

The Barhams of North West Kent

By Chris Barham

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This is Version 10 which includes some additional research on the early life of James Barham born in about 1721 by Ronald Barham (RB) who has extensively researched the family over many years. Ronald's son Adrian (AB) has recently identified Susanna Holdsworth as the wife of James Barham born in about 1748.

In Version 9 some additions were made to the accounts of the first three James Barhams, mainly from further information from RB, with additional information from Bob Fuller.

In Version 8, the main additions arose from the Will of James Barham (1785-1846). This clearly showed that James Barham and Elizabeth Hazelton did not marry.

Version 7 of the history was the first to incorporate information obtained from RB,

Version 6 was a major revision of the previous genealogy, as until the publication of the 1841 census, I had always assumed (as had several others) that James Barham, born in Greenhithe in 1808 was the husband of Elizabeth Hazelton, and therefore a direct ancestor. There were however two problems with this:

1. The first child of James Barham and Elizabeth Hazelton was born in 1824. Whilst it would have been possible for the younger James to have been the father, it would be exceedingly unlikely, as he would have been just 16 years of age.
2. For the two previous generations, the eldest son had apparently been named James. Yet the eldest son of James and Elizabeth was called George.

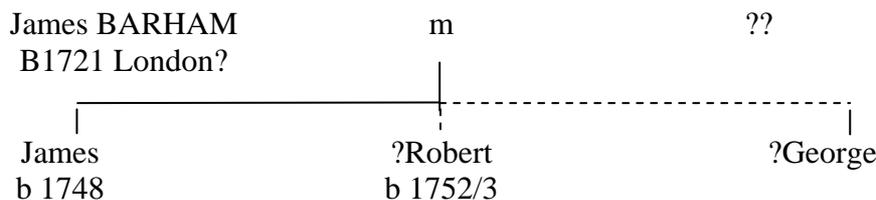
The 1841 census showed that the James living with Elizabeth and her family in Greenhithe was born in 1785, and that his son James was living by himself in Sutton-at-Hone. The later discovery that the younger James married Eliza Coe later in 1841 confirmed the assumption that Elizabeth Hazelton was the second wife of the older James.

1. James Barham the Cordwainer (1721 – 1786)

The earliest ancestor of the Barhams of North West Kent definitely identified so far is James Barham who was born in about 1721. Currently we know little if anything of his early life and indeed we have no firm evidence that he was descended from the Barham families of Kent and Sussex. However there are a number of facts that suggest that this is the case and none whatsoever to suggest any other origin.

RB has established he was resident in Three Colts Street, Limehouse in 1766 where he was a Cordwainer. The word 'Cordwainer' comes from the ancient Spanish leather centre of Cordoba where the Arabs used an alum dressing process on goatskin to produce a fine white leather that became known as 'cordovan' or 'cordwain'. Initially all craftsmen working with fine leather were called 'cordwainers' and this included shoewrights, girdlers (beltmakers), pouchmakers, pursers, malemakers (leather trunk makers), botteliers (leather bottle makers) and glovers as well as those who prepared the leather, whitetawyers, curriers, tanners and dyers. Gradually the title of 'cordwainer' was restricted to makers of fine footwear.

James was the first of a succession of four James Barhams, all of whom lived at some stage in the Dartford area. His son **James** is described in section 2, and there is evidence of other individuals who could also be his children. For example there is a **Robert**, born 1752/3 who later died in Deptford aged 88, and also a **George**.



Research by RB has revealed that there was a shoemaker of Chislet in Kent called James Barham who married Elizabeth Cock in 1750. This could possibly be the same person, although, as we shall see later, Elizabeth cannot have been the mother of James born in 1748.

There was a James Barham of the 3rd Regiment of Foot who married Ann Garnham at Fleet in Westminster on 18th April 1747. The 3rd Regiment of Foot (also known as "the Buffs") was raised in East Kent and so it is possible that this was the same James and indeed that Ann was the mother of the son James.

At some stage he married a Mary as this was the name of his wife when they died.. This was probably Mary Durrant (a widow) who a James Barham married in Deptford in 1755.

So the hypothesis at present is that James originated from East Kent. At some stage he learned his trade as a shoemaker/cordwainer and in the late 1740s he joined the Buffs. During his time in the regiment he married Ann Garnham and they had a son James born shortly after. Ann may have died in childbirth or soon after as by 1750 James had returned to Chislet in East Kent where he married Elizabeth Cock. There were

possibly further children born from this marriage, but Elizabeth must have died by 1755 as this is when James marries for the third and last time to Mary Durrant.

He then spent a while in Three Colts Street in Limehouse working as a cordwainer. Two pieces of evidence for this are an affidavit signed by him in 1766 giving his occupation as cordwainer and the documents relating to the apprenticeship of his son.

No further evidence has been found of him in Limehouse, but 7 years later a James Barham was appointed governor of the joint poorhouse/workhouse in Hastings. The following advertisement appeared in the Canterbury Journal and the Sussex Weekly advertiser in February 1772:

Wanted

A GOVERNOR of the POOR in the WORKHOUSE in the town and port of HASTING in the County of SUSSEX.

Any Person properly qualified, that is skilled in the Linen and Woollen manufactories, who chufe to undertake the Management of this Office, will meet with good Encouragement.

He is desired to treat with the Parifh Officers before Eafter Monday next.

Further Particulars may be learnt by applying to the Parifh Officers is Hafting aforefaid.

James Barham was duly appointed to the post and his signature on the contract appears identical to that on the affidavit of 1766 and the register entry for the marriage to Mary Durrant suggesting that these are all the same person.

Enquiry of the Hastings Reference Library produced the following:

(Chapter 18: Life in a Georgian Workhouse) p141

*By 1772 the number of poor was decreasing, due possibly to the fact that the town as a whole was entering on a period of prosperity as a fashionable resort. A new **governor of the workhouse**, called **James Barham**, was **appointed** and the surgeon's salary restored. William Daniel was allowed to take his wife and six children out with all his household furniture and also given 40s. "by way of encouragement for to keep out*

One might think that the resources of the house must have been severely strained at times to accommodate all the miscellaneous goods that were brought to it, but cases did arise occasionally when the poor possessed property of a different nature:

"Agreed that Thomas Burcher, a Poor Boy now at Service at the Rev. Mr. Whitear's, should have his Tenement that belongs to him in the occupation of Widow Gurr, in the Lane going up the Lighthouse, on Account of his being out of the House for about four Years, the Parish Officers agreeing at the same time with Master Reed to pay rent for it (if any of the Poor live in the house)....."

James Barham had apparently to face criticism from outside as well as inside the house. In July, the wife of Butcher, Richard Thomas, was committed to gaol by the magistrates for abusing him and "behaving in a very riotous manner at the Workhouse", until her husband should give security for her good behaviour.

But by the summer of 1772 the experiment of a joint workhouse for more than one parish was coming to a close, and as many of the poor as could reasonably be expected to get their own living were discharged. These included William Dean with his wife and three of his children.

