

'The Budds of East Meon' by Alan Newbold

The First Budds (1600 -1750)

The surname Budd comes from the French word for 'Beetle' and may also mean 'Tubby'. The transcription of names over the years causes variations in the spelling; the surnames Bud and Budd are common alternatives. The original spelling of the name was probably Bud.

The name occurs in Hampshire, Somerset, Oxfordshire and London. A 'well-to-do' Budd family resided in Winchester during the seventeenth century and made a number of bequests to the poor. One member of the family served as Mayor.

The Budd families, who were my ancestors, resided in and around the village of **East Meon**.

Exactly how and when the first Budds came to the village is not known. Early records are sparse but the parish register for All Saint's Church does record the marriage, in 1606, between Elizabeth Bud and Henry Haslet, which indicates that there was a Bud family living in the village at the time of James I and most probably before. This register and those of neighbouring churches show that two families lived in the village during the seventeenth century, namely those of Anthony Bud (b1636) and John Bud (b 1643); records also show an Elizabeth Budd (b1634). Christian names at this time were often similar, e.g. John, Richard, Elizabeth and Mary, which makes family links difficult to establish; it is, therefore, not clear whether or not these individuals were related but it is feasible that they were from one family, that of John Bud (b c1610). There is a record (IGI)ⁱ of the marriage, in 1674 between Anthony Budd and Mary Bacon in Somerset, which could suggest that this family of Budds came from another county. The East Meon register records the death, in 1702, of Mary Bud, wife of Anthony and a marriage, in 1709, between Anthony Budd and Alice Fleet, which could mean that Anthony entered into a second marriage.

At the start of the eighteenth century records were better and the registers show clearly two families residing in the village; these were the families of John and Martha Budd and Richard and Mary Budd. John Budd was born in 1702, and was most probably the son of Anthony and Mary Bud. John and Richard may have been cousins.

John was a farm labourer and married Martha Dicker from Ashe, near Basingstoke in 1734ⁱⁱ. They had six children including twins James Dicker and Thomas Dicker Budd. Their daughter Mary and son Thomas both died in infancy and left the only tangible record of these early Budd families to be found in the village. Inside All Saints' Church, East Meon there is a monumental inscription, which reads:

"In memory of Mrs Eleanor Ford, widow, died 24 May 1743, age 64. Also in memory of Mary daughter of John Budd and Martha his wife who died as an infant. Thomas Dicker Budd."

The children had been buried in the grave of an unrelatedⁱⁱⁱ adult, which was a common practice at this time. John and Martha's eldest son was another John and was born in 1739 /1740 and like his predecessors worked on the land.

John Budd (1740-?)

John Budd, my earliest known ancestor^{iv}, was probably the first child of John and Martha Budd; in 1780, he married Elizabeth Thomas, who was also from the parish of East Meon^v.

John and Elizabeth had five children, three of whom were called John, Mary and Elizabeth. It is worth noting that these three names occurred in every generation to date and provides supporting evidence that we are following the same family line. The other child was called Thomas. Elizabeth and Thomas may have been named using their mother's names but the names Elizabeth and Thomas also occur in the family of John and Martha. The first child named Elizabeth died in infancy and the name was used again for the second child; this practice may seem strange to us today but there is evidence that it was not uncommon in these days. Little is known of the children but records show that John was a farmer and his sister Elizabeth, who did not marry, lived into her eighties; in later life she lived with the widow of her brother John (Mary Ann (Eade))^{vi}.

John Budd (1792-1871)

John was the first son of John and Elizabeth^{vii} and took the family into the nineteenth century, a time, when a number of Budd families were now living and working on farms in and around East Meon^{viii}.

In 1815 John married a local girl, Charlotte Waller and the couple had ten children most of whom had marriage partners from within the village community and lived and worked in the area. John began life as a farm labourer and lived at Ramsdean, near East Meon but in later life he either owned or managed a small dairy farm, at Stroud Bridge, near East Meon. Charlotte died at a relatively young age, leaving a number of young children. John employed a servant, Mary Ann Eade to help with the farm and to look after the children. In 1841 John married Mary Ann, who was of course much younger. John had a second family of seven children with Mary Ann and the youngest, William, was born when John was 66 years old. John continued to live and work the farm at Stroud with Mary Ann, his sister Elizabeth and his older sons, until he was eighty.

When John died he left Mary Ann as a young widow; fortunately all their children were now grown up and the older sons helped their mother to work the farm. Later Mary Ann married Nicholas Pink and they continued to work the farm with the help of her son Frank.

Henry Budd (1816 -1891)

Henry was the eldest son of John and Charlotte Budd. Like his predecessors, Henry worked as a farm labourer. He married a local girl, Jane Slooper^{ix}, in 1838 and the couple lived at 20 High Street, East Meon, where they raised a family of twelve children. In later life, Henry moved to Park Lodge, on the road to Petersfield. Henry's youngest daughter, Hephzibah, had an illegitimate son, Frederick, and later married Frederick Garrett^x and they went to live in Farnborough.

In the second half of the nineteenth century improvements in transport and the British economy brought about social and demographic changes that would end the family tradition which had kept the Budd family in East Meon for three centuries. Changes were to take place in the occupations of Henry's children and grandchildren; changes that would result in a move away from East Meon.

Henry's first son, Henry, became a farm labourer like his father; he married Elizabeth Ellen Merritt, from Clanfield and the family moved across the border into West Sussex. William and his brother John broke the family tradition of working on the land and took up the trade of bricklayer becoming "journeymen bricklayers", which means that they were self-employed and travelled from

place to place, wherever they could find work. Sometimes work could be found in the East Meon area, where they both lived, but sometimes they had to go further afield, possibly to neighbouring Portsmouth. At one time William was reportedly living at Cosham, near Portsmouth and it is feasible that he may have been employed in the building of the hill forts on Portsdown Hill (the "Palmerston Follies"). The other sons also left the land and took up other trades: Alfred became a saddler and continued to live in the East Meon area, George became a coachman and moved to London.

