

## The Appleby Family

### A brief history summarising the latest findings

- 1 The earliest written record of a member of the Appleby family found to date is the marriage of William Appleby to Sarah Harniss on 18 February 1757 at Stewton Parish Church, near Louth, Lincolnshire<sup>1</sup>. Sarah Harniss was born in Stewton in 1734, was baptised in the church there on 1 December 1734 and brought up in the village. Where did William come from? He came from Legbourne, a village 2 miles away, the son of John and Mary Appleby, and was born around 1729.
- 2 John Appleby was a farmer in Legbourne. He died in 1768, five years after his wife Mary, and they are both buried at Legbourne Parish Churchyard. When John died, he left a will in which he left £3 to his son William, £4 to his son Stephen and the remainder including (probably) land at Legbourne to his son John<sup>2</sup>. Nothing more is known about his sons John and Stephen, who were probably older than William.
- 3 After William and Sarah married, it is probable that they lived first at Legbourne, although this is not known with certainty. Their first child John was probably born within a year of their marriage, and another son William was born not long after that. At some time in the early 1760's, however, they moved to live in Stewton, where daughter Mary and twins Stephen and Frances were born. Unfortunately these last did not survive infancy, and are buried at Stewton Parish Churchyard. By the time of John Appleby's death in 1768, therefore, his son William was living in Stewton with his wife and their two sons. William was working as a farm labourer.
- 4 At some time in early 1780, William and Sarah's eldest son John Appleby married Elizabeth. Little is known about Elizabeth. Her maiden name was possibly Larder and she was some 10 years older than John. It is not known which village she came from, or where they were married, except that in neither case was it Stewton. At first John and Elizabeth probably lived at Stewton, where their first child Lucinda was born in 1780. Lucinda died soon after and was buried in Stewton on 12 January 1781.
- 5 John and Elizabeth moved to Legbourne, where John possibly worked as a farm labourer for one of his uncles, and it was whilst they lived in Legbourne that their son William was born. William was baptised on 4 January 1784 at Legbourne Parish Church<sup>3</sup>.
- 6 In June 1784 William (senior) and his son John bought an acre of land in neighbouring South Cockerington from John Grime, a yeoman. William paid the lion's share of the purchase price, £49, whilst John contributed a fairly nominal 10 shillings<sup>4</sup>. William continued to work as a labourer in Stewton, but his son John moved from Legbourne to live at South Cockerington with Elizabeth his wife and their son William. They had two further sons whilst living in South Cockerington; Thomas Larder Appleby (baptised on 24 December 1785) and John Appleby (baptised 28 February 1789).

- 7 William Appleby became a tailor, probably leaving home to serve an apprenticeship. At some time around 1806 he married Mary; she was from Hogsthorpe and about the same age as William. Mary's maiden name is not known with certainty; however a Mary Sorfleet married a William Appleby in Horncastle in 1806, and there is a good probability that this was the same William and Mary, especially since Horncastle was a likely location for William's apprenticeship as a tailor.
- 8 William and Mary's first child Mary was baptised in Stewton on 31 May 1807. William and Mary may therefore have been living in Stewton immediately after their marriage. However, it was a common custom in those days for the first child to be born and baptised in the parents' village, and so it is possible that William and Mary were living in South Cockerington whilst John and Elizabeth may by then have moved back to Stewton. The next two children, John and William, were baptised in South Cockerington in 1809 and 1811 respectively.
- 9 William Appleby (senior), still in Stewton, was now in his eighties. In May 1813 he made a will in which he left £5 to his younger son William, and all the land in South Cockerington and remaining money to his eldest son John<sup>5</sup>. William Appleby died on 6 March 1818 aged 88 and was buried 3 days later in Stewton Parish Churchyard. On his death his son John at last came into full ownership of the acre of land in South Cockerington, although John and his wife Elizabeth had moved back to Stewton. By this time the land at South Cockerington had been divided into three equal plots, each with a house and garden ground.
- 10 Meanwhile, William and Mary had moved to Louth - presumably a better location for a tailor to live. Eliza was baptised there in 1817, and on 24 May 1819 Samuel Appleby was baptised, followed in 1821 by Sarah<sup>6</sup>.
- 11 John Appleby was dying. On 6 July 1822 he made a will in which he left everything to his wife Elizabeth, but he directed that on her death the land at South Cockerington was to be divided equally between his three sons William, Thomas and John<sup>7</sup>. Thomas was at this time living in the easternmost cottage with his wife Elizabeth and their children, having moved back to the village from Yarborough. This cottage still stands today (though much altered), and is known as Rose Cottage. The central (stud and tiled) house was at this time occupied by a tenant, John Cox. The westernmost house (the Old House) was occupied by a tenant, Michael Lancaster. John Appleby was probably living in neighbouring Grimoldby, and William Appleby was still living in neighbouring Louth.
- 12 John Appleby (senior) died on 31 July 1822, aged 65. He was buried in Stewton Parish Churchyard on 2 August.
- 13 At some point in the next few years William and Mary moved back to South Cockerington - probably to the Old House. When their youngest daughter Jane was born in 1829 she was baptised at South Cockerington.
- 14 Elizabeth Appleby died in Stewton and was buried there on 24 May 1831, aged 84. She probably lived latterly with her son John, who had moved back to Stewton from Grimoldby at around the time of his father's death in 1822 to work the farm there.