From 1773 All Saints looked after its own poor, and the last few entries in the old Minute-book show that St. Clement's carried on in possession alone. They had raised £400 to purchase it. It later became the home of the Hastings Literary Institution, which was founded in 1831 and included amongst its members most of 'the leading literary and scientific residents of the borough'.

So in 1773 the joint workhouse closed and there is no further sign of him or his wife until 1784 when he was appointed Master of the new joint Poorhouse for Darenth and Horton Kirby. An extract from the Dartford Archives states:

Articles of agreement re the establishment of a joint poorhouse for Darenth and Horton Kirby. Agreement dated 18 October 1774 between the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of both parishes.

The house had recently been erected on Greensted Green at the charge of the parishioners and inhabitants of Darenth. The Horton Kirby churchwardens are to pay £10 per annum for half the rent. The Governors are to be the Vicars, Churchwardens and Overseers of each parish plus up to 4 additional persons from each parish. The Governors are to choose "such person or persons to be Master and Mistress of the House as they shall think proper with such Salary or Salaries and to be paid in such manner as the said Governors or the Major part of them shall agree upon".

The Horton Kirby Vestry Minutes record that, at a Vestry meeting held at Easter 1775, a Mrs Vickers had applied to be Mistress of the Poorhouse and this was agreed. So, it is clear that James Barham was not the first incumbent.

However, on the 28th March, 1784, the Minutes say: "a Vestry was held to consider the proposals that were made at a meeting on Tuesday past for a Master and Mistress of the said Workhouse. It is unanimously agreed that the articles entered into with J Barham of Rochester should be confirmed."

It is not clear why they moved to Darenth, but the designation "of Rochester" is of course interesting and suggests that after leaving Hastings he might have spent time in Rochester, possibly also gaining employment as a workhouse governor. However no evidence to this end has yet been found.

James was buried in Darenth on 14th October 1786, when his age was stated as 65. Mary had died a year earlier, also in Darenth, and aged 58. There is some evidence that James' son James succeeded him as Master, as will be described in the next section.

There is no evidence of the workhouse today, and the Darenth Vestry minutes record that the property was sold in 1838.

2. James Barham the Painter-Stainer (1748 – 1831)

The second James Barham was born around 1748. According to RB the Court Minutes of the Painter-Stainers Company state that on 3rd December 1766

“James Barham son of James Barham of St Ann's Limehouse Cordwainer bound to the same for the same.”

“The same for the same” refers to the preceding entry which indicates he was apprenticed to Robert Blackman for seven years. However Mr Blackman died before he completed the apprenticeship, as an entry on the 5th September 1770 states *“James Barham servant of Robert Blackman dec'd was this day turned over to Edward Gardner Cit and Distiller of Beer lane Tower street Painter by John Smith sole Exor of Mr Blackman”*

He was made free in 1776, as the minutes on 5th June that year state

*“James Barham of Old Street by trade a Painter Servant of Rd Blackman deceased having been turned over to Edward Gardner Citizen and Distiller now made free by Servitude and having been enrolled. 13s4d.
The said Servant paid for not having taken up his freedom within time 12s.”*

James and his wife **Susanna** were married at about this time. It is most likely that this was in Islington on 1st June 1775 (a year before he completed his apprenticeship) where a James Barham married Susanna Holdsworth. A Mary Barham was a witness. Their first four children were baptised at St Luke's, Old Street.

James and Susannah moved to Woolwich around 1780, where two further children were born. His mother died in Darent in 1785 before the birth of James, the second child to be born in Woolwich, and as their next child was born in Darent (1788) they may have moved there before the death of his father in 1786. The Darent parish records refer to a James Barham submitting a bill to the churchwardens on 12th June 1787, and there are several further references to bills, two specifically for repairing church windows.

In February 1789 there is an intriguing entry in the Darent Vestry Minutes, A Winifred Bar made a complaint of cruelty against “Mr Barham” and he was ordered to attend a special meeting. The meeting held on the 22nd February, 1789, found the complaint to be totally void of foundation and, in consideration of her advanced age and infirmity, Winifred Bar was re-admitted to the House, her husband undertaking “to make her sensible of her bad conduct”.

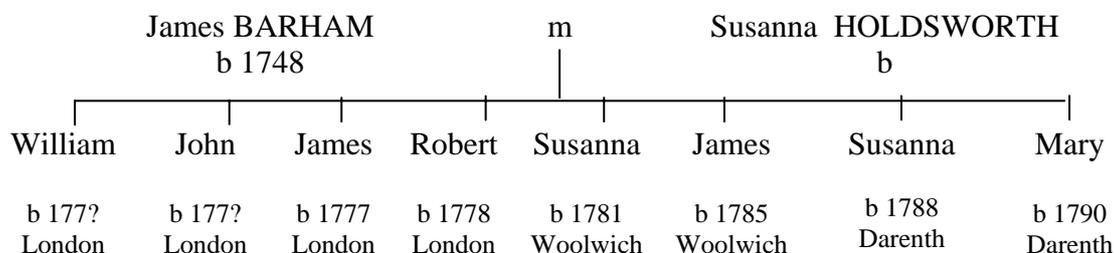
Assuming the record to be correct as to name, it suggests that James (jnr) possibly temporarily took over as Master of the Workhouse pending a new appointment or was even “permanently” appointed to succeed his father. Having arrived in Darent (*post September 1785*), James (jnr) can be seen, in the next decade and after, carrying out plumbing/painting/glazing work for Darent, Sutton-at-Hone and Swanscombe Vestries (*invoices in vestry accounts*).

James finally moved to Sutton-at-Hone where he worked as a glazier and in 1794 he re-glazed Swanscombe Church Clock. In 1812 he was mentioned in the will of Mary Barham of Farningham in which he was left the sum of one shilling. Could this be the Mary Barham who was witness at his wedding and if so what was the relationship?

Susanna died on 23rd February 1823 aged 70 and James died on 17th November 1831, at the age of 83, both in Sutton-at-Hone.

2.1 Children of James and Susanna Barham

James and Susanna had a least six children, possibly starting with two infant deaths (William and John). A further son James was born in 1777 but died two years later. William and James were buried at St Luke's, Old Street, whilst John was buried in Greenwich.



The next child, **Robert**, was born in 1778, and baptised at St Luke, Old Street. Like his father he worked as a glazier (and plumber) and had workshops in Sutton at Hone and Swanscombe up to 1806. He inherited property previously occupied by Henry Barham (possibly a cousin), and later James Barham. He died on 16th October 1827 in Northfleet.

On 2nd January 1781 a daughter, **Susanna** was born in Woolwich. She was baptised on 4th February that year, but died 3 years later, and was buried on 8th February 1784.

The next son was another **James**, who is considered in section 3.

Another **Susanna** was born in 1788 in Darenth, and baptised on 23rd May. Nothing more is known of her.

