

JANET REED
LoughtonHall0702 R6551
16 March 2007

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

OBJECTIVES

- Extend the ancestry of Thomas Hall, son of Thomas Loughton and Mary Hall of Lincolnshire, England.

RESULTS

- Searched many indexes for the first marriage of Thomas Loughton/Lawton but it was not found.
- John Lefever and Mary Stoaton were married 21 October 1751 in Crowland, Lincolnshire.
- Mary Stoaton was the daughter of William and Susannah Stoaton.
- William Forman likely married Mrs. Alice Makeman after his first wife, Hannah Witno, died.
- William Forman was likely the son of Edward and Mary Forman of Sutton St. James.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Search probate records for Loughtons and Lefevers in and near Fleet, Crowland, and Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire.
2. Seek to determine whether Thomas Loughton could fit into any of the incomplete Loughton/Lawton families discussed in this report.
3. Seek to extend the ancestry of George Hall.
4. Continue research on the Forman and Witno lines.

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RESEARCH REPORT

The objective of this research session was to extend the ancestry of Thomas Hall, son of Thomas Loughton and Mary Hall of Lincolnshire, England.

Loughton

As discussed in our previous report, Thomas Loughton Sr., a widower, married Jochobed “Bridget” LeFever in Fleet, Lincolnshire, in 1795. Research during this session began with a search for Thomas’ first marriage, as this information will help us better identify his christening and extend his ancestry. A search of the *International Genealogical Index*, the *British Vital Records Index*, an index of Lincolnshire bonds and allegations, indexes of the Lincolnshire East and West Elloe and East and West Holland deaneries (which include a large area near Fleet), an index of Lincolnshire non-conformist marriages (not complete), and Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Lancashire marriage indexes revealed only the following possibilities for this first marriage (document #1):

27 Nov 1786 Wolstanton, Staffordshire: Thomas Lawton and Elizabeth Lindrop [96.3 miles from Fleet]
4 Feb 1787 Saddleworth, Yorkshire: Thomas Lawton and Betty Meall [100.8 miles]
6 April 1788 Wendy cum Shingay, Cambridgeshire: Thomas Loughton and Sarah Tall [47 miles]

We also searched marriage records, 1760 to 1795, for the following parishes but found no first marriage for Thomas (document #3a-b):

Fleet (1754-1795)
Gedney
Holbeach
Long Sutton
Sutton St. James (1754-1795)

Sutton St. Nicholas (Lutton Bourne)
Tydd St. Mary (1754-1795)
Whaplode
Cowbit
Crowland
Gedney Hill
Parson Drove (Bishop's transcripts)
Sutton St. Edmunds
Whaplode Drove
Moulton
Weston
Spalding (parish register transcripts)

Since this marriage has not been found it appears it either took place outside of Lincolnshire or was not recorded or included in the indexes available.

Through Fleet parish registers we have learned that Thomas died between January 1801 and May 1803 but his burial has not been found. Locating this record would be helpful because it may list his age at burial (although most pre-1812 entries do not include this information). We searched the *National Burial Index* for this entry but it was not found (most pre-1812 entries for Lincolnshire are not included in this index).

We next sought possible christening entries for Thomas Loughton. The *International Genealogical Index* and *British Vital Records Index* were searched for possibilities in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Northamptonshire with no good matches (document #4a-b).

Finding no possible christenings for Thomas, we next surveyed southern Lincolnshire for Loughton/Lawton christenings from 1770 or earlier to 1790 in the *International Genealogical Index* and found them in the following parishes near Fleet (document #5):

Holbeach
Sutton St. Nicholas
Moulton
Cowbit

Christenings for this time period in all parishes surrounding Fleet have been extracted. This is indicated on a map of Lincolnshire (document #5). It thus appears that there were families of this surname in the area around the time of Thomas' birth and first marriage. Perhaps his christening was not recorded but he belongs to one of these families. Through a search of the *International Genealogical Index* and *British Vital Records Index*, we have found that Thomas could belong to one of the following families (document #6a-h:

William Laughton and Martha

Marriage: unknown

Children:

Ann Laughton chr 1776 Holbeach

Hannah Loughton chr 1779 Holbeach

Sarah Louton chr 1781 Sutton St. Nicholas

John Lowton and Mary

Marriage: unknown

Children:

Joseph Lowton chr 1759 Holbeach

Mary Lowton chr 1759 Holbeach

John Laughton and Susanah

Marriage: unknown

Children:

Mary Laughton chr 1748 Moulton

John Lawton and Frances Mapletoft

Marriage: unknown

Children:

?Matthew Lawton chr 1764 Fleet (son of John Lawton and Frances)

John Lawton chr 1774 Cowbit

As can be seen, all of these families are very incomplete, which shows Thomas could have been part of one of them. A search of probate records for the area may reveal Thomas' parentage, although it is likely the family did not leave wills due to Thomas' apparent financial status.