- 15 Samuel Appleby served an apprenticeship and became a blacksmith. The details of this are not known yet, and this is an avenue for further research. On 5 June 1843 he married Elizabeth Scotney in her home village of Barrowby, near Grantham<sup>8</sup>. Elizabeth's father Charles and her brother John were both blacksmiths, and it is possible that Samuel had worked for Charles Scotney during his apprenticeship or as a journeyman blacksmith.
- 16 Samuel and Elizabeth settled down in South Cockerington after their marriage, Samuel setting up a smithy on the Appleby land (although whether on his father William's or on John's portion is uncertain at present). The smithy apparently remained until relatively recent times, but has now been demolished. Their first son Edward was baptised on 22 April 1844. He later became a blacksmith, moving eventually to Grimsby to practice his trade (he was known by Aunt Jane as Uncle Ned). After Edward came Mary (1846), Hannah (1847), Jane (1848) and Eliza (1851). Last of all came William, baptised at South Cockerington on 17 September 1854.
- 17 William (senior)'s brother Thomas died in 1852. His son George, who by that time was living in Grimoldby with a large family, inherited the easternmost cottage at South Cockerington, but immediately sold it to the tenant, Robert Kirman. William's other brother John Appleby had never lived in the stud and tiled cottage which he inherited, and certainly by 1852 he also had sold out to his tenant, Matthew Holloway.
- 18 William himself continued to own the Old House until his death in April 1860 at the age of 76, but during his later years he let the property to a tenant, William Crosscall, whilst he and his wife Mary probably lived with their daughter Jane or their son Samuel. It is not known who inherited the Old House on William's death.
- 19 Samuel bought the stud and tiled house from Matthew Holloway's son John Holloway in February 1859<sup>9</sup>. It is probable that Samuel's smithy was on this land and that Samuel had previously been a tenant of the Holloways. In any event, it is almost certain that Samuel lived and worked on this plot of ground until the close of the century.
- 20 Elizabeth's brother John Scotney had married Ellen Lane on 6 June 1859 in Barrowby. John was the blacksmith in Barrowby and was 46 when he married. They had a daughter Mary, born on 7 July 1860. Tragically John died a short time later, in December 1860, leaving Ellen to bring up Mary. Ellen remarried, to a Methodist parson named Rimmington, but he too died. Finally, on 19 May 1865, Ellen herself died, leaving Mary an orphan. Samuel Appleby, hearing of this, went to Barrowby, and finding Mary destitute brought her back to South Cockerington, where she was brought up with William who was ten at the time (the older children were away from home by then). Mary was known as Cousin Polly, and when she was old enough she left home and went to work in Nottingham. Later, she went to live at Mablethorpe, and Aunt Jane used to go to stay with her, usually at Easter. Cousin Polly died at Mablethorpe on 18 April 1928, and is buried in South Cockerington Churchyard<sup>10</sup>.

- 21 Elizabeth, Samuel's wife, died on 7 January 1874 aged 54, and was buried in South Cockerington Churchyard. A year later, on 25 March 1875, Samuel remarried, to Jane Waller, a widow, at South Cockerington.
- 22 Samuel's youngest son William served an apprenticeship as a joiner. The details of this are not known, but after he finished he lived and worked in Nottingham. On 9 May 1878 he married Annie Cooke at Woodborough Parish Church, Nottinghamshire<sup>11</sup>. Annie was from Woodborough, the daughter of John Cooke, a shoemaker, and his wife Ketura, a seamstress. Interestingly, Samuel was not present at the wedding, because he was at the wedding of his daughter Eliza to Thomas Cheffings in South Cockerington, which took place on the same day. Poor communication, bad relationships in the family, or maybe Samuel disapproved of the union?
- 23 William and Annie's first child, Annie Elizabeth, was born in late 1878 or early 1879. In the census of 1881 they were living at 8 Raglan Street, Nottingham, with two lodgers; Elizabeth Cooke (Annie's sister) and someone called Mary aged 21 from Grantham. This last was most probably Cousin Polly, who fits this description and, as was noted earlier, lived in Nottingham for some time. Cousin Polly had grown up with William, and he would have been the obvious person to come and stay with when she first moved to Nottingham from South Cockerington.
- 24 William and Annie's second child, Ada Keturah, was born on 9 December 1886. In the census of 1891 the family were living at 11 Kirkstead Street, Nottingham; this time with no lodgers. By that time Annie was expecting their third child; Mary Jane was born in October 1891. Samuel William was born on 4 June 1894, and Frances Nellie, the youngest child, was born on 28 February 1896. 1896 was also the year that William founded W. Appleby & Son, Building Contractors; evidently he had done quite well as a joiner and had been able to set up in business on his own.

## References

- 1 Marriage of William Appleby to Sarah Harniss, Stewton, 1757
- 2 Will of John Appleby of Legbourne, 1768
- 3 Baptism of William Appleby, Legbourne, 1784
- 4 Abstract of the Title of Mr Robert Kirman to land at South Cockerington, 1852
- 5 Will of William Appleby of Stewton, 1813
- 6 Baptism of Samuel Appleby, Louth, 1819
- 7 Will of John Appleby of Stewton, 1822
- 8 Marriage of Samuel Appleby to Elizabeth Scotney, Barrowby, 1843
- 9 Indenture of Mortgage between Samuel Appleby and John Hyde Bell, 1859
- 10 Transcript of letter from Jane Appleby to John Appleby, 1962  
(Some details not accurate - refer family tree)
- 11 Marriage of William Appleby to Annie Cooke, Woodborough, 1878
- 12 Map of Louth area
- 13 Appleby and Scotney family trees
- 14 Photograph of Appleby land, South Cockerington

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