The last known child was **Mary**, also born in Darenth. She was baptised on 8th August 1790, but died the next year and was buried on 9th October 1791.

3. James Barham the Plumber and Glazier 1785 – 1846

The third James Barham was born on 21st September 1785 in Woolwich, and was baptised on 23rd October. Like his father he was a ‘plumber and glazier’, and he had workshops in Swanscombe from 1808.

He married twice. His first wife was **Mary**, and it is possible that her maiden name was Peskett, as a James Barham married a Mary Peskett at St Martin in the Fields on 16th June 1807. They had at least 5 children, who are considered in detail in section 3.1. In 1854, the will of a Richard Peskett, of Farnham in Surrey was proved in London. Richard was a plumber, painter and glazier, and the 1851 census gives his age as 76 so he may well have been the brother of Mary. The trade connection seems to add weight to the identity of James’ first wife.

Mary died on 12th July 1820 in Greenhithe, aged 40 years. Four years later he had a further child by his second wife **Elizabeth Hazelton**. There is no record of their marriage (see later).

Elizabeth was born in Luddesdown, Kent in 1799. Luddesdown is a hamlet on the North Downs, between Cuxton and Meopham. It has a tiny church, complete with graveyard and headstones, and the Parish Records show that the Hazeltons (also spelt Haselden, Hayselden, Hazleton amongst many others) lived there in the late 18th century. One baptism entry describes her parents, Francis and Hannah, as “paupers”. Francis and Hannah moved to Meopham after the birth of Elizabeth, and according to the 1851 and 1861 census her brother Richard was then living in Swanscombe working as a dairyman.

Elizabeth was therefore 15 years younger than her husband, and if they did marry, it must have been between 1820 and 1824.

During the next 16 years James and Elizabeth produced at least 8 children, who are considered in detail in section 3.2. In 1841 the entire family was listed in the census living in Greenhithe and James’ occupation was described as “Painter”

Greenhithe is a small village near Dartford in Kent, and now the closest habitation to the Bluewater shopping centre. I visited the church, which is situated on a hillside between the village and Bluewater. There is no churchyard with headstones, but whilst there by a curious coincidence I observed a man repairing the stained-glass window. The connection between plumbing and glazing, whilst obvious in the 19th century, had not occurred to me until then.

At one point according to Ronald Barham he was appointed “Borsholder” or village constable.

James died on 10th October 1846, aged 61, at Greenhithe, of “Dis’d Kidneys & Dis’d Liver, Asites, Anasarca”. (Anasarca is an archaic term for oedema.). Although this gives no exact pathology, these features are compatible with lead poisoning. His occupation was described a “Plumber and Glazier” and the informant on the death

certificate was Alfred, one of his sons by Mary. Elizabeth was thus left a widow at the age of 43, with 7 children ranging from 6 to 22.

James made a will on 23rd September 1846, which was proved in London on 7th November. This is fascinating as it confirms the suspicion hinted at earlier that James and Elizabeth never married. Alfred and Susannah, his two youngest children by Mary, were named as Executor and Executrix, and Alfred was directed to carry on the business of Plumber Painter and Glazier until his youngest reputed child attained the age of seventeen. Throughout the will his surviving children by Mary (William, Mary Ann, Alfred and Susannah) are referred to as “children”, whilst Elizabeth’s children (Elizabeth, Charles, Richard, Louisa, Emma, Frederick and Thomas) are referred to as “reputed children”. The term “reputed” is a euphemism for “illegitimate” or “natural”. It is strange that no such qualification was used in records of baptism, although that was usually the case when the father was not identified.

The major part of the will is concerned with ensuring that the needs of Elizabeth and her children are catered for until the youngest attains the age of seventeen. There is also the interesting statement

And I particularly desire and request my said Son and Daughter Alfred Barham and Susannah Barham to regard with kindness and attention and to attend to the wants and comforts of my said reputed children and the said Elizabeth Haselton.

The will then directed that if Alfred should die or decline to carry on the business, that everything should be sold, and divided into two equal parts, one part to go to the four children by Mary, and the second part to be divided between Elizabeth and her children.

As has been described earlier, there is no further trace of Alfred or Susannah in the censuses or births marriages and deaths, so it would appear that the sale must have taken place and the estate divided accordingly. What happened to them? Alfred disappears completely, but it is possible that Susannah is the Susannah that married Joseph Wesbury (see section 3.2.5) .

The other question raised by the will is why did James and Elizabeth never marry? We know Mary had died, and there is no evidence that either were ever married to anyone else. They were not related, and in the context of the time it would be most unusual for a couple to raise a family without marrying.

The 1851 census shows Elizabeth was still living in Greenhithe with her 4 sons - Charles, the eldest being described as the Head of the Household, but by 1861 they had all left except Thomas, who at that time was aged 20 and described as a painter.

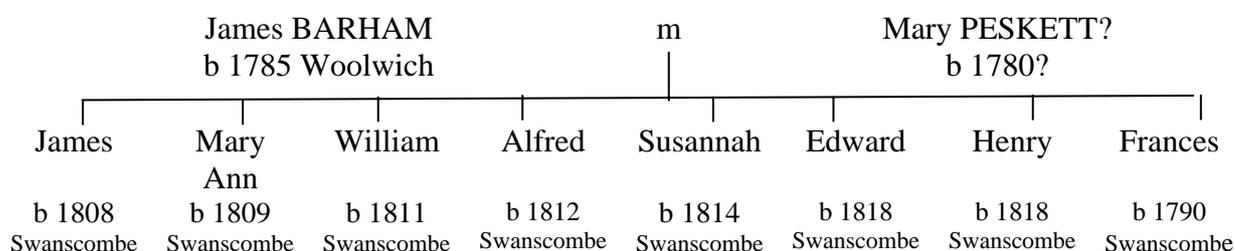
She appears on the 1871 census – Thomas had by then left home and her eldest child, Elizabeth, was now living with her, as well as a grandchild – Emily Edwards.

Elizabeth died of “cardiac debility” on 23rd March 1881 aged 81 years, having outlived James by 35 years. She does not appear on the 1881 census, so presumably this took place after her death. Her death certificate shows the informant was her eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

When she died she left 7 children (one of whom may have predeceased her), 32 grandchildren and at least one great-grandchild. She was the first of 5 consecutive Barham wives to survive past her 80th birthday.

3.1. Children of James and Mary Barham

James and Mary produced at least 5 children – James (b 1808) Mary Ann (b 1809) William (b 1811) Alfred (b 1812) and Susannah (b 1814), and it is possible that there were a further three, Edward, Henry and Frances, all of whom died in infancy.



3.1.1 James Barham

The first child, also called **James** was born on 22nd January 1808, and christened on 21st February. He was born in Greenhithe and followed his father's trade, as a plumber and glazier. As mentioned in the introduction I originally thought he was my ancestor, but further research proved this to be wrong. The confusion arose as both father and son were called James, and died within 3 years of each other.

