

THE DRAPERS OF ILFORD.

This genealogical story stems from the Yeoman Farmers of Bradwell during the first half of the eighteenth century. Doubtless a number of readers will fault some of the statements made and may be able to give a truer account of the happenings. This can be only part of the full story and any additions will be most welcome.

A.E.Fairhead

Norwich,

January, 1975.

Since the death of Albert (in 1976) material has been gathered by the late Mr. G.T. Fairhead, myself and fellowship members in general and added to Albert's work to give a fuller and more informative story. This record is compiled from Albert's original book and the new information collected since that time.

Where places are described as a 'District', this is the Registration District where the event was Registered. These were introduced in 1837, and the names and boundaries of many of these Districts have changed over the years since. A list of these districts can be found at <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/genuki/reg/districts/index.html>

(Individual I. D. No's. are in Blue)

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For the early history of this family see "**The Essex Farmers**" (page 8.). The first named in this branch is :-

James 1741 ⁽²²⁰³⁾ the son of Matthew 1690 ⁽²¹⁹⁰⁾ and Mary (**Collins**) ⁽²¹⁹⁴⁾ . James being the youngest of that family, barely 16 years old when his father died. It would appear that there was little opportunity for young James upon reaching manhood, for farming in his own right at Bradwell, the farms there being taken up by the older brothers, so he crossed the border into the Parish of Cressing. He had married a girl named Sarah ? ⁽²⁴⁵³⁾ at Bradwell, Essex and they had the following family :-

James ⁽²⁴⁵⁴⁾	b	1768
Sarah ⁽²⁴⁵⁵⁾	b	1773

James, the father, became one of the great agriculturists of his day, farming for over 60 years and died at the great age of 95 years, his wife Sarah having died nine years earlier.

The 2nd Generation.

James 1768 (2454) stepped into his "father's shoes" and continued farming. He married Sarah **Walford** (2456) on the 29th May 1798 at Cressing the following family :-

James <small>(2457)</small>	b	30 th September 1799	bap.	7/4/1803
Sarah Ann <small>(5739)</small>	b	28 th October 1802	bap.	7/4/1803
John <small>(2459)</small>	b	28 th January 1804	bap.	12/1/1808
George <small>(2460)</small>	b	30 th April 1805	bap.	12/1/1808
Ephraim <small>(2461)</small>	b	9 th December 1806	bap.	12/1/1808
David <small>(2462)</small>	b	5 th May 1809	bap.	6/6/1810
Charles <small>(2463)</small>	b	14 th Aug 1810	bap.	10/4/1812
Emma <small>(2464)</small>	b	14 th December 1811	bap.	10/4/1812
Bethia <small>(2465)</small>	b	1815	bap.	3/8/1815
Zillah <small>(2466)</small>	b	23 rd November 1816	bap.	31/8/1820

All of these christenings took place at Bocking, Essex. The dates of the Christenings are correct but some of the dates of birth may be slightly out. James, the father, carried on farming as had his father before him, but his years were less numerous and he died at the age of 68 years and was buried at Cressing on the 9th June 1836.

Sarah 1773 (2455) No record.

The 3rd Generation.

Given below is the list of the 3rd generation along with their parents of the 2nd generation :-

2nd Generation 3rd Generation

James 1768 ⁽²⁴⁵⁴⁾ & Sarah (Walford) ⁽²⁴⁵⁶⁾

James	1800 ⁽²⁴⁵⁷⁾
Sarah Ann	1802 ⁽⁵⁷³⁹⁾
John	1804 ⁽²⁴⁵⁹⁾
George	1805 ⁽²⁴⁶⁰⁾
Ephraim	1806 ⁽²⁴⁶¹⁾
David	1809 ⁽²⁴⁶²⁾
Charles	1811 ⁽²⁴⁶³⁾
Emma	1812 ⁽²⁴⁶⁴⁾
Bethia	1815 ⁽²⁴⁶⁵⁾
Zillah	1820 ⁽²⁴⁶⁶⁾

Sarah 1773 ⁽²⁴⁵⁵⁾

James 1800 ⁽²⁴⁵⁷⁾ was now the third generation bearing that name, he married Sarah **Bloomfield** ⁽²⁴⁶⁷⁾ of Colchester in 1835, also the third generation to marry a Sarah. They settled in Cressing to carry on farming as had the two James' before, where they raised the following family :-

Thomas Bloomfield ⁽²⁴⁶⁸⁾	b	6 th April 1836	bap.	6 th July 1837
David ⁽²⁴⁶⁹⁾] b	1839		
Elizabeth ⁽²⁴⁷⁰⁾] b	1839		
Sarah Walford ⁽²⁴⁷¹⁾	b	25 th February 1844	bap.	29 th October 1844

Thomas was baptised at Bocking, Independent.