Lefever

We next turned to research on the line of Thomas' wife, Jochobed "Bridget" Lefever. Through previous research we have determined she was the daughter of John and Mary Lefever, who christened children in Whaplode Drove, Lincolnshire between 1756 and 1776. We searched several indexes for the marriage of John and Mary and finally found that it took place in the parish of Crowland, which is 4.7 miles from Whaplode Drove (document #7-9):

Parish registers: marriage 21 Oct 1751: John Lefever & Mary Stoton
Bishop's transcripts: marriage 21 Oct 1751: John LeFever & Mary Stooton

We also found two additional children for this couple (document #7, 10):

Chr 28 Feb 1752 Crowland: Sarah daughter of John & Mary Leefeaver
Chr 18 Dec 1754 Holbeach: Susannah daughter of John & Mary Leefeaver

We next searched for John Lefever's parentage. Through the *International Genealogical Index*, we found what appeared to be a promising christening entry (document #11):

Chr 31 May 1730 Crowland: John Fever son of Peter and Jane

This couple also christened children Peter Llefever and Sam Llefever in Crowland in 1732 and 1736, respectively, so we can assume the above John was part of the Lefever family even though his surname was recorded as "Fever" (document #12).

With additional research, we found that Lefever descendants believe the above John was buried 8 April 1803 and married Jane Desborough in Crowland in 1755 (document #13-15). We found that, indeed, a John Lefever married in Crowland in 1755 (document #16):

Marriage 15 Oct 1755 Crowland: John Le-Fever [mark] & Jane Dezborough [mark], both of this parish

This couple christened children Ann, John, Jane, and Susannah in Crowland between 1757 and 1767 (document #17). The 1803 burial of John was searched and stated the following (document #16):

Bur 8 April 1803 Crowland: John Lefevre aged 72

This John's age at burial places his year of birth at 1730/1731—perfect for the 1730 christening. Since we know the ancestral John migrated to Whaplode Drove, where he christened children 1756-1776, it is more likely he was buried in Whaplode Drove. The burial entries of the ancestral John and his wife, Mary, are as follows (document #16):

Bur 1 Apr 1779 Whaplode Drove: John Lefevre farmer

Bur 13 Jan 1798 Whaplode Drove: Mary Lefevre aged 67 years [born 1730/31]

Since John's wife, Mary, was born in 1730/1731, and since the 1730 christening in Crowland is likely not ancestral, it is likely the ancestral John was born before 1730. His christening may be found in earlier Crowland registers or those of the surrounding area. An appeal to probate records may also shed light on his parentage.

Searching the *International Genealogical Index*, we found the christening entry of John's wife, Mary Stoaton (document #18, 16):

Chr 27 Dec 1732 Holbeach: Mary Stoaton daughter of William and Susannah

Holbeach parish registers were searched and Mary was not buried as a child. We believe this christening is ancestral because it is close to the year of birth found through Mary's burial entry, Mary christened a daughter in Holbeach, and Mary named children William and Susannah. Additional children for William and Susannah were also found in Holbeach (document #16). We searched the *International Genealogical Index* for William's marriage to Susannah but found no good matches. The only possibility found took place in August of 1727 at St. Mary the Great, Cambridge, 42 miles from Holbeach (document #19). We also found no good possibility for William's christening in this database.

Time was not sufficient to continue work on the Stoaton pedigree at this time, but it is likely we will be able to extend the line further in the future.

Forman

Research did not focus on the Hall line at this time, but we did spend some time on the line of George Hall's wife, Ann Forman. We searched christenings from 1730 to 1745 for the parishes of Sutton St. Edmunds, Sutton St. James, Long Sutton, and Gedney Hill for Forman or Witno christenings and found a very promising christening for William, Ann's father (document #20):

Chr 13 Aug 1739 Sutton St. James: Wm. son of Edward and Mary Forman

Although the ancestral William named no children Edward he did name a daughter Mary. We believe this christening to be ancestral because this William was not buried as a child and Sutton St. James is in the area in which William married and christened his children. We found no additional children for Edward and Mary in the parishes searched above from 1730 to 1745. Their marriage may have taken place in Sutton St. James in 1720, where a Lincolnshire marriage index indicated the marriage of an Edward Forman and Mary Turner. This should be further pursued in the future.

While searching the records of Sutton St. Edmunds, we found that William Forman, a widower of the parish, married Alice Makeman (also a widow) in 1786 (document #21). Since we know of no children for William and Hannah Witno Forman being christened after 1779 and since the family lived in this parish, we feel it likely that this was a second wife for William. In the future, we should search the burials of Sutton St. Edmunds and possibly of Gedney Hill for the burial of a Hannah Forman before 1786.

We searched the *International Genealogical Index* for Hannah Witno/Wilno christenings 1718-1758 in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, and Huntingdonshire and found none. Additional research on Hannah Witno is required in the future—this is a very unusual name.

In summary, we have succeeded in finding the marriage of John Lefever and Mary Stoaton and have extended the Stoaton line. We have also found a likely second marriage for William Forman and have also found his likely christening and parentage. It has been a pleasure to research the ancestry of Thomas Hall and we look forward to continuing this research in the future according to your direction.

JMT

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