The 1841 census shows that James was living alone in Sutton-at-Hone. Later that year on 14th October he married Eliza Coe, daughter of John Coe, a labourer. She was living in Sutton-at-Hone at the time, and is recorded on the 1841 census as living with William and Sally Wiggins. It would appear she was not born in Kent. The witnesses were his sister Mary Ann and her husband Francis Viner (see below). On 18th December 1842 a son, Augustus, was baptised, but within a year James died of consumption, on 22nd August 1843 at the age of 35. The informant on the death certificate was a William Watson, aged 25 and also a plumber, who lived there at the time with his sister and two brothers. He was buried on 28th August.

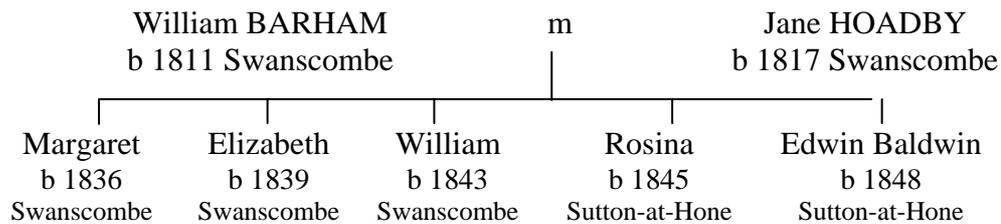
Further tragedy followed in November 1843 with the death of Augustus – aged 1. I have found no trace of Eliza after this.

3.1.2 Mary Ann Barham

Mary Ann was born on 20th September 1809, and was christened at Swanscombe on 21st October. She married Francis Viner, a gardener on 14th September 1840 at Sutton-at-Hone, and the 1841 census records them living there. In 1851 she was living and working at the White Hart Inn in Bromley. A Frederick Viner aged 33 (Mary was by this time 41) was also on the staff, but there was no sign of Francis.

3.1.3 William Barham

William was born in Swanscombe on 30th December 1810 and christened at Swanscombe on 20th February 1811. The 1841 census records him living in Greenhithe, and working as a plumber. His wife's name was Jane, and he had two daughters, Margaret (6) and Elizabeth (3).



There followed a son William in 1843, and a daughter Rosina in 1845. Rosina was born in Sutton-at-Hone, as was the next and probably last child. Edwin Baldwin Barham was born on 1st October 1848, at Sutton-at-Hone, and his birth certificate shows that his father's profession was plumber and glazier, and his mother's name was Jane Elizabeth, formerly Hoadby.

In 1851 they were still at Sutton-at-Hone, but William's occupation was now "painter". Jane died in 1860 and by 1861 Margaret and Edwin had moved to Maidstone where William was Innkeeper of the Globe Inn. Rosina was apprenticed nearby as a milliner to Elijah Soran, a Draper, but there is no sign of William junior or Elizabeth (who may of course have married).

3.1.4 Alfred Barham

Alfred Barham was born on 4th October 1812 and christened at Swanscombe on 1st November that year. There is no further trace of him on the censuses, but he was the informant on his father's death certificate in 1846, and is named in his will as Executor (see above). It is therefore surprising that neither the censuses or the BMD register have any reference to him.

3.1.5 Susannah Barham

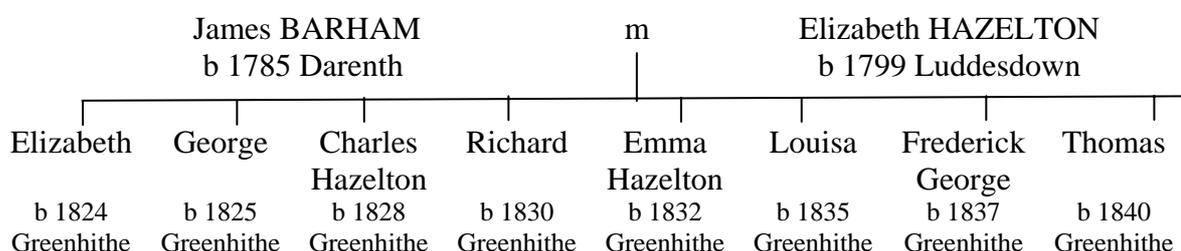
Susannah is another mystery. Her baptism is recorded in the Swanscombe Parish Register as September 11th 1814, and she is named Executrix of her father's will with her brother Alfred. Like Alfred there is no further to her, unless she is the Susannah who appears in later in this account, as the first wife of Emma Barham's second husband (see 4.4)

3.1.6 Edward, Henry and Frances Barham

Edward and Henry Barham were twins, both of whom were buried on September 3rd 1818. A year later a Frances Barham was buried on 14th October 1819 aged 3 days. No baptism is recorded for any of these infants, so there is no direct evidence that they were the children of James and Mary.

3.2. Children of James and Elizabeth Barham

James and Elizabeth had 8 children, all but one of whom survived to adulthood.



3.2.1 Elizabeth Barham

Elizabeth was the eldest child of the family, and was probably born in 1824. Her Christening is recorded Swanscombe Parish Register as 18th July 1824.

In the censuses of 1851 – 1891 her age is described inconsistently – 25 (1851), (1861), 44 (1871), 52 (1881), 59 (1891) and 65 (death certificate 1893). She must have been born before 1828, as her brother Charles was born in July of that year, and in the 1841 census her age is stated as 17, which is consistent with the year of 1824. It is clear that there was considerable “economy of the truth” by many females when giving their ages on censuses and civil registration documents.

In 1851 she was working as a servant at Horne Castle, for the family of Thomas and Arabella Cooper. Initially there was no trace of her on the 1861 census, but looking for people born in Swanscombe she can be found misspelt as Barnham. She was then working as a housemaid for a solicitor, Geo A Crowder, at 42, Portland Place, London. By 1871 she was back home again, living with her mother, still unmarried, and working as a schoolmistress. She must have been only 22 when her father died, and so presumably as the eldest child (and daughter) the task of caring for her increasingly elderly mother fell to her.

She is recorded again living in Greenhithe in the 1881 census, still working as a schoolmistress, and the 1891 census shows she was living in Stone with the family of George Stone, an Assurance Agent, where she was working as a housekeeper. She remained unmarried until her death in 1893.

3.2.2 George Barham

I was unaware of the existence of George until I received Ronald Barham’s genealogical tree. He was baptised on 17th October 1825, but in 1836 was drowned in the Thames, and was buried on August 29th.

3.2.3 Charles Hazelton Barham

Charles was born on 9th July 1828, and is the direct ancestor of our line of the family. He is therefore described further in section 4.