Sarah Ann 1802 ⁽⁵⁷³⁹⁾ married William Cable **Kirkham** ⁽⁵⁷³⁸⁾ on the 9th June 1826 at Braintree, Essex, they had the following family :-

John (Kirkham) ⁽²⁴⁵⁸⁾	b	14 th June 1824
William John (Kirkham) ⁽⁵⁷⁴⁰⁾	b	4 th April 1828
Susannah Simpson (Kirkham) ⁽⁶⁴⁸⁸⁾	b abt	1830
Sarah (Kirkham) ⁽⁶⁴⁸⁹⁾	b	1833
Emma (Kirkham) ⁽⁶⁴⁹⁰⁾	b	1834
James (Kirkham) ⁽⁶⁴⁹¹⁾	b	December 1835
Sarah Fairhead (Kirkham) ⁽⁶⁴⁹²⁾	b	1837
Emma Elizabeth (Kirkham) ⁽⁶⁴⁹³⁾	b	1845

William Cable ⁽⁵⁷³⁸⁾ and Sarah ⁽⁵⁷³⁹⁾ migrated to Durban, Natal, under the Byrne settlement scheme, arriving on the 'Unicorn' in 1850. They had with them the 6 living children. They possibly only stayed in Durban for 3 -5 years, they are next recorded in Colesberg in 1855, William as a postmaster. The oldest son, John, ⁽²⁴⁵⁸⁾ left Durban in 1852 and came to Melbourne, where he married, later moving to Eaglehawk, Victoria, then Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, and lastly to Port Augusta, South Australia.

John 1804 ⁽²⁴⁵⁹⁾ left Cressing. He married Elizabeth **Page** ⁽²⁴⁷²⁾ on the 14th February 1839, at St George, Hanover Square, London, and they finally made their home in Borstal House, Rochester, Kent, later to become The Borstal Institution for young offenders. I (Albert) have no information as to his family. John died in April 1859 and his body was brought back to Cressing for the burial. His wife outlived him for 34 years and was entombed with her husband. The Tomb may be seen at the Cressing churchyard.

George 1805 ⁽²⁴⁶⁰⁾ had quite a varied life. He first married Rebecca ? ⁽²⁴⁷³⁾ a lady of over 10 years his senior, but this did not last and his next choice was Ann Diana ? ⁽²⁴⁷⁴⁾ who was 15 years his junior. However, he outlived them all, his last wife Reginella **Waring** ⁽²⁴⁷⁵⁾ died in 1891 from heart disease.

George Fairhead of 1805 was a very remarkable man. He left Cressing at the age of 17 years, and although I (Albert) have no record of these early years, became the proprietor of a confectioner's business in High Street, Colchester. He was very successful and retired at 62 years of age to spend more than a third of his life in this uncommitted state. He accumulated considerable wealth, and owned various properties in Colchester and often acted as a Financier. Like his grandfather, James, he was blessed with a very long innings, almost reaching his 98th birthday, but a bout of Bronchitis ended it all. He died in the early spring of 1903 to be buried in Colchester cemetery, which followed a service in St. Mary's Church. The officiating clergy were the Reverends **Hales, Evans** and **Maw**, and a very large gathering paid their last respects to this great personality. There is no knowledge of any children. His estate, which included his home, St. Mary's Villa, in Balkerne Lane, was sold by public auction at the Red Lion Hotel, and his household goods covered two full days sale.

Ephraim 1806 ⁽²⁴⁶¹⁾ extended his activities to become a Costermonger & Cattle Dealer as well as a Farmer. His address was Bradwell, so it appears that he crossed the border to join the Fairhead's of that Parish. He married Mahala **Page** ⁽²⁴⁷⁶⁾, at Bradwell, on the 4th April 1833 at Bradwell, by Licence, and they had the following family :-

