

The GOSTAGES of HANMER/THREAPWOOD

CHARLES & ANN GOSTAGE

The family tree begins with the birth of CHARLES GOSTAGE in about 1809 in Hanmer, Flintshire. His parents may have been Charles Gostage and Mary Hough, who had married on 29th March, 1807, at Tilston By Malpas.

From the censuses, we know that Charles' wife was called Ann, and the most likely record for their marriage was that between Charles Gostage and ANN CALDECOTT, which took place on 23rd April, 1832, at Shocklach. This would fit in with the birth of their son John, in about 1835, followed by Lloyd in about 1837 and Martha in 1845, her birth being registered in the Dec. quarter of that year.

The first census I can find them on was taken on 30th March, 1851. Charles and his wife Ann are living in the parish of Threapwood with their 3 children: John, 15; Lloyd, 13; and Martha, aged 5. Charles' occupation is given as 'Agricultural Labourer'.

By the time of the 1861 census he is 52 and still living in Threapwood with Ann, 54, son Lloyd, aged 23, and 15 year-old daughter Martha. Presumably John has by this time left home. Charles' occupation is still 'Agricultural Labourer' and Lloyd is 'Labourer'.

Ten years later, in the census of 1871 taken on 2nd April, the family is still at Threapwood, though Martha is no longer recorded at the address. Charles is still working as an Agricultural Labourer, as is Lloyd, who, at 33, is still unmarried. At first I thought that Martha may have married and moved away, or found work away from home, but my searches proved negative. I did, however, find a death record

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for her; Martha had died just 22 years old in the Dec. quarter of 1868.

By 1881, Charles and Ann, by now 72 and 77, are living alone in Threapwood. Charles is now described as a General Labourer. Living next door to them is a 72 year-old widow, Mary Done, and two doors away is son Lloyd with his family.

A few months after this 1881 census, in the December quarter, Charles Gostage died, aged 75.

Thus in 1891, Ann Gostage, 88 years old and a widow, is living alone in Threapwood. She has described herself as 'Living on own means' on the census.

Death Index records show she died in 1894 at the age of 90.

LLOYD & HARRIET GOSTAGE

LLOYD GOSTAGE, son of Charles and Ann above, was born in Threapwood in about 1837/1838.

In the 1881 census we find Lloyd married and living with his family in Holy Land, Threapwood. He has given his age as 41 and describes himself as a General Labourer. His wife, HARRIET, is 37 and has given her birthplace as Red Brook, Shropshire. They have two sons: Charles, aged 3 and presumably named after his grandfather, born in Pickhill, Denbighshire, and William, just 6 months old, born in Threapwood.

Lloyd also has two stepchildren: John Price, 11, and Jane Price, 8, both born at Pickhill. John and Jane were the children from Harriet's first marriage to Thomas Price.

THOMAS PRICE

There is a christening registered for a Thomas Price on 3rd April 1844 at St Oswald's, Malpas. His parents were Richard Price and Ann Bradbury. This is the most likely candidate for the first husband of Harriet.

HARRIET & THOMAS PRICE

In 1871 Harriet, 26, and Thomas, 25, had been living at Poplar Cottage at Pickhill. They had one child then, 9 months old John T. (Thomas?) Price. Thomas had given Threapwood as his birthplace and 'Agricultural Labourer' as his occupation. He may well have worked on the neighbouring farm belonging to Edward Lewis and his wife Ann, since The Hall Farm was a large farm, 228 acres in size, and '5 labourers and 3 young men' were employed by Mr Lewis to help run it. Thomas Price, however, must have died some time between 1873 and 1877 (after the birth of his daughter Jane in 1873 and before the birth of Charles, Harriet's first child with Lloyd, in 1878).

Going back to the 1881 census in Holy Land, Threapwood, next door to Lloyd Gostage and Harriet lived Susannah Shone, a 68 year old widow. She is recorded as being a farmer of 18 acres, and living with her is her married daughter Ann E. Jones, 25, with husband George Jones, 29, who is described as Farm Bailiff. Ann and George had a daughter Mary Ann who eventually married Thomas Darlington, from Caldecott Hall (who was the cousin of my own grandfather, Thomas Goulborn). Lloyd's parents, Charles and Ann, lived in the house next to Susannah and the Jones'.

By 1891 the family has grown: Harriet, 56, and Lloyd, 63, are still living in Threapwood but now with sons Charles, 12, William, 10, and Lloyd (Junior), aged 6. Lloyd (Senior) has changed occupation and is now recorded as being a Groom.

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Ten years later and the 1901 census finds the now diminished family still at Threapwood, but the two older boys have left home. Lloyd is now a Farmer on his 'own account', and young Lloyd at 16 is helping as 'Farmer's son'. Their next-door neighbours now are, on the one side: the family of Philip Nickson, boot and shoe-maker, and on the other side: Charles Goodfellow, butcher, with his schoolmistress wife Alice, and family.

Harriet died in 1915 aged 71 and husband Lloyd lived to be 85, his death being registered in the March quarter of 1922.