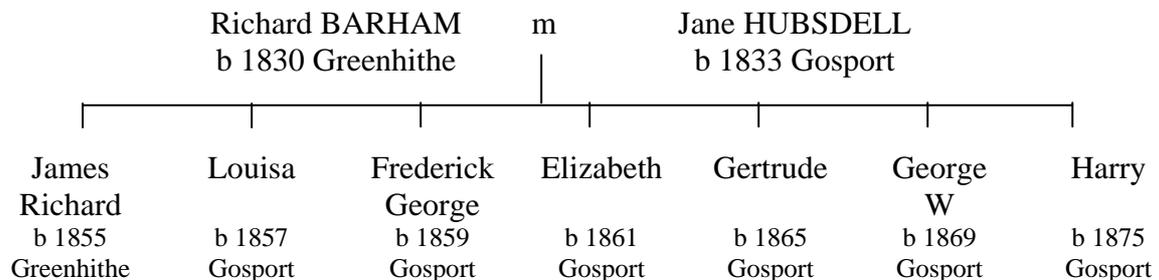
3.2.4 Richard Barham

Richard was the fourth child and was baptised on 4th April 1830.

In 1851 he was, like all his brothers, still living with his mother in Greenhithe, and had trained as a carpenter. He married Jane Hubsdell on 9th July 1853 in Frindsbury Kent. His sister Louisa was one of the witnesses. Jane was from Gosport in Hampshire, the daughter of James Hubsdell, a sailmaker, and by 1861 they had moved there, but for a while they must have lived in Greenhithe as an infant James Richard Barham died there in 1855.

In 1861 two further children had been born, Louisa Jane (b 1857) and Frederick George (b 1859). It was from this latter child's birth certificate that Jane's maiden name was confirmed as Hubsdell. Richard is described as a "carpenter, journeyman".

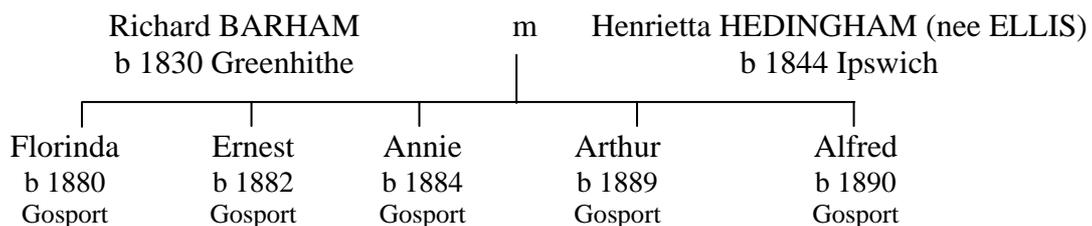
In the 1871 census Richard is described as a joiner, and there are three more children – Elizabeth E (b 1861), Gertrude (b 1865) and George W (b 1869). All these children had been born in Gosport.



Jane died in 1875, aged 42, from complications of a miscarriage, and by 1881 Richard had remarried, to Henrietta Maria Hedingham (nee Ellis), born in Ipswich and aged 37. (Richard was by this time aged 51). Henrietta was the widow of John Hedingham, who she had married in 1872, but had died 4 years later, leaving two children, Henrietta (b 1874) and John (b 1875). He was possibly in the army, and had died in Ormskirk, Lancashire.

The 1881 census shows George was still living with Richard and his new wife, and there were two new children, Harry (b 1875) and Florinda (b 1880), plus stepson John, who was born in Liverpool in 1875. Thus Harry was Jane's son, whilst Florinda must have been the daughter of Henrietta.

The 1891 census shows a further cohort of children – Ernest (b 1882), Annie (b 1884), Arthur (b 1889) and Alfred (b 1890) plus another child from Henrietta's first marriage – also called Henrietta, and born in Gosport in 1874.



Richard was still described as a Joiner, and the eldest child living with them (Harry) was now working as a plumber.

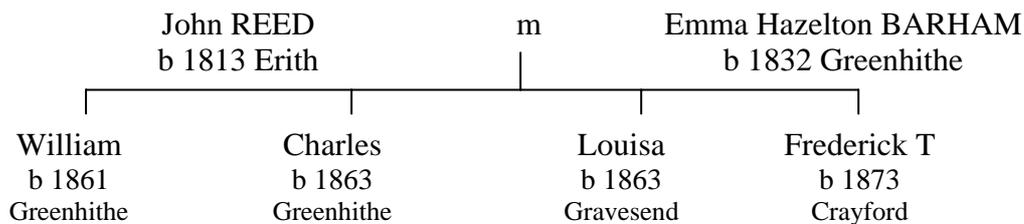
Richard died in 1897, but left 12 children from his two marriages.

3.2.5 Emma Hazelton Barham

Emma was born in 1832 and her Christening is recorded in the Swanscombe Parish Register as 9th December 1832. The 1851 census shows that, like her two sisters, she had gone into service following her father's death. In her case she was working for a Mr William Ford, a surgeon living in Crayford.

Emma was the last of the children of James and Elizabeth to be identified, and yet has proved to be one of the most interesting for research. She was originally located as a chance find browsing for Barhams who were married in Greenhithe, and the clue was her second name. The marriage certificate shows that in 1859, at 26, she married a plumber, John Reed, born in Erith (yet another connection), who was 20 years her senior and a widower. The witnesses were her two younger siblings (Louisa and Frederick) and Elizabeth Hazelton. This could be her mother, who we know had not married her father, or it could be a cousin who is listed in the 1851 census living in Swanscombe with her Father (Richard) and Mother (Harriett).

In 1861 they were living in Swanscombe (where they had married) and they had one child William, born that year. Ten years later they had moved to Islington, where John was working as a painter, and they had two further children, Charles (b 1863) and Louisa (b 1865). Shortly after that they moved south of the river again, to Crayford, where another son, Frederick (b 1873) had been added to the family. They were still living there at the time of the 1881 census.



John Reed died in 1887, but in 1891 the youngest son Frederick was living in Erith, with his uncle Joseph “Westbury”, an upholsterer. Joseph was initially a mystery, as he does not appear on any other census or civil registration index. His wife's name was Emma, and she was born in Greenhithe in 1835. Surely this must be Emma Barham, but then why was Frederick not described as Joseph's stepson? Why is there no record of their marriage?

A more detailed search of the 1901 census however reveals the true spelling of the name as “Wesbury”. Joseph Wesbury could now be traced, having been married to Susannah, born in Swanscombe in 1823, and must be the same Joseph Wesbury recorded as a witness at Charles and Eliza's wedding. Earlier censuses show them as having two children, James Edwin (b 1853) and Joseph Barham (b 1857). The Victorians'

habit of occasionally giving a child their mother's maiden name as a second forename once again proves extremely helpful.

