at St Pancras Old Church:

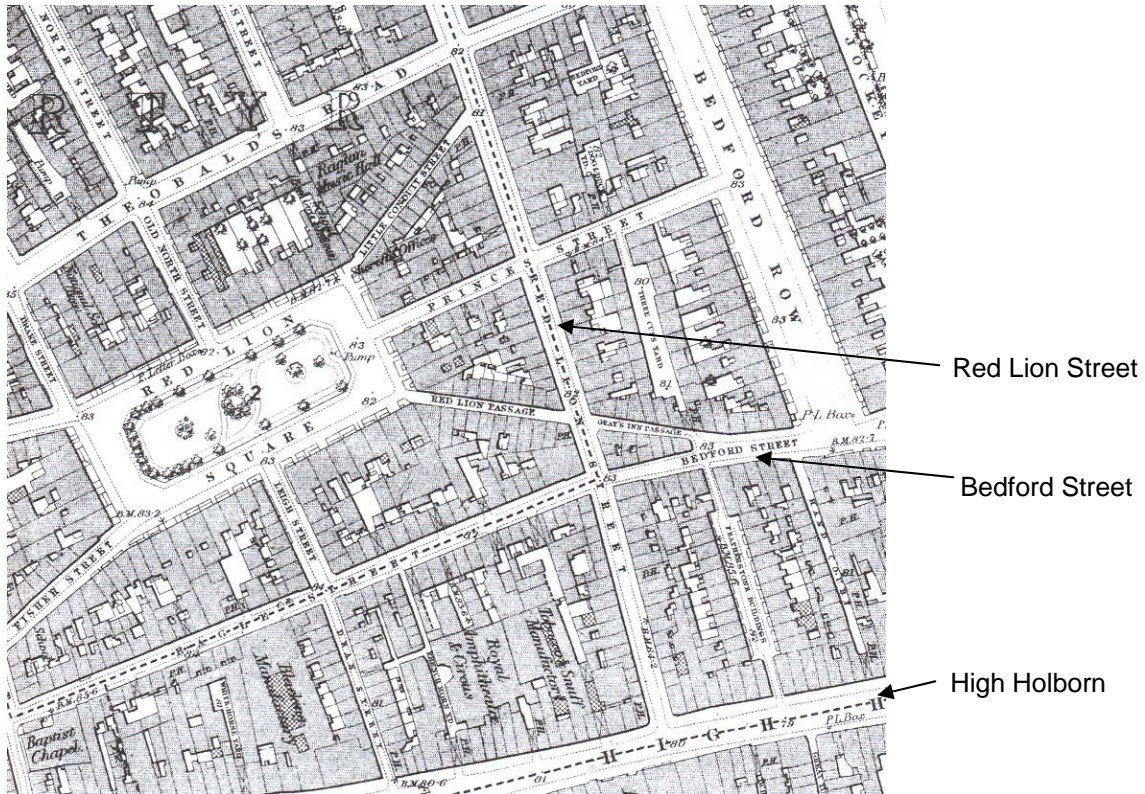


Richard 3 seems to have had a clerical job but its exact nature is uncertain. His son George William married twice and the 1854 marriage certificate gives his father's occupation as 'office clerk' and his own as 'stationer'. The 1869 marriage certificate gives their occupations as 'housekeeper' and 'law stationer' respectively. Ellen died in 1867 and George married his second wife Maria Ingram, the daughter of a publican, in 1869. The witnesses to George's first marriage were John and Sarah Kidner, his brother and sister; at his second marriage the witnesses were Dennis and Sarah Smullen, for Sarah had married Dennis Smullen, a coachman from Ireland, in 1859.

George William had two children from his marriage to Ellen Clark: Sarah Ellen, born in 1855, and Emily, born in 1856. There are no known children from the second marriage.

George Kidner, butcher, of Holborn

George, the youngest son of Richard and Elizabeth, became a butcher in London. He married Sarah Parsons in about 1830 and they had three sons and five daughters, all baptised at St Andrew's Holborn. Pigot's directory of London of 1839 gives his address as 23 Bedford Street, close to High Holborn.



