

## *The Herridges in Blewbury, 1807-1907*



**JOHN HERRIDGE**, eldest son of **ROBERT HERRIDGE** and **SARAH COX**, married **SARAH GARLICK** on 1 December 1807 in St Swithin's Chapel, Wickham, described in Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of England of 1831 as 'that part of Welford which is in the hundred of Kintbury-Eagle'. (Wickham is a few miles SW of East Illsley). Both **JOHN** and **SARAH** 'made their marks' as did the witness to their wedding, William Garlick.

*According to IGI records (not verified), SARAH GARLICK was christened at Welford, Kintbury parish, on 27 March 1785. Her mother's name was given as ELIZABETH WHITE – there is no mention of a father. The census of 1851 shows a William Garlick, an agricultural labourer, born about 1783 in Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire, living in the hamlet of Benham Bassett in Welford parish with his wife, another Sarah. He seems to be the 'best fit' candidate for Sarah's brother William who was a witness at her wedding to JOHN Herridge. William*

*was also the name given to John and Sarah's first child.*

Following their marriage it is likely that **JOHN**, an agricultural labourer, and **SARAH** moved north, crossing the Ridge Way, to settle in Blewbury (old spelling Blewberry). We do know that they were residents of Blewbury from 1809, when William, whom we think was their first child, was baptised, until their deaths. **JOHN** was buried on 21 October 1863, aged 81, and **SARAH** on 22 July 1855, aged 71.

They had eleven children, all born in Blewbury and baptised in St Michael's church – William, Sarah, John, Martha, **THOMAS**, Hannah, Robert, Joseph, Charlotte, Lucy and Edward. What we know about them has been gleaned from the parish records (where exact dates are known), censuses (approx dates only) and BMD indexes (registration dates to the nearest quarter):

Their children seemed to have survived remarkably well: Only Charlotte died as a child, aged 6. The others all married, lived locally and had families of their own. Some lived into their 80s and were, or married to, agricultural labourers. The brother that we know most about is Robert as he features in *'This Venerable Village: some notes on Blewbury'* by Peter Northeast, published by the Blewbury Local History Group. (4<sup>th</sup> edition 1992).



### ***WILLIAM HERRIDGE***

Baptism: 15 June 1809, Blewbury  
Marriage: 23 March 1831, Blewbury  
Burial: 15 Oct 1889, Blewbury (aged 80)

Wife: **Mary Ann Pointer**, born abt 1810 in East Illsley, Berks, d index June 1877, Wantage Union Workhouse (described as an imbecile)

Children: **John** bpt 29 Oct 1833 Blewbury  
**James** bpt 1 May 1836, burial 12 May 1842. Blewbury

- Census 1851 - William 'a carter', visitor Sarah Hutchings, b abt 1784, West Ilsley (I did wonder if this could have been Mary's mother but not according to Blewbury marriage record)
- Census 1861 - living in Westbrook St, Blewbury.
- Census 1871 - same address – William age 66: agric lab, Mary 62
- Census 1881 - William, widower, agric lab, age approx 70. Now a lodger with Timothy Aldworth (46), wife Myria (44) and 3 children, in Westbrook St, Blewbury

### **SARAH HERRIDGE**

- Baptism: 15 Sept 1810, Blewbury
- Marriage: 22 Nov 1834, Blewbury
- Death: registered 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1892 (age 83) Easthamptead, Berks
- Husband: **Henry Downham**, born abt 1812, West Ilsley, Berks, agric labourer, d reg Oct-Dec 1884
- Children: **Isaac**, illeg son, bpt 8 Jan 1833, burial 17 Jan 1833, Blewbury. Vicar : WA Evanson  
**Charlotte**, b abt 1836  
**Ellen** b abt 1841  
**Mary** b abt 1848  
**Julia**, abt 1850  
**Louisa** b 1852.