Mahala ⁽²⁴⁷⁷⁾	b	1833
John ⁽²⁴⁷⁸⁾	b	17 th January 1836

In the 1841 Census Ephraim & Mahala are recorded living as living at Cressing Street, Cressing, but the two children are not listed. Mahala ⁽²⁴⁷⁷⁾ the daughter is recorded at Black Water Street, Cressing living (or staying) with grandparents David ⁽²⁴⁸³⁾ and Martha ⁽²⁴⁸⁴⁾ **Page**, son John had died by this time. Mahala ⁽²⁴⁷⁶⁾ died on the 9th September 1842 at 33 years and I (Albert) understand that her sister Harriet ⁽²⁴⁷⁹⁾ "stepped into her shoes" to become Ephraim's housekeeper. However, he married Harriet on the 9th November 1844 at St. Leonards, Shoreditch, London, and the following family came along :-

John ⁽²⁴⁸⁰⁾	b	31 st December 1844
David ⁽⁵¹²⁴⁾	b	May 1847
David Page ⁽²⁴⁸¹⁾	b	September 1850 bap 14 th October 1850
Harriet Page ⁽²⁴⁸²⁾	b	17 th April 1854 bap 17 th April 1863

Ephraim died at Rivenhall Road, Cressing on the 16th May 1867 at the age of 60 years and was buried at Bradwell. Harriet died on the 24th April 1881 at the age of 73 years and was buried with her husband at Bradwell. A memorial stone marks their grave.

David 1809 ⁽²⁴⁶²⁾ went to live in Witham. He married Mary **Rouse** ⁽²⁴⁸⁵⁾ of Trinity, Colchester in 1833. I (Albert) have no knowledge of any family. In 1841 they were living in Back Church Lane, Whitechapel, London, David is listed as a Baker. David died in 1895, in the Colchester District, Essex.

Charles 1811 ⁽²⁴⁶³⁾ No record.

Emma 1812 ⁽²⁴⁶⁴⁾ No record.

Bethia 1815 ⁽²⁴⁶⁵⁾ remained unmarried. She died in 1893 from an attack of Bronchitis, while on a visit to Sir William Jenner at Bishops Waltham, Hampshire, and was buried on the 5th November 1893 at Colchester.

Zillah 1820 ⁽²⁴⁶⁶⁾ No record.

Mahala 1833 ⁽²⁴⁷⁷⁾ who remained unmarried, lived at The Laurels, North Station Road, Colchester, and died in September 1904. The funeral took place at St. Paul's Church on the 13th September amid a large congregation of friends and neighbours.

John 1836 ⁽²⁴⁷⁸⁾ died in 1841, in the Braintree District, Essex.

John 1844 ⁽²⁴⁸⁰⁾ married Elizabeth **Laver** ⁽²⁴⁸⁹⁾ (b abt 1849) on the 10th June 1872 at Cressing, and they had the following family :-

George John ⁽²⁴⁹⁰⁾	b	1 st May 1873	
Ernest Charles ⁽²⁴⁹¹⁾	b	10 th February 1875	
Harold Frank ⁽²⁴⁹²⁾	b	10 th April 1877	bap 3 rd May 1877
Thomas Bertie Laver ⁽²⁴⁹³⁾]	b	11 th January 1881	
Henry Augustus Read ⁽²⁴⁹⁴⁾] twins	b	11 th January 1881	
Herbert Frederick ⁽²⁴⁹⁵⁾	b	16 th September 1883	

Harold Frank was born in London (district unknown), but baptised in Cressing.

John died in 1891, in the Romford District, Essex, being a widower of some eight years, his wife Elizabeth having died in 1883, possibly caused by the birth of Herbert. Both were comparatively young, John being about 47 years of age while Elizabeth was only 34, and this early death of Elizabeth may have had some bearing on the premature death of the greater number of her children, as may be seen in the notes of the following generations.

David 1847 ⁽⁵¹²⁴⁾ died aged 5 months and was buried on the 10th September 1847.

David Page 1850 ⁽²⁴⁸¹⁾ upon leaving school undertook an apprenticeship under Mr. Edward **Bloomfield**, Ironmonger of Braintree. He remained with this employer all his working life, which was a comparatively short span, ending at 39 years. During this period he collected an unusual amount of antiques which upon his decease were offered for sale by auction. A "Press" report of the sale states :-

"There was something of everything and everything of something. Among the lots for instance were no less than 600 pipes of all shapes, makes and sizes, from the homely clay to handsome, carved and costly Meerschaums. There were watches, chains and studs by the score, rings and pins with pearl, rubies, cameos and diamonds; clocks, 8 day and otherwise by the dozen; whips, walking sticks and gloves innumerable, revolvers and ammunition, household furniture with many pictures. 400 lots were offered yesterday and a further 300 lots to be offered today".