Francis married Jane Parsons, Sarah's sister, in 1835 and they had two sons, Charles and Richard 4. He also set up as a butcher, and Pigot in 1839 lists him as living at 3 Chandos Street, Covent Garden (close to St Martin in the Fields). Charles was baptised at St Paul's, Covent Garden on 17th January 1836, and Richard was born on 6 March 1843, though I have found no record of his baptism. His birth certificate describes him as the son of Francis and Jane Kidner of No. 3 Red Lion Street; it therefore appears that they have moved – presumably to a better area – and maybe to work with his brother.

The link with Somerset was not entirely broken, even after more than half a century since the move to London. Kelly's Directory of Somerset, 1875, records Richard 3 living at Woodford, Monksilver, West Somerset; and the 1881 census return lists him as a 'retired farmer', aged 78 and born at West Monkton. This description sounds like wishful thinking since most of his working life had been spent in London. But who would blame him!

Francis Kidner of London (1772-1836) and descendants

Francis, the fourth son of Richard Kidner and Mary Lyng, moved to London as a young man and may also have been apprenticed as a butcher. He married Catherine Waters at St Pancras Old Church on 12 May 1807 (their marriage licence was dated 11 May 1807). They had one son, also named Francis, who was baptised in St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, on 27 December 1815. Little else is so far known about Francis senior, save that he lived in old age at Hawthorne Cottage, Laleham, Middlesex and died there in 1836 at the age of 64. He is buried at Ashford Churchyard where a stone marks his grave.

Francis the son married Susannah Mason in the second half of 1850 in Marylebone. They had nine children of whom five died in childhood, some even before their births were registered. The first two, twins Daniel and Julia (births unregistered), were born at Deptford in 1849 (a year before Francis and Susannah were married) and died in infancy. The family seems to have moved from Deptford to Upper Halliford, near Staines, on the other side of London, in 1851. The birth of their third child, Catherine Mason, was registered at Staines in Q3 1851, but is named (as Cate) in the 1851 census return for St Paul's Deptford, taken on 30th March.

Their fourth child, George Augustus, was born at Iver, Buckinghamshire, in 1853, and it is at Iver that the family finally settled.

Francis and Susannah established a gifted and successful family. Susannah died on 31st March 1906 aged 87 years and is buried at Hampton, Middlesex. Francis predeceased her by a few years.

Samuel Kidner of Bermondsey (1780-1852) and his descendants

The third and last of the sons of Richard Kidner and Mary Lyng to find a career outside Somerset was Samuel, their youngest son, born in 1780. Samuel not only founded a large and successful London family, within two generations his descendants had spread to South Australia, Queensland, the United States, Canada and Africa.