All children except Isaac were born in West Ilsley

- Census 1851 - family living in West Ilsley, Berks.
- Census 1861 - parents plus Mary, Julia and Louisa living in Wellington Lodge, Easthamptead
- Census 1871 - just Louisa at home with parents
- Census 1881 - Henry (abt 65) a woodman, Sarah (70) and grandson Albert Downham (scholar age 12, b London, Middx.) living at 'The Hut', St Mary's Easthamptead
- Census 1891 - Sarah a widow living with daughter Louisa (25) and grandson Albert (22, general labourer)

### **JOHN HERRIDGE**

- Baptism: 18 Nov 1811, Blewbury
- Marriage: 6 Nov 1847, Blewbury
- Burial: 20 Aug 1886 (age 75), Blewbury
- Wife: **Mary Ford** (bpt 24 Dec 1826 in Blewbury, death reg Mar 1895 Wantage)  
possibly
- Children: **Harriet** bpt 5 March 1848  
**Edwin** b1850  
**Sarah Jane** bpt 1 May 1853  
**John Reuben** bpt 12 Nov 1854  
**Eunice** b 1856  
**Ann Maria** bpt 4 Sept 1859  
**Phoebe** bpt 4 Nov 1860  
**Alice** bpt 6 Dec 1863.



All born/baptised in Blewbury.

- Census 1851 - John (agric lab) and Mary plus children Harriet and Edwin, living with John's parents, Sarah and John (Blewbury) Herridge. Also resident is one other Herridge child (Charlotte

- age 11 - can't tie her in) plus Robert (one of John's brothers - not yet married)
- Census 1861 - family living in Westbrook St, Blewbury
- Census 1871 - as above minus Harriet, Edwin and John Rueben
- Census 1881 - Just John (68) and daughter Ann (21) at home. Wife Mary visiting daughter Sarah Jane at 106 Victoria Cottages, Clewer, Windsor, Holy Trinity parish. Sarah married to Charles Albert Smith (letter carrier, aged 27) with children Edwin J 6, Charles 5, Alfred 3 and Henry 1 month.
- Census 1891 - Can't find Mary (or Ann) and can't be sure of when she died.

### **MARTHA HERRIDGE**

Baptism : 13 April 1814, Blewbury  
 Marriage: 25 Sept 1841, Blewbury  
 Death: reg Oct-Dec 1890 Wantage 2c, 195, Berks (age 76)

Husband: **Richard Marsham** (Marcham), b abt 1817, Aldworth, Berks (agricultural labourer), death reg Oct-Dec 1897 Wantage

Children: **Ann** b abt 1841  
**Emma** b abt 1843  
**Joseph and Mary** (twins?) b abt 1845  
 (Mary died before 1861 census)  
**Ellen** b abt 1848  
**William** b abt 1850  
**John** b abt 1852  
**Harriet** b abt 1858.



All the children were born in Aldworth

- Census 1851 - Family living in Aldworth next door to two other Marcham (Marsham) families
- Census 1861 - in Aldworth. Richard still a farm labourer and daughter Ann (19) a laundress
- Census 1871 - Martha and Richard living in Church House, Aldworth, with unmarried sons Joseph and John (both farm servants), and married son William (farm servant) and his wife Lucy (age 23, b abt 1847 in Hampstead Norres). Visiting is James Middleton (age 16, b abt 1856 in Hamstead Norres) - possibly Lucy's younger brother
- Census 1881 - Martha, husband Richard (agric lab) and son John (agric lab) living in 3 Hungerford Green Cottages, Aldworth
- Census 1891 Just Richard (78) and unmarried son John (38) living at above address. Both agric labourers.
- Census 1901 Unmarried son John still living at the same address.

### **THOMAS HERRIDGE**

Baptism: 3 Jan 1816, St Michael's Church, Blewbury  
 Marriage: Thomas married twice – see below  
 Burial: 13 Jul 1879, Blewbury (aged 63)

**THOMAS married MARY JONES** on 10 July 1836 in St Michael's church, Blewbury. The vicar was W A Evanson and the witnesses: David Winter (burial 29 March 1848 age 32 Blewbury) and Hannah Herridge (one of Thomas' sisters). The family lived in Westbrook Street - neighbours of Joseph's and Edward's families. Thomas was an agricultural labourer.

We think that **MARY JONES** was born about 1813 in Blewbury (no baptism record found in Blewbury or surrounding parishes. Her parents may have been Benjamin and Mary (b Blewbury) Jones, living in Compton at the time of the 1851 census but this is speculation). We do know that she was buried on 6 June 1858, aged 46, in Blewbury. The vicar was J MacDonald

Children: **Amos** bpt 4 Dec 1836 – vicar WA Evanson, died aged 10 ‘from a fever’, buried 21 Feb 1847  
**Richard** birth on 26 Jan 1839 recorded in family bible, bpt 3 Mar 1839 by J MacDonald.  
*See box for more information about Richard and his family.*  
**Gad** bpt 5 Dec 1841, burial 4 May 1843, aged 1, vicar J MacDonald  
**Gad** bpt 6 Oct 1844, burial 29 Apr 1846, ages 1, vicar- J MacDonald  
**Mary Ann** birth on 6 Jun 1847 recorded in family bible, bpt 2 July 1848,  
vicar- J MacDonald. *I can't find her after 1861 census or her marriage or death in indexes.*  
**THOMAS ABSOLOM** birth on 19 Aug 1855 recorded in family bible, bpt 2 Sept 1855.