LLOYD & ANNIE GOSTAGE

Lloyd's birth was registered in the September quarter of 1884. He married ANNIE JAMES in 1909. They would eventually become Lucy's parents!



JOHN & ANN GOSTAGE

JOHN GOSTAGE was the first-born son of Charles and Ann Gostage, and was born in Threapwood in about 1835. He married ANN (.....?), born in Malpas in about 1826.

John appears first in the records in the 1851 census where he is to be found as a 15 year-old with his parents, brother, Lloyd and sister Martha. As has been stated, Martha died young at 22 in 1868.

By the time of the 1861 census, John has married ANN, surname unknown, from Malpas. John is 25 and has given his occupation as Bricklayer. Ann is 31 although the age on the

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census sheet is difficult to read. In about 1864 they have a son, Lloyd.

John's fortunes improved with the passing of the years: in 1871 he is an Agricultural Labourer, but by 1881 he is a Farmer of 32 acres. At the time Cuddington Mill was nearby, run by Miller George Dodd, 25, and his sister Jane, 18. Also close is The Black Lion, run by Innkeeper John Latham (!) aged 26, from Sandbach, with his wife Martha, aged 30.

John Gostage is still farming in 1891 (at – the name on the census looks like – 'Vernons Farms') with the help of son Lloyd plus a farm servant. His wife Ann also has a general domestic servant as help. Next door to them in Rose Cottage lives John Roberts, 'Currier' (= Courier!?).

LLOYD & AGNES GOSTAGE

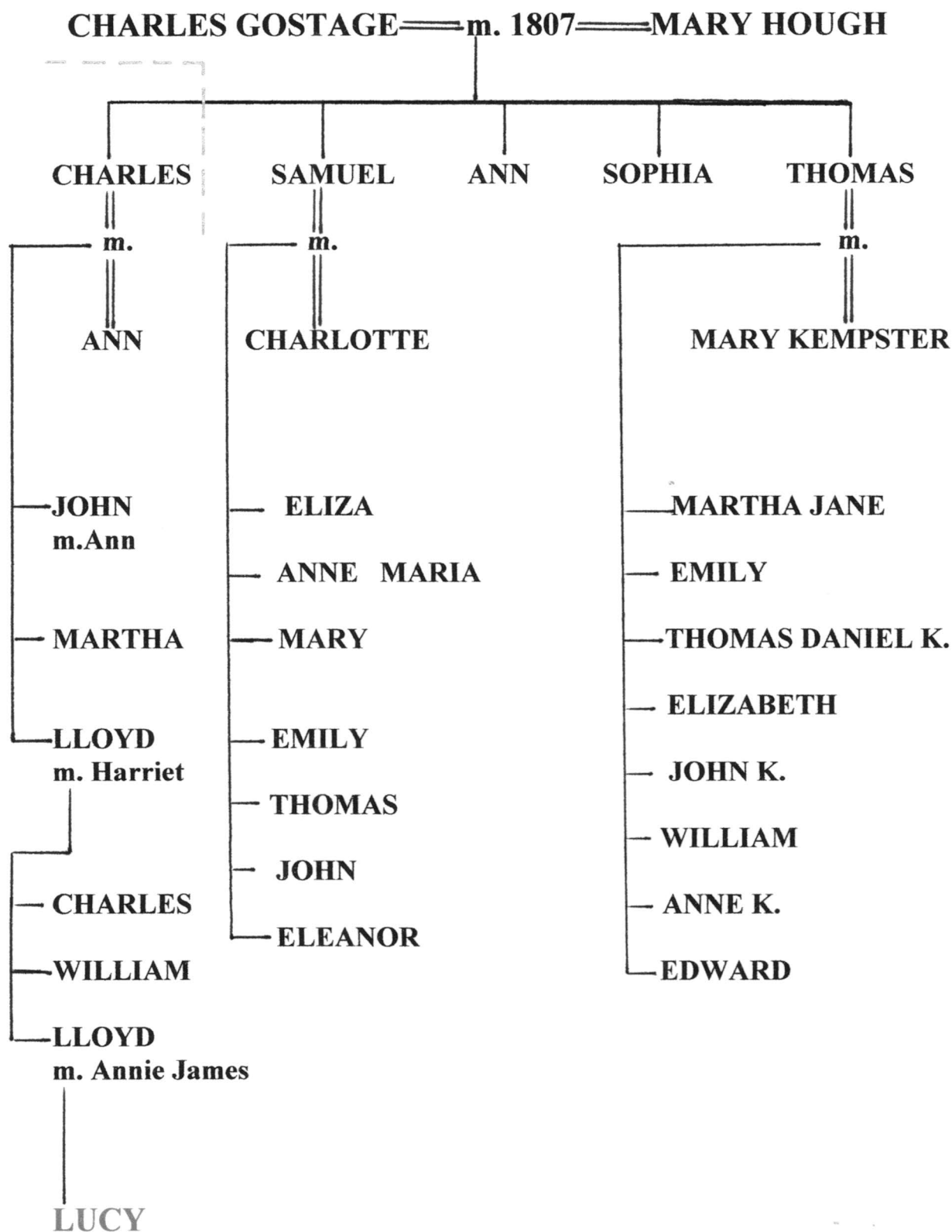
In 1896 John and Ann's son Lloyd married AGNES JONES from Edge. He married relatively late in life, at the grand old age of about 32, Agnes being some 5 years younger than him.