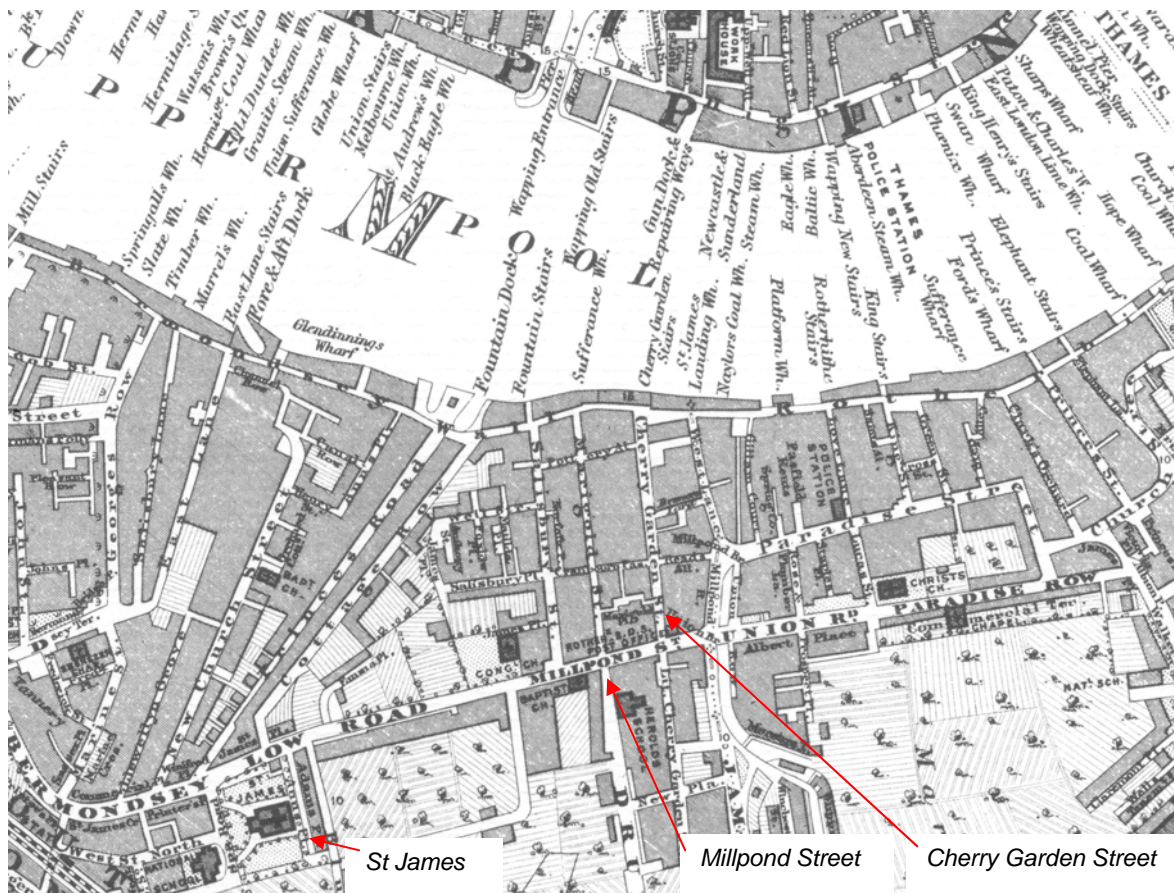
Samuel moved from Somerset to London early in the 19th century. There is a record²¹ of him living at Hillfarrance, near Taunton, in 1802, perhaps serving an apprenticeship. He had moved to London, however, within five years for on 7th January 1807 he married Alethea Lane at St George's, Hanover Square. They settled in Bermondsey where all their twelve children were born except the eldest, John, who was baptised a stone's throw away at St John's Horsley Down (just east of modern Tower Bridge), while the others were baptised at St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey.

In April 1820 the family was living in Cherry Garden Street, Bermondsey and, following a brief spell in Jamaica Row, they moved to No. 10 Mill Pond Street in 1821 where they remained until sometime in the 1840s. By March 1851 Samuel, aged 70, was living with his son Job at No. 2 High Street, Deptford²². Alethea had died in Q3 1849 aged about 61, and all the children had gone their various ways although some still lived close by in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Deptford and Greenwich.

Samuel was a butcher throughout his working life and seems to have prospered; and his four elder sons John, Samuel, Job and George followed in his footsteps though Samuel is listed as a grocer in the 1841 census and later found his vocation in medicine – of which more later. Job made one voyage as a ship's butcher before settling down.

²¹ Receipt dated 1802 for money received under the terms of his mother's will, describing him as 'Samuel Kidner of Hillfarrance, Taunton'.

²² 1851 census return and Alfred Samuel's birth certificate dated 23 June 1852.



Above: Bermondsey in 1862, from Stanford's *Library Map of London and its suburbs*.

John married Jane Robson Blackburn on 30th December 1830 at St Dunstan's in the East and settled in Bermondsey where they set up home at 21 Rotherhithe Wall (now named Bermondsey Wall). Jane was a year older than John, and came from Durham. They had three sons and four daughters, all baptised at St James' Bermondsey. Their third child, Emma Sophia, born in 1836, became a missionary and died in China. More needs to be discovered about her life and those of her brothers and sisters.

Samuel, born in Bermondsey in March 1809, had a remarkable life of tragedy and adventure. He married, first, Amelia Hannah Holland at Bermondsey in Q1 1841. She was only aged 19 or 20 at the time. Pigot's Directory of London lists him living at 6 Mill Pond Street in 1839. They had three children: William Holland born in Bermondsey in 1841; Amelia, whose birth was registered in Kensington in 1843; and Albertina born in Kensington in 1845.