"The collection indeed, forms a museum of which a small town need not be ashamed".

David Page Fairhead died on the 24th May 1889, was buried at Bradwell with his mother and father. A memorial stone marks his grave.

Harriet Page 1854 ⁽²⁴⁸²⁾ married Henry **Howard** ⁽⁴¹⁹⁹⁾ in 1888, in the Braintree District, Essex.

The 5th Generation.

Given below is the list of the 5th generation along with their parents of the 4th generation :-

4th Generation

Thomas Bloomfield 1837 (2468) & Nancy (Barnard) (2486)
 David 1839 (2469)
 Elizabeth 1839 (2470)
 Sarah Walford 1844 (2471) & Richard Thomas (Gardner) (2488)

 Mahala 1833 (2477)
 John 1836 (2478)

 John 1844 (2480) & Elizabeth (Laver) (2489)

5th Generation

Thomas Claude	1861 (2487)
George John	1873 (2490)
Ernest Charles	1875 (2491)
Harold Frank	1877 (2492)
Thomas Bertie Laver	1881 (2493)
Henry Augustus Read	1881 (2494)
Herbert Frederick	1883 (2495)

David 1847 (5124)
 David Page 1850 (2481)
 Harriet Page 1854 (2482) & Henry (Howard) (4199)

Thomas Claude 1861 (2487) married Alice L.? (6601) in 1885, in Islington, London, and they had the following family :-

Claude William T. (7137)	b	1888	Marylebone District, London
Doris Mary (7164)	b	1891	Marylebone District, London

Thomas Claude died on the 26th February 1947, aged 86 at 101 Crouch Hill, London, N.8. (in the Edmonton District).

George John 1873 (2490) was born at Braintree, Essex. Upon leaving school he was apprenticed to Mr Anthony **Bentall** of Malden, the Draper. In 1907 after moving to Ilford, London, he started the business of Drapers & Ladies Outfitters at 33 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, to be known as G.J.Fairhead Ltd. In 1930 this was extended to take in Number 31 Cranbrook Road and headway was made until the War brought havoc and much of the stock and building were destroyed by incendiary bombs. However, building reconstruction took place with many improvements and after some months of hard work the store was reopened to a queue, which had collected as early as 6 a.m. that morning.

The business progressed and when George retired in 1945, it was taken over by a Mr. Sweet whose family still trade as "Fairhead's the Drapers". (At the time of Albert's writing). George married Hilda Marion **Thompson** (2496) in 1911 at Wandsworth, London.

George John and Hilda Marion had the following family :-

Mahala R. (2497)	b	21 st August 1912	
John Derek (2498)	b	1915	
Alistair George (2499)	b	29 th April 1917	
Hilary E. M. (2500)	b	1919	
Elizabeth M. (8495)	b	1919	
Diana (2501)	b	28 th October 1921	

All born in the Romford District, Essex.

After retirement George and Hilda went to live in Bexhill, East Sussex, where George took an active part in the affairs of St. Augustine's Church. He died in 1950, at the age of 77 years, and was buried at the Borough Cemetery, Bex Hill after a service at St. Augustine's amid a gathering of relatives and friends. Hilda died in 1970, also in Bexhill.

Ernest Charles 1875 (2491) died in 1875.

Harold Frank 1877 (2492) died on the 14th May 1889.

Thomas Bertie Laver 1881 (2493) married Amy Musto A. C. **Eve** (6598) in 1909, in the Chelmsford District, Essex, and they had the following family :-

Amy M. <small>(7378)</small>	b	1912	Chelmsford District
Hilda Nancy <small>(7394)</small>	b	5 th February 1914	Chelmsford District

Thomas Bertie died in 1960, and Amy M. A. C. (6598) died in 1952, both in the Chelmsford District.

Henry Augustus Read 1881 (2494) died in infancy.

Herbert Frederick 1883 (2495) died in 1883.

Reproductions of Cuttings from the local "Press" concerning "Fairhead's the Drapers"

After 52 years they're still a
family business

Retailers' Progress

Improvements and Extensions

The 6th Generation.