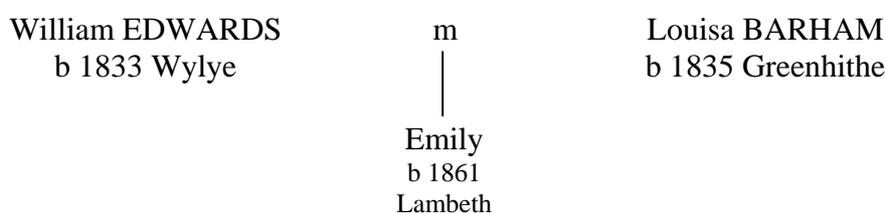
Susannah's birth date is unclear, as the 1881 census gives it as 1817, and at her death in 1886 she was apparently 74 years old. The Susannah Barham daughter of James and Mary mentioned in 3.1.2 was baptised on 11th September 1814, and as she was an 'aunt' of Emma's son, she could have been Emma's half-sister. However on the marriage certificate Susannah's father was recorded as Charles, an "oilman", so this seems to refute that. The only Susannah Barham to appear in the Swanscombe parish register was the daughter of James and Mary born in 1814, and there is no trace anywhere of Charles the oilman. If we could ignore him, there would be no doubt that both Susannah's were one and the same.

Joseph and Emma were married in 1888 in Hackney. By 1901, Joseph and Emma had moved to Erith, and Frederick was still living with them. Joseph died in 1910, but no trace has yet been found of Emma's death.

3.2.6 Louisa Barham

The male children of James and Elizabeth were relatively easy to find, but there was a large gap between Richard (1830) and Frederick (1838), which suggested others not yet located.

The grandchild present on the 1871 census provided a clue. Searching for Emily Edwards in the 1861 census showed her aged 0, living in Lambeth with her father William Edwards, a travelling ironmonger, and her mother Louisa, born in Greenhithe aged 26. Louisa was therefore presumably born in 1835. This is confirmed by the record in the Swanscombe Parish Register of her Baptism on 2nd April 1835.



When the 1851 census became available, she was located working as a servant in Greenhithe for John Jackson, and licensed victualler.

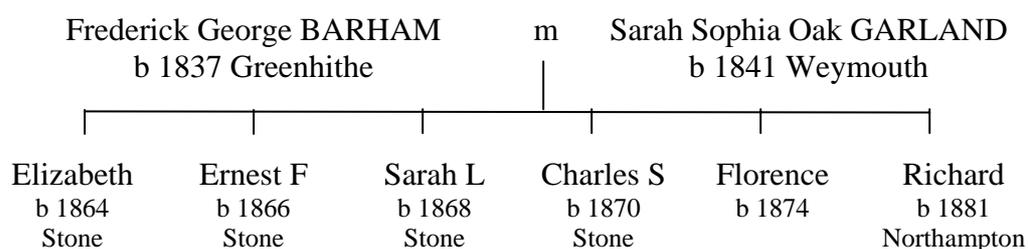
There is no further trace of Louisa or her husband after the 1861 census. Emily's presence with her grandmother in 1871 suggests that she was either orphaned (although there is no trace of her parents' deaths) or perhaps they had emigrated.

3.2.7 Frederick George Barham

Frederick George was born on 14th August 1837. Initially his name had come to light by searching for individuals with the surname Barham born in Greenhithe between 1828 and 1850, but the introduction of civil registration in 1837 meant that his birth certificate was available. This shows the name of both his parents, plus the occupation of his father and the maiden name of his mother.

In 1851 (age 14) he was listed as an “errand boy”, living with his mother and brothers, and 1861, although still living in Greenhithe, he had now married. His wife’s name was Sarah Garland, and she was born in Weymouth – a connection that will appear again later. His occupation was described here as “Plummer and decorator”, and they had one child at the time – Frederick William born in 1861.

The 1871 census shows that they had moved to Erith, along with, as we have seen, other members of his extended family. They were living in Crown Street, and by now although Frederick William had died (1864), they had 4 further children, Elizabeth (1864), Ernest (1866), Sarah (1868) and Charles (1870). Frederick was now described (as was his late father) as a “plumber and glazier”.



By 1881 the family had left Erith, and Frederick was no longer in the building trades. They had moved to Northampton, where he was working as a “commission agent”. Elizabeth was not living with them, but they now had two further children, Florence (1874) and Richard (1881).

In the 1891 census there is no trace of Frederick, but Sarah had now moved to Croydon, and she was described as “widowed”, living with two of her children.

The 1901 census does however show Frederick being very much alive, and also living in Croydon, as a lodger, and working as a self-employed “signwriter and glazier”. Sarah was also still alive, living elsewhere in Croydon, but she did this time give her status as married. So Frederick and Sarah had presumably separated at some time between 1881 and 1891.

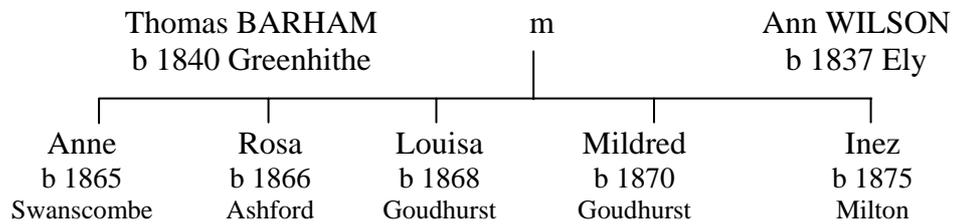
Frederick died in Croydon in 1915, aged 78

3.2.8 Thomas Barham

Thomas, born in 1840, was the last child of James and Elizabeth. On the 1841 census he is listed aged 1 year, and ten years later he and his brothers were still living with their mother in Greenhithe, their father having died in 1846. In 1861 the census shows he was now the only family member still living with his mother in Greenhithe. His occupation was stated as “painter”.

He apparently married Ann Wilson some time between 1861 and 1865. She was three years his senior, and born in Ely, but there is no evidence that they actually married. Elizabeth's identity was obtained from the birth certificate of their second child, Rosa Emma, born in Ashford in 1866. by 1871 they had moved to Goudhurst in Kent, where he was working as a police constable. Four daughters are listed, Anne (b 1865 Swanscombe), Rosa (b 1866 W Ashford), Louisa (b 1868) and Mildred (b 1870), both born Goudhurst, so they moved from Greenhithe to Ashford between 1865 and 1866, and thence to Goudhurst between 1866 and 1868.

The 1881 census shows he was still a policeman, and they had moved to Eyethorne, near Eastry. There was one further child – Inez, who was born in Milton in 1875



Ann died in Hoo in the last quarter of 1888 - she is listed in the Deaths index as Ann Willson Barham age 53. By 1891 Thomas had retired and was living in Westerham with daughter Mildred and a grandson, Ernest Hussey, born in Hoo in 1888 (the time and place of Ann's death). He was still living in Westerham in 1901, but now by himself. He died in 1908, aged 67.

4. Charles Hazelton Barham

Charles' identity and profession (plumber) was known from the marriage certificate of his son Herbert, and his second name, Hazelton, always gave a suspicion that it was a family name. It was originally confirmed to me as his mother's maiden name when I obtained the birth certificate of his brother Frederick.