By 1901 John is still farming at Threapwood with the help of son Lloyd. Lloyd and Agnes have two daughters, young Agnes aged 4 and Sarah, one year old. They live with Lloyd's parents, John and Ann, along with three servants, one of whom is John Price, stepson of the other Lloyd Gostage (who had married John Price's mother Harriet after the death of his father Thomas Price). John Price, now 29, is working as an Agricultural Labourer.

John Gostage died in the Dec. quarter of 1904. Sadly, Lloyd and Agnes' daughter, Sarah, died at the age of 7 in 1907. Her father died just six years later in 1913 at the young age of 50.

Sheila Clarkson April 2008

POTENTIAL GOSTAGE RELATIONS



FAMILY
of
CHARLES and MARY GOSTAGE

Charles Gostage of Hanmer married Mary Hough on 29th March, 1807, at Tilston By Malpas. There is evidence to suggest that they had at least 5 children: Charles (Lucy's grandfather), born about 1809; Samuel, born 1811; Ann born in 1814; Sophia born in about 1824; and Thomas, born 1830. There is a record for the death of Charles Gostage in 1830, and Mary duly appears as 'Widow' in all the census records thereafter.

SAMUEL GOSTAGE - married to CHARLOTTE.

They are first recorded in the 1851 census farming at Hanmer, but by 1871 they had moved to Liverpool where they lived at 17, Mountjoy Street, Everton. They had several children: Eliza; Anne Maria; Mary; Emily (employed at the Liverpool India Rubber Company); Thomas, joiner (out of employment in 1871); John (Clerk to Mr Hurst, Merchant); and Eleanor (milliner).

Samuel died in 1875 at the age of 65.

THOMAS GOSTAGE - married to MARY KEMPSTER

In 1841 Thomas appears in the census as an 11-year old with his mother, the widowed Mary. In 1851 Mary is farming 97 acres and is shown with daughter Sophia aged 24, son Thomas, 21, and 5 servants.

In 1855, Thomas marries Mary Kempster, who had been born in Tilstock, Shropshire, in about 1829. Mary is the daughter of farmer Daniel Kempster (born in 1799). Prior to their marriage, in 1851, Mary, 24, had been living with her widowed father, Daniel, and sister, Ann, 23. Daniel was farming 134

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acres and had 5 servants, so was a man of quite some substance at that time.

By 1861 Thomas and Mary Gostage have 3 young children: Martha Jane, 3; Emily, 1; and Thomas Daniel, described on the census as 'little'. Thomas' occupation is 'Farmer of 94 acres'.

In 1871 Thomas is found at 6, Old Chapel House, Whixall, Shrops, the home of his brother-in-law, Samuel Keay, who had married Mary's sister, Ann. Samuel has given his profession as 'M.R.C.V.S. Surgeon' ie. a vet, and, strangely, Thomas is now described as a 'Commissioning Agent'. Thomas' daughter, 12-year old Martha Jane is also present, as is Samuel's elderly mother, Elizabeth.

The rest of Thomas' family I believe is to be found in the same 1871 census in Tranmere, Birkenhead. Listed is: Mary Gostage, 43, wife, and her children: Emily, 10, Thomas, 9, Elizabeth, 8, John, 7, William, 6, Ann, 5, and Edward, 4. The evidence points to this indeed being Thomas Gostage's family, since I can find records of births for John Kempster Gostage in 1863, Anne Kempster Gostage in 1865, and Thomas Daniel Kempster Gostage in 1861, which tally with their ages on the census. Mary has given her 'occupation' as that of 'Dock Labourer's Wife' – maybe Thomas' description of himself in the same census, 'Commissioning Agent', while at his brother-in-law's house, was therefore a slight exaggeration!

I can find no further records for any of Thomas' family.

There is a record of a marriage for Sophia Gostage, Thomas' sister, in 1852.

POSTSCRIPT

In the churchyard of St. Chad's, Hanmer, many gravestones record burials of various members of the Gostage family in the late 1700s and first half of the 1800s. Amongst them are the following two which may be of relevance:

CHARLES GOSTAGE - died 17 Nov. 1830 aged 48

MARY GOSTAGE – died 19 Feb. aged 67, relict of Charles Gostage of Croxton. Also engraved are the words:

'The world has lost its charm for me. And now my appointed task is done. Parting without enmity I'll take my staff and journey on'.

Are they the couple who married in 1807 who were possibly the parents of Charles, Samuel, Ann, Sophia and Thomas? Mary is present on the 1841 census as a widow with 11-year old son Thomas, and again in 1851 with the addition of daughter Sophia, but does not reappear ten years later for the next census. This census information corresponds with the dating on the two gravestones for Charles and Mary given above.

Courtesy of Sheila Clarkson

LUCY'S FAMILY TREE