Following the death of Mary in 1858, **THOMAS married SUSANNAH L WISE**, daughter of THOMAS LOW WISE (a journeyman paper maker at Hagbourne Mill) and CHARLOTTE. The marriage may have taken place in Hagbourne, where the Wise family was living, and was registered between July and September 1859 in Wallingford district. SUSANNAH was baptized on 16 November 1834 in St John the Baptist, South Moreton, Berks, and was buried on 9 Sep 1904, aged 81, in Blewbury.

Children: **Ellen** bpt. 6 June 1864, buried 29 May 1866  
**Emily** bpt. 6 August 1865, buried. 21 Apr 1866 (age 1), vicar – J MacDonald  
**Joshua** born 1867/8, buried 20 Feb 1888  
**Job** b 1871, buried 27 April 1892 (an agricultural labourer living in Aston Tirrold in 1891)  
**Mark** birth reg Jan - Mar 1877, no further information found

All the children were born in Blewbury.

Census 1851: Thomas and Mary with children Richard and Mary Ann  
Census 1861: Living at (38) Westbrook Street. Thomas plus second wife Susannah (aged 25), daughter Maryann/Mary Ann (aged about 10) and Thomas Absolom. Older son Richard had left home by then.  
Census 1871: Thomas, now 56, Susannah (now recorded as Susan), with young sons Joshua, aged 3, and Job, aged 3 months. Thomas A has left home.  
Census 1881: Susan, a labourer's widow, living in Broad St with children Joshua 13, Job 10 and Mark 4  
Census 1891: Susan with son Mark 14 (farm labourer) back in Westbrook St recorded as living between Garlic Cottage and Rose Cottage.  
Census 1901: Susan 64 with Mark 24 living in the next entry but one to Garlic Cottage in Westbrook Street. Garlic Cottage adjacent to Manor Farm (was known as Blewbury Farm) on the list.



***RICHARD HERRDGE*** (Thomas Absolom's older brother)

Richard was born in Blewbury in 1839 but by the time of the 1861 census, he was a 'blacksmith', living as a boarder in Feltham, Middx. In 1863, aged 24, he married ELLEN GOODE. The marriage was registered between Jul - Sep 1863 in Marylebone, London, Middx. At the time of the 1871 census, they and their three children were living in Nursery Road, Sunbury. Boarding with them was Thomas Absolom (age 16). Both men were described as blacksmiths.



Children of Richard and Ellen:

*Ada Kate* - birth reg. Jul - Sep 1865, Sunbury Middx.

*Henry Richard* – birth reg Oct - Dec 1867, Sunbury Middx.

*Lezey Ellen* – birth reg Apr - Jun 1870, Sunbury Middx.

*Ellen was born about 1837 in Brightwell, Oxon. In 1841, aged 3, she was living in the 'White House' with James, a farmer, and Mary Coates both age 60, and 5 teenage members of Coates family, in the parish of Eweline. By 1851 she, a scholar aged 15, and Sarah Goode, an unmarried housekeeper, aged 26, are living with their uncles, Thomas Cadle (?spelling) a widower age 65 with 'finance of 70 acres of...' and his brother Rabert Cadle, unmarried age 38 a farmer, in the village of Hinton in the Parish of Chinnor, Oxon. By the 1861 census, Ellen was a house servant, age 23, at 5, Beaufoy Terrace, Hamilton Terrace, Marylebone.*

I have failed to trace the family further through censuses and BMD indexes. I can find none of them. I wonder if the whole family emigrated?

***HANNAH HERRIDGE***

Baptism: 30 Sept 1817, Blewbury, by Morgan Jones, vicar

Marriage: 25 Sept 1841, Blewbury. Vicar – J MacDonald. Witness – Ann Broom

Death: between 1871 and 1881 censuses, probably in Aldworth (aged about 60)

Husband: ***Charles Sherman***, b abt abt 1823, Aldworth, Berks, died abt 1860 (estimated by birth of daughter, Fanny, in 1859 and his absence in 1861 census), farm labourer.

