

Mrs M Skilton  
1 St John's Drive  
Hooe  
Plymouth  
PL9 9SD

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2000

Dear Sir

Last Monday I was able to fulfil a long time ambition to visit the village of East Meon and your inn. I have been researching my family history for several years and found that my father's great grandparents were married in 1840 in East Meon Church.

Upon further investigations, I found that the wife -Phoebe Love was the fourth daughter of Edward and Sarah Love and was born in 1817.

The census show that her eldest sister Elizabeth married William Sims. They were landlords of the George Inn Church Street East Meon at least from June 1841 until April 1871

It was a great delight for me to find in the corner of your lounge, a receipted bill by E J Love. I know that Edward Love lived in East Meon from 1812-1828 because of the baptism records of his children. Edward and Sarah had one son who was called James, therefore I think it is quite likely that he is the E J Love who signed the bill.

Pheobe Love and John Couzens had many children. Their eldest daughter Emma married James Murrant who, in 1861, was barman at the George Inn.

George Edwin Couzens was the first Lord Mayor of Portsmouth in 1895. He also served two more terms in 1904/5 and was knighted at Whitehall in December 1905 by Edward VII.

He was much loved and on his death in 1925 the people throw flowers on his coffin (as at Princess Diana's funeral).

Another brother Charles, was an imminent doctor and together they raised £18000 to build the Royal Infirmary in Portsmouth which was extended in 1899.

If there is anyone in the district can enlighten me further about your charming village and in particular the George Inn, I should be delighted to hear from them.

Thank you for making my visit so worthwhile and for an excellent lunch.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Skilton

1759	WILLIAM <u>LOVE</u>	x	MARY PADWICK.
1777	JOHN ISAAC	x	ANN <u>LOVE</u>
1779	WILLIAM <u>LOVE</u>	x	ELIZABETH SMITH
1795	EDWARD <u>LOVE</u>	x	SARAH GREEN
1809	EDWARD <u>LOVE</u>	x	SARAH OLIVER.
1833	WILLIAM SIMS	x	ELIZABETH <u>LOVE</u>
1833	WILLIAM <u>LOVE</u>	x	MARY ANN SMITH.

- (189) 1mo MARTHA, w of William Love, jr, wdth Dec 27 1753 Age 29
- (190) 1mo William Love wdth 13 Sept 1799 age 71, also Mary w of William Love wdth 8 Dec 1808 aged 80.
- (201) 5TMO Sarah, w of Edward Love, wdth Feb 26 1815 age 53, also 6 infants, son + dau's of above, Edward Love, d Dec 21 1850 aged 62.