Family tradition has it that Samuel had established himself as a homeopathic chemist in Bermondsey where he helped hundreds of poor Londoners who sought his aid. He asked no payment for this work but found adequate reward in the experience and reputation it brought him.

Samuel needed to earn a living, and established a partnership with a man called Stokes for a firm of dyers and ironers in Hammersmith, west London; the dissolution of the partnership was announced in the London Gazette of Thursday September 3rd, 1844. He continued with the business on his own, and in 1851 was living at 7 Angel Row, Hammersmith²³ with his mother in law Amelia Holland and a French woman, Theresa Delougoutée, who ran his shop.

²³ HO 107/1470/183

INQUESTS

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An inquest was held at Deptford last night on the bodies of EDWARD FREDERICK HARRY and PERCY ELDERTON KIDNER, aged 26 and 14 years respectively, who were suffocated by noxious fumes from a geyser used for heating a bath in the room they occupied together in a house in Brockley-road. The evidence showed that early Tuesday morning they lit the geyser to heat the bath, and an hour later were found by their mother dead in bed. A doctor said that the cause of death was asphyxia produced by carbonic oxide from burnt gas, and a verdict of accidental death was returned.

The Times, 12 April 1901 (p.10/col.f)

William Holland and Amelia died in early childhood, and soon after Albertina's arrival Amelia herself was found to be suffering from consumption. In the hope of finding a way to help his wife, Samuel took up the study of homeopathy, which became a lifetime vocation but did little for Amelia, for she died early in 1847.

In 1856 he emigrated to Australia with his daughter Albertina, arriving at Melbourne in January 1857, where he set up his own homeopathic practice. As already related, he returned just once to England in 1868/9 when he visited Durston in the course of his stay. Albertina married Philip Santo at Samuel's residence in Adelaide on 9th October 1866, and soon produced two daughters, Albertina Mary and Amelia Elizabeth. Philip, however, died less than two years after their marriage, in June 1868, at the age of 26. Albertina herself died in Brighton, South Australia, on 10th December 1909 aged 64.

Samuel married Caroline Black, widow of James Black of Adelaide, in 1870. They settled at Hindmarsh, just to the north of Adelaide, where he was later to die on 11th August 1883. He left all his books and papers, mainly medical, to his stepson Charles Cameron Robert Black; and divided the remainder of his estate between his daughter Albertina and his widow Caroline²⁴.

Job Kidner of Deptford and his descendants

Job Kidner, the third son of Samuel and Alatheia, was born in 1810. Apart from one voyage as a ship's butcher, he lived as a butcher and grocer in Deptford all his adult life. He married Mary Ann Elderton, daughter of Edward Roach Elderton, in about 1840. The Eldertons were a seafaring family and Edward could have been the owner of an old sea chest bearing the name 'Capt. Elderton' and now in the possession of his descendants. Job and Mary Ann had at least six children and possibly four more although this needs verification.

I know little about their family except that their fourth son, Alfred Samuel, was born in 1852 in Deptford. He became a greengrocer and married Mary Jane Trickett in Q2 1877. They had two sons, Ernest Alfred born in 1878 and Walter Elderton born in 1879, both born at 3 College Place, Lewisham. In 1919 Alfred Samuel was living at 35 St Mildred's Road, Lee, and he probably died there. Walter became an electrical engineer, and married Ada Emma Skinner at Lewisham in 1906. They had one son, Dennis Elderton, born in 1912, who became a company director. Walter was living at 14 Hulse Avenue, New Barking in Essex and died in 1949 at Bexhill in Sussex. His wife Ada Emma died at Bexhill in 1945.

Emily Mary Kidner, Job's eldest child born at Gravesend in 1840, never married. She was living at 40 Upper Brockley Road, Lewisham, in April 1919 when she made her will. She left two houses in Deptford, one to her niece Ellen Gertrude Kidner (97 St John's Road, Deptford); and the other to her brother Alfred (14 Adolphus Street, Deptford) for his life. The latter was to go to Alfred's grandson Dennis Elderton Kidner on Alfred's death. Finally, she bequeathed the sum of nineteen guineas to the

²⁴ Correspondence from Cromwell Scott Hooper of Adelaide, South Australia, from 1991 onwards.

Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, adding that should there be insufficient funds remaining in her Post Office account, this last bequest should be paid out of the first year's rent from the two houses.²⁵

George Kidner of Brixton and his descendants

George Kidner was born in Bermondsey in 1814 and followed what by now was becoming a family tradition by becoming a butcher. Pigot's Directory of 1839 so lists him and gives his address as Robert Street, Brixton, where all his children were born. He married three times. Firstly Celia Abel, who bore him four sons and two daughters; five of the children were baptised at St Matthew's Brixton. The sixth died in its first few days and its birth was registered only as a 'male child' and the boy was never baptised. Celia died the same year, in childbirth or very soon thereafter.

Later the same year George married Caroline Elderton, sister of Job's wife Mary Ann. But she died only four years later without issue. Caroline was just 29 when she died; she is buried in Greenwich churchyard.

About a year later, in 1850, George married Caroline's sister Harriet Elderton, who bore him a further son and daughter: Samuel, born in 1851 in Brixton, died in childhood; Edith Caroline, born in 1856 at Brixton, survived and in due course emigrated to Canada where she married. Her husband's surname was Langley, but I have discovered nothing about her married life.

George and Harriet were living in Market Lavington, Wiltshire with their unmarried 37-year old daughter Alathea, in 1881. At the time of the 1891 census the family are joined by their granddaughter Mary Mann, daughter of Celia Kidner and Samuel Mann. Harriet died in 1894. George and Alathea were living at the 'Butcher's Shop' next to the Green Dragon Hotel in Market Lavington in 1901. George died at Minehead in 1904 when he was 89; his death was registered at Devizes, presumably by Alathea who was still living at Market Lavington.

Of George's children, the eldest son was also called George and carried on his father's business as a butcher. He married Mary about 1868 and had at least seven children, all born in Brixton. He died in 1879. His children were:

- o George Frederick, whose birth was registered in Q2 1864
- o Edith Mary, registered in Q1 1865
- o Charles T., registered in Q4 1866
- o Annie Celia, registered in Q1 1869; married in Wandsworth in Q3 1896.
- o Bertha Harriett, registered in Q4 1870; married Thomas Hogbin, a confectioner, in Brighton in 1891; at least one son and one daughter. In 1901 she was running a lodging house in Hove.
- o Arthur Samuel, registered in Q4 1877. In 1891 was boarding, with his brother Sidney, at the District Infant Orphan Asylum in Wanstead, Essex
- o Sidney Herbert, born in 1880. No trace of him or his elder brother can be found in the 1901 census.

George's second son, Harry, was born in 1838 and emigrated to Australia where he married. They had at least two children, but I have discovered the names of neither mother nor children.

His third child, Celia, we have noted earlier as the wife of Samuel Mann, grocer and wine merchant. Celia and Samuel had seven children.

George's fourth child, Thomas, was born in 1842 at Brixton, settled in Norfolk and

²⁵ Will of Emily Mary Kidner of 40 Upper Brockley Road, Lewisham, dated 7th April 1919

became a Master Butcher and successful farmer and businessman.

James Frederick Kidner of Hamilton, Ontario and his descendants

James Frederick, the fifth son of Samuel and Alatheia, was baptised on 28th April 1816 at St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey. Little is known of his early life. He married, first, Selina Bond, a widow, in about 1846. Selina's first husband could have been one of the Durston Bonds, but this is guesswork. After their marriage, James and Selina moved to the Bristol area, and the births of both their children are registered at Clifton. Reuben was born in Q2 1848 and Selina in Q1 1850. Selina senior died during or soon after the birth of her daughter.

James remarried in Clifton on 28 January 1851, his new wife being Ann Benson Goodland. Their daughter Ann was born on 25 May 1856 at 20 Western Road, Brighton, but she died in early childhood. James and Ann emigrated to America about this time. Little is known about their early life, except that they eventually settled in Hamilton, Ontario. Their early years were probably spent in Boston, Massachusetts, where their son Reuben became curate of Trinity Church, Boston, about 1870 and held that appointment for 45 years. Ann died in 1893 and James in 1903 at Hamilton.

Reuben returned to England once during his years in Boston. It was in 1902 that he undertook a 'Gift Mission' to England, but the purpose of this is not apparent.