William Budd (1841 -1910)

William was the second son of Henry Budd and Jane Slooper, he was born in May 1841 at 20 High Street.

William met Sophia Harriett, the daughter of James^{xi} and Ann White, who was born in November 1847 at 150 High Street, Portsmouth. William and Sophia were married, in April 1864 at St Mary's Church, Portsmouth. Later the couple returned to East Meon and lived with his Sophia's parents at the 'Olde George Inn'; they helped to run the pub and it was here that their first children were born.

In 1869 James' wife, Ann Frances White, died and was buried at All Saints' Church, East Meon. Her grave can be found in the churchyard with other family graves. James retired and returned to Soberton, his home village.

William and Sophia continued to manage the Olde George during the 1870's; several more children were born and by the end of the decade they had a family of nine children. In 1878 their son, Cecil Theodore, tragically fell from a table and broke his neck, he subsequently died from his injuries, he was only 8 years old; he was buried beside his grandmother in the churchyard at All Saints' Church.

William and Sophia left the Olde George around 1880 and moved to Rookham Lodge, on the Petersfield road. William returned to bricklaying and it was about this time that the family moved to Cosham for a short while. While they were at Cosham they had another son, Albert Cosham. When they moved back to East Meon they lived in the High Street, where a further five children were born. William and Sophia raised a total of fifteen children. Family accounts suggest that at the start of the twentieth century William and Sophia may have still had a connection with the Olde George or one of the other inns in the village.

William died at Chapel Cottage, in July 1910, at the age of 69 and was buried at All Saints' Churchyard with his daughter Rose Pauline, who had died in 1893, at the age 17 years, from an unspecified illness.

Sophia continued to live at East Meon for a short time but, as was the custom in those days, as she grew older she stayed, in turn, with her daughters, including Emily (Newbold) at Cosham. In December 1938, when she died, she was living with her daughter Mabel in West Dulwich, London SE 21. Sophia was 92 years old when she died and her body was returned to East Meon for burial in the churchyard with William and Rose^{xii}.

William's family, like members of other Budd families were to leave East Meon, never to return. The girls mostly went into service in the large houses of late Victorian and Edwardian Britain, some married servicemen and raised families locally, in Portsmouth or Gosport; others moved further afield to places such as London and Deal. Some of the boys, perhaps following the footsteps of their grandfather James, signed up with the Royal Marines, which perhaps gave them more security than working on the land. Two of these, Albert and Owen, saw active service in WW1 and further details can be found in other accounts.

Three of William's sons: William James, Walter Godwin and Hubert Conrad, like many Europeans at that

time, felt the call of the 'new-world'; in 1888, 1889 and 1898 respectively, they left East Meon bound for Canada to begin new lives; they settled in Minnedosa, Manitoba. After a visit in 1905, the brothers returned to Canada with their younger sister, Eliza Jane. Accounts from their descendants suggest that they were 'pioneer' farmers, who became very successful in their adopted country^{xiii}. The only son to remain in East Meon was Arthur George, he began his working life as a farm labourer but later became a carpenter and then an engine driver (it is not known whether this was a railway engine or agricultural engine); he, too, left East Meon at the turn of the century and was living in Gosport when he died in 1952.

And so the dawning of the twentieth century brought to an end three hundred years of history. The Budd family had moved away from East Meon to destinations both near and far, leaving behind only a faint footprint of their passing. But the family story continues in this country, in Canada and in the USA, many individuals have a connection with East Meon through their descent from the 'Budds of East Meon'.

ⁱ International Genealogical Index

ⁱⁱ There is some speculation as to the identity of Martha. This account favours Martha Dicker because two of her children had the middle name 'Dicker' and it is a known practice for parents to name children with their mother's maiden name.

ⁱⁱⁱ There is no evidence to suggest that Mrs Ford was related to the Budds.

^{iv} The line of ascent from this point can be cross referenced, e.g. comparing parish registers with census records.

^v The Parish register does not record the marriage of John and Elizabeth but does record Banns having been read in 1780.

^{vi} The 1871 Census records Elizabeth Budd, unmarried and living with her sister-in-law, Mary Ann Budd, thus supporting this line of descent.

^{vii} The parish register records two John Budds of similar age: one the son of Richard and Ann, b 1790 and the other the son of John and Elizabeth, b 1792, The marriage certificate for John's second marriage to Mary Ann Eade records John's father as John Budd, thereby confirming this line of descent.

^{viii} During the nineteenth century other Budd families, some of whom were carters, came from away to live in the area. These families did not appear to be related to the original 'Budds of East Meon'.

^{ix} In some records this is 'Hooper'

^x It is not known whether or not Frederick Garrett was the child's father.

^{xi} James White was born at Soberton, Hampshire in 1808 and christened at St Peter's Church, the church in which I was married in 1969. He was a Royal Marine who, after retirement, became landlord of the 'White Lion' in Soberton and a public house in Adelaide Street, Portsmouth, in the 1860's, before becoming landlord of the Olde George Inn, East Meon.

^{xii} A combined memorial stands in the churchyard to the memory of William and Sophia and their daughter Rose. The memorial contains mistakes as it refers to Sophia Ann Budd and the date of death 1939

^{xiii} In 2008 some of William Budd's descendants met with their Canadian cousins and had a meal together at the Olde George inn.