After his father's death, he took over the family business, and as described above is recorded as the head of the household in the 1851 census, occupation "plumber, painter and glazier". In 1854 He married Eliza Sargent at St Saviour's Church in Southwark. Both were living in Borough Market, at the time, and Charles' occupation was given as "plumber". The fathers of groom and bride were stated as "James Barham – plumber" and "Richard Sargent – carpenter". The Sargents had been living in Greenhithe in 1851, and Charles' future father-in-law was then described as a "Coast Guard Officer". The witnesses at the marriage were Joseph Edwin Wesbury, and Elizabeth Ann Sargent (Eliza's sister), both of whom we shall meet again later.

In 1855 a son Charles Jessop Barham was born in Greenhithe, but he died 8 months later. Another Charles, this time Charles James was born in 1857, also in Greenhithe.

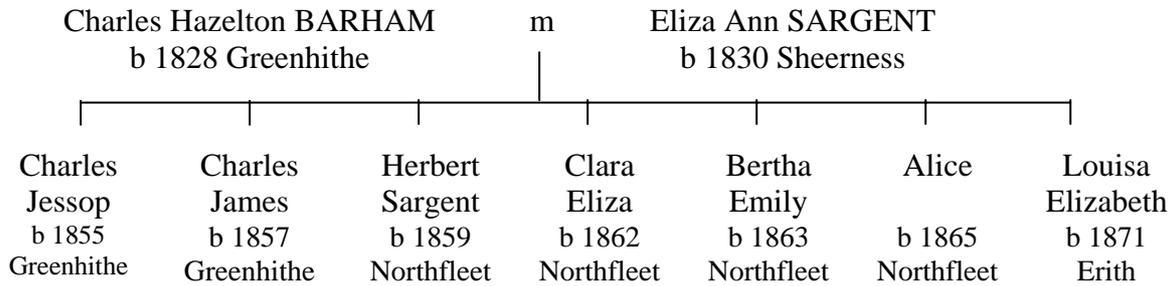
The 1861 census shows Charles working as a plumber and builder and living in Northfleet, with his wife and two children, Charles and Herbert (who was born in Northfleet in 1859), so the family must have moved there between 1857 and 1859.

It is of interest that also living in Northfleet at the time was a William Barham and his family. He was a carpenter, and born in Frant, Sussex in 1838. There is no evidence of any relationship with Charles.

Charles' wife Eliza was aged 30 at the time of the 1861 census, which shows she was born in Sheerness. This is the only document available where she is recorded as "Elizabeth", a source of some confusion as she had a younger sister named Elizabeth. On every other occasion she is described as "Eliza" or "Elisa".

By 1871 the family had moved to Erith, a rapidly developing town due to the advent of the railway, and the home of many Barhams for the next 30 years. This is not the first contact with Erith by the family however, as Eliza's younger brother, Richard, had been born there in 1844.

Both Charles' (father and son) are described in the census as plumbers, but strangely Herbert Sargent (the ancestor of our family) was not listed, a mystery that will be solved when I come to describe him in detail in section 5. They had added four daughters to the family, Clara (b. 1862), Bertha (b. 1863), Alice (b. 1865) and Louisa (b. 1871). Alice had been born in Northfleet, so they must have moved to Erith sometime after 1865.



The 1881 census shows they were living at 27, High Street, Erith. Louisa is now listed under her second name, Elizabeth. Charles H is described as a plumber and decorator, and it would appear that the whole family apart from young Elizabeth are involved in the business. However, once again Herbert is not present.

By 1891 all the children had left home, but Charles and Elisa (sic) were both present, Charles was still described as a plumber and decorator, and the census now lists the employment status as 'employer'.

In 1901 they were still alive - Charles had retired, and they had moved to Greenwich. Charles died on 7th August 1909, aged 80 of 'morbus cordis, syncope', only 3 months before his son Herbert. He was living at 1, Oakfield Terrace, Barnfield Rd, Erith, and his eldest daughter Clara was present at the death.

Eliza lived for another two years, dying in early 1911 at the age of 80.

4.1 Children of Charles Hazelton and Eliza Barham

4.1.1 Charles James Barham

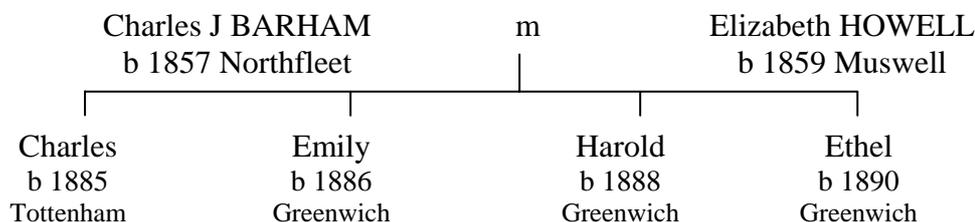
The first child born to Charles and Eliza was a son named Charles Jessop Barham. (Jessop was the maiden name of Eliza's mother). He was baptised at Swanscombe on 29th August 1855 but died 8 months later and was buried on 20th March 1856.

4.1.2 Charles James Barham

Charles, the elder son of Charles and Eliza was born in Greenhithe in 1857, before the family moved to Northfleet. The 1871 census, when he was 14, records him as a plumber, whilst in 1881 he was still living at home, but now described as a builder and decorator.

In 1883 he married Elizabeth Howell, the daughter of a florist in Hampstead. Both were living in Hampstead at the time, and the witnesses were Ellen Howell (her mother?) and Edward Charles Myall. (This last surname is difficult to decipher). Charles was now described as a builder, and his father as a plumber.

The residence north of the river did not last long, as by 1886 they had moved to Greenwich. Their first child, yet another Charles, was born in 1885 in Tottenham, and the 1891 census records three further offspring, Emily (b 1886), Harold (b 1888) and Ethel (b 1890), all of whom were born in Greenwich.



The 1901 census shows they had returned to Erith, where they were living in a house called "Oakhurst", and Charles was now described as "Brickmaker and Cont." All four children were still living at home, and the family now had a servant, Jane Siddley, who came from Grimsby.

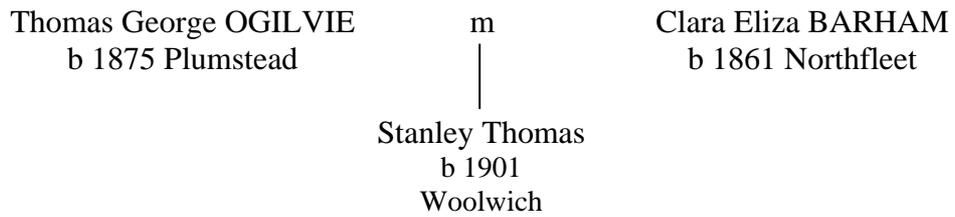
My father does not recall meeting his great uncle Charles, as he had remained in Erith whilst Herbert had moved to Southend (see below). However he was known to be a great character and entrepreneur. His main endeavours were in civil engineering, and apparently he spent time overseas, notably in Nigeria, building bridges. He was also a great sailor, and kept winning all the races held at Erith.