In 1885 Reuben married Kate Clinton Porter and they had one son, Frederick Clinton who was born in Boston about 1890. Reuben died in Boston in 1919, aged about 73.

Frederick Clinton Kidner became a distinguished orthopaedic surgeon. During the First World War he brought a medical unit to England before the United States joined the Allies. Once the US declared war in April 1917 he was given command of a US Forces hospital in London and the rank of General in the Army Medical Corps. In 1919 he was consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the US Forces in Europe. In 1934 he was elected Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

After WW1, Frederick married Marjorie Butler Melish of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, a farming area near Detroit. They had one daughter, Katherine Clinton born in 1919 or early 1920, and one son, Charles Melish, born three years later. Katherine married Harry Dayton Wise, a lawyer, on 29th April 1950 at Grosse Pointe Farms, where they lived after the marriage. They have three sons: Harry Clinton, Clinton Kidner and Peter Willoughby, born in 1952, 1954 and 1956 respectively.

Charles Melish Kidner was called up into the US Air Force in 1943 and served as a bomber pilot until the end of the war, when he returned to Harvard University. From 1946 until 1949 he was employed in Cairo and then as Vice-Consul in Dakar, French West Africa (modern Senegal). In February 1993 he was living at 412 East 329th Street, Willoughby, Ohio.

Frederick and Marjorie Kidner were still living at Grosse Pointe when he wrote to my father in 1950. In a letter dated 1st August that year he writes of George Kidner (b. 1852 Durston) as follows:

"He was an engineer on the Cunard Line who used to come into Boston. I remember having gone down to his boat many times and having meals with him, as a boy".

And in another letter²⁶ the same year:

"I remember [him] well as Chief Engineer of the Cunarder Scythia, which used to make port in Boston, when I lived there as a boy. I also remember well taking part in my grandfather, James F. Kidner's funeral in I think 1902 at Hamilton, Ontario".

Selina, James' and Selina's younger child born at Clifton in 1850, married John

²⁶ Letters of Dr F.C. Kidner to W.E. Kidner, 2 April 1935 and 23 March 1935.

Edgar of Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1875. They had eight children of whom five died in childhood. Of the others, the elder two sons John Hamilton and Frank Clifton, corresponded with my father in the 1950s, but wrote very little about themselves. John Hamilton married Frances Matilda Menhennick in Winnipeg in 1919, and had three children: John Tertius, Jean Katherine and Grace Frances Lillian, born in the early 1920s. Sadly, all three died comparatively young, John and Grace at 16 years and Jean at the age of two. John Hamilton Kidner served in the First World War, becoming a Lt. Colonel; he was wounded and lost a leg. He and Frances were still living in Winnipeg in 1959.

Frank Clifton Kidner and his sisters Katie Selina and Lillian Maud lived in Montreal, Quebec. None seems to have married, but I have no other knowledge of them except that all three were living as late as 1963, when Frank would have been 78.

Francis Kidner of Queensland, Australia

Francis, the youngest son of Samuel and Alatheia, was baptised on Christmas Day 1832 in St James' Bermondsey. He became an apprentice printer in London and, in March 1851 while serving his apprenticeship, he was living with his sister and brother-in-law James Stuart at No 5 Portland Terrace, Rotherhithe. James was head of the household, aged 38 and a revenue officer from Scotland. Mary Ann was working as a schoolmistress.

Soon after completing his apprenticeship Francis emigrated to Queensland, arriving at Moreton Bay near Brisbane aboard the *Governor Moreton* in 1857. He found work at first in Sydney as a printer for Joseph Cook, a local businessman. He soon moved back to Queensland and set up his own printing business which started him on the road to success. He established the Nashville Times (now Gympie Times) which was first published on 15th February 1868. In 1875 he founded the 'Western Star' in Roma, Queensland, a newspaper still extant in 1991; and later, he became editor and proprietor of the 'Ipswich Chronicle' in Queensland.

Francis married Margaret Burke and they had one son, John. He eventually retired in Ipswich, Queensland, and died there in 1899 at the age of 67.²⁷

²⁷ Correspondence from Cromwell Scott Hooper of Adelaide, SA, from 1991 onwards.