Given below is the list of the 6th generation along with their parents of the 5th generation :-

5th Generation

Thomas Claude 1861 (2487) & Alice L. (?) (6601)

George John 1873 (2490) & Hilda Marion (Thompson) (2496)

Ernest Charles 1875 (2491)

Harold Frank 1877 (2492)

Thomas Bertie Laver 1881 (2493) & Wife (6598)

Henry Augustus Read 1881 (2494)

Herbert Frederick 1883 (2495)

6th Generation

Claude William T. 1888 (7137)

Doris Mary 1891 (7164)

Mahala R. 1912 (2497)

John Derek 1915 (2498)

Alistair George 1917 (2499)

Hilary E. M. 1919 (2500)

Elizabeth M. 1919 (8495)

Diana 1921 (2501)

Amy M. 1912 (7378)

Hilda Nancy 1914 (7394)

Claude William T. 1888 (7137) married Hilda F. **Burgess** (8607) in 1921, in the Marylebone District, London. Claude died in 1952, and Hilda in 1961, both in the Surrey North West District.

Doris Mary 1891 (7164) married Percy F. **Villars** (8884) in 1933, in the Romford District, Essex.

Mahala R. 1912 (2497) died in 1992, in the Hastings District, Sussex.

John Derek 1915 (2498) married Lois Sarah **Hall** (2502) (b 29/7/1918) on the 8th March 1948 in Malaya, and they had two children :-

David John (2503)	b	1950
Nigel Derek Page (2504)	b	1952

John died on the 4th April 1993, in the Chichester District, Sussex, and Lois on the 4th May 2005.

Alistair George 1917 (2499) married Shirley **Jackson** (2505) (b 8/09/1923) in 1957, in the Westminster District, London, and they had two children :-

Adam Alastair Page (5535)	b	1958	Hammersmith District, London
Jeremy Shay (5536)	b	1960	Hammersmith District, London

Alastair died in 1987, in the Romsey District, Hampshire, and Shirley on the 10th September 1995, in Sevenoaks, Kent.

Hilary E. M. 1919 (2500) married Frank **Reed** (2506) in 1965, in the Battle District, Sussex.

Elizabeth M. 1919 (8495) No record.

Diana 1921 (2501) died in 2001, in the Worthing District, Sussex.

Amy M. ⁽⁷³⁷⁸⁾ married Jack A. **Pollard** ⁽⁸⁹⁶⁹⁾ in 1945, in the Chelmsford District, Essex.

Hilda Nancy 1914 ⁽⁷³⁹⁴⁾ died in 1996, in the Colchester District.

The 7th Generation.

Given below is the list of the 7th generation along with their parents of the 6th generation :-

6th Generation

Claude William T. 1888 (7137) & Hilda F. (Burgess) (8607)

Doris Mary 1891 (7164) & Percy F. (Villars) (8884)

Mahala R. 1912 (2497)

John Derek 1915 (2498) & Lois Sarah (Hall) (2502)

Alistair George 1917 (2499) & Shirley (Jackson) (2505)

Hilary 1919 (2500) & Frank (Reed) (2506)

Diana 1921 (2501)

Amy M. 1912 (7378) & Jack A. (Pollard) (8969)

Hilda Nancy 1914 (7394)

7th Generation

David John 1950 (2503)

Nigel Derek Page 1952 (2504)

Adam Alastair Page 1958 (5535)

Jeremy Shay 1960 (5536)

David John 1950 (2503) married Christina **Law** (4684) in 1972, in the Enfield District, London, and they had the following family :-

Catherine Helen (4685)	b	23 rd July 1981
Penelope Sarah (4686)	b	6 th March 1985

David and Christina then divorced, and David has since remarried to Conny **Kaal** (4687) in 1989, they have one daughter :-

Kimberly Michelle (4688)	b	13 th September 1987
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Nigel Derek Page 1952 (2504) married Jill A. P. **Brager** (5244) in 1977, in the Tonbridge District, Kent.

His second wife is Morag **McGreggor** (5241). They have the following family :-

Kirsty Shona (5242)	b	27 th November 1985
Alexander Neil (5243)	b	8 th June 1987

Adam Alastair Page 1958 (5535) married Elizabeth **Duckworth** (5537) in 1986, in the Tunbridge Wells District, Kent, and they have the following family :-

Sarah Catherine (5538)	b	1991	Tunbridge Wells District
Alice Elizabeth (5539)	b	1993	Tunbridge Wells District
Henry Adam (5540)	b	1995	Tunbridge Wells District

Jeremy Shay 1960 (5536) became a Catholic Priest, and consequently has not married.

Below is a Pedigree Chart, copied from Albert's original book, showing the Genealogical Line of some of the present day members of the Family :-