I do not yet know when he died.

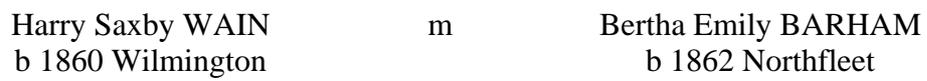
4.1.3 Herbert Sargent Barham

Herbert, my great grandfather, was born on 5th September 1859. He is described in detail in section 5.

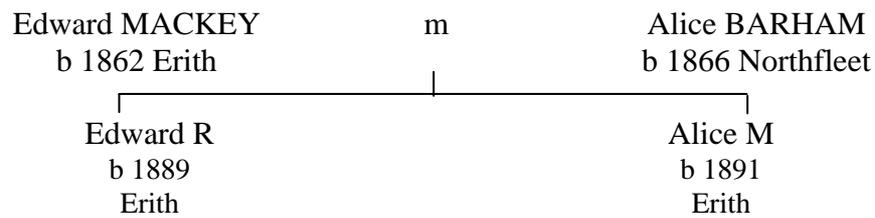
4.1.4 Clara Eliza Barham



4.1.5 Bertha Emily Barham



4.1.6 Alice Barham



4.1.7 Louisa Elizabeth Barham

5. Herbert Sargent Barham

Herbert Sargent Barham was my great-grandfather, and as mentioned above had been a considerable puzzle when researching the family history.

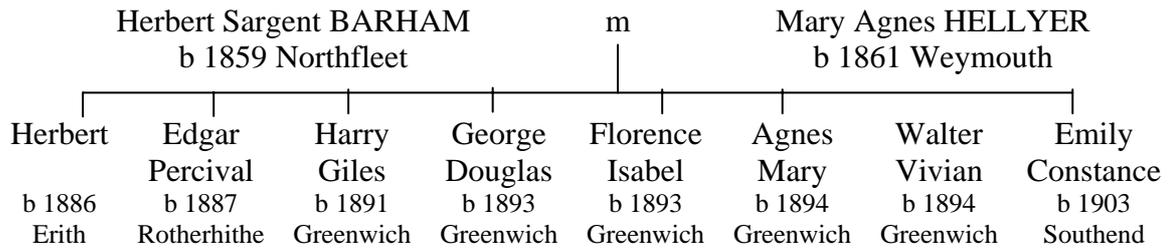
He was born on 5th September 1859 in Northfleet, and in the 1861 census was recorded living there with his parents and elder brother Charles. However in 1871 when the family had moved to Erith he had disappeared. Extensive searches failed to reveal any sign of him until, when looking for anyone with the first names of “Herbert S” living in Erith, the name of “Hurbert S Barbano, age 11, was returned. He was apparently living at the Locomotive Inn with his grandfather “Richard Taggart” grandmother “Elizabeth Taggart” and aunt, also called Elizabeth. Examination of the census form showed that these were mistranscriptions – it was indeed Herbert S Barham, and his grandparents’ name was in fact Sargent – his second name. What however was even more curious was that the 1861 census had recorded his mother’s name as Elizabeth, and yet here was another Elizabeth, unmarried, living with her parents and nephew. As has been described previously, it turned out that Herbert’s mother was in fact Elisa, and so the recording on the 1861 census must have been an error.

Herbert’s grandfather Richard Sargent had been a Coastguard in Sheerness, but he had moved to Lambeth by 1861, and thence to Erith by 1871. The Locomotive Inn was a beer house rather than a public house, and was still in existence in the 1830s, as one of the volunteers at the Erith Museum recalled when I visited in the summer of 2005, being in the High Street, on the opposite side of the road from the Cross Keys.

In 1881 Herbert was still living at the Locomotive Inn rather than with his family, but nothing is known about the reason for this. However my father reports that when my grandfather spoke of his early life in Erith and SE London, he mentioned the two businesses – building and the pub.

On 16th December 1882, Herbert married Mary Agnes Hellyer in Rotherhithe. Mary was from Weymouth, and the daughter of Giles Hellyer, a mariner. Although there was already a family connection with Weymouth, through George’s wife Sarah, it is also possible that Giles might have frequented the Locomotive on visits up the Thames.

Herbert and Mary’s first child was also named Herbert, and was born in Erith in 1886. He was soon followed by Edgar Percival, my grandfather; born on 20th December 1887 in Rotherhithe. After that the family moved to Greenwich, where 5 more children were born – Harry Giles (1891) George Douglas (1893) Florence Isabel ((1894), Agnes Mary (1894) and Walter Vivian (1895). The last two however died in childhood, Agnes at the age of 6 and Walter at 5.



In 1901 they were living in Greenwich in the Old Dover Road. Once again mistranscriptions of the name in the index make them difficult to locate – Herbert is listed as “Harley S Bainham”. Fortunately the children are on the next page and are correctly listed with the surname Barham. The eldest 5 children are present (Agnes and Walter having died in infancy).

Sometime over the next few years the family moved to Southend. Apparently my great-grandfather had sworn he would not be seen dead in Essex, but perhaps the economics of the building trade made him reconsider that. The ultimate irony was that he met an early death; succumbing at the age of 50. The death certificate records the cause as “Morbus Cordis, Influenza – sudden Heart Failure”.

He was buried in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend. The grave stone is described as:

A tall stone with two handshakes at the top and crazy paved base over all, positioned on right before central cross on main entry road four gravestones in from both directions on corner.

*IN LOVING MEMORY OF
HERBERT S BARHAM
WHO DIED NOVEMBER 28TH 1909
AGED 50 YEARS*

*A LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER EVER KIND
THE LOSS IS GREAT TO THOSE HE LEFT BEHIND
THE TRIAL IS HARD BUT WE’LL NOT COMPLAIN
BUT TRUST IN CHRIST TO MEET AGAIN*

*ALSO OF HIS BELOVED WIFE
MARY AGNES BARHAM
WHO DIED OCTOBER 9TH 1952
AGED 90 YEARS*

AT REST WITH THE LORD

So Mary Agnes lived till the ripe old age of 91 (a year more than recorded on the gravestone), and according to my father was instrumental in ensuring the building business prospered.

My grandfather Edgar (“Perce”) and his brother George (“Doug”) became partners in the firm of P and D Barham which built many houses in the Southend area in the

1920s and 30s, despite the difficulties that the war presented. Harry started the timber business of H G Barham, which continued to trade until the late 1990s, when it was finally wound up.

5.1 Children of Herbert Sargent and Mary Agnes Barham

5.1.1 Herbert

5.1.2 Edgar Percival

5.1.3 Harry Giles

5.1.4 George Douglas

5.1.5 Florence Isabel

5.1.6 Agnes Mary

5.1.7 Walter Vivian

5.1.8 Emily Constance

Version 10.0

Chris Barham

Hartfield, Sussex November 2009