Children: ***John***, illeg son (described a 'wife's son'), bpt 6 Oct 1839, Blewbury, a 'farm boy', living with the rest of Hannah's family in Aldworth in 1851 census

***Lucy\**** b 1842,

***S/Charlotte\**** b 1844

***Tirzah*** b 1847

***Robert\**** b 1845

***Maryann*** b 1848

**Henry** b 1851  
**Kezziah** b 1853  
**Gad** b 1854  
**Fanney** b 1858.

All the children were born in Aldworth as were their Aunt Martha's children

Census 1851 - Hannah, Charles, John plus 5 other children  
 Census 1861 - Hannah, Tirzah plus 4 other children . Those \*ed either died or left home  
 Census 1871 - just Hannah and daughter, Tirzah, and grandson, Oliver Leweten Sherman (b abt 1868, Aldworth) in 'Cottage', Aldworth  
 Census 1881 Hannah not found in later censuses.

**ROBERT HERRIDGE**

Baptism: 16 Dec 1821, Blewbury by Morgan Jones.  
 Marriage: 30 Sept 1858, Blewbury. Vicar: J MacDonald. Witnesses: Joseph Belcher and Ann Powell. Her father: Edward Humphrey, farmer.  
 Burial: 10 Oct 1907, Blewbury (age 85). He died in Wantage Union Workhouse. He was known as '*Bob, the Bard of Blewbury*', with a poem for every occasion!  
 Wife: **Amy White**, bpt 4 October 1835, Blewbury (Mother – Mary White, unmarried, a 'house servant – charwoman' in 1851 census), d reg Jan – Mar 1897 Wantage

Children: **Reuben** bpt 4 Sept 1859 (can't find after 1881 census)  
**Simeon** bpt 7 July 1861 buried 5 April 1864 – age 2  
**Julia** bpt 29 Nov 1862 buried 30 Dec 1862 – infant  
**Levi Simeon** bpt 2 Oct 1864 (can't find after 1881 census)  
**Juda(h)** b reg July-Sept 1867 Wantage, bpt 1 Dec 1867, died in Wantage Union Workhouse in 1905, buried 5 Oct 1905 in Blewbury.  
**Emily** bpt 3 April 1870.



All the children were born in Blewbury

Census 1851 Robert living with parents and other family members as unmarried  
 Census 1861 Robert (ag lab), Amy and Reuben (age 1) living in Westbrook St a few doors away from married brother William and his wife Mary  
 Census 1871 Robert a 'marine stores dealer, shop' in Spring Lane, Blewbury, with wife Amy and children, Reuben, Levi S, Judah and Emily  
 Census 1881 Robert now a general dealer in Rolling Lane Farm (unsure of address) with Amy and children (Levi) Simeon (16 ag lab), Judah (13) and Emily (10)  
 Census 1891 Robert, Amy and son Judah (unmarried, agricultural labourer) in Spring Lane  
 Census 1901 Only Robert – 'widower, no occupation, parish relief' – and Judah (still unmarried age 33, ag lab) in Spring Lane (now Spring Cottage, Church Road. The cottage still exists – much renovated and extended)

**JOSEPH HERRIDGE**

Baptism: 6 March 1823, Blewbury, by the curate, Morgan Jones  
 Marriage: 11 Nov 1848, Blewbury. Vicar: J MacDonald. Witnesses: Richard and Lucy Beasley  
 Burial: 26 April 1880, age 57, Blewbury

Wife: **Mary Wiggins**, b abt 1826, Aldworth, Berks (census 1841 gives parents as Thomas and Sarah Wiggins), burial 26 April 1880, Blewbury

Children: **Ruben** bpt 6 Jan 1850 d 18 May 1850 – infant  
**Mary Ann** bpt 25 April 1851 (married George James 13 May 1876)  
**Joseph** bpt 3 May 1857 b 24 Nov 1858 - age 1  
**Charlotte Priscilla** bpt 1 May 1864.

All children born in Blewbury

Census 1851 Joseph (ag lab) and wife Mary, neighbours of his brothers Thomas and Edward in Westbrook Blewbury

Census 1861 Joseph (agric labourer), Mary and Mary Ann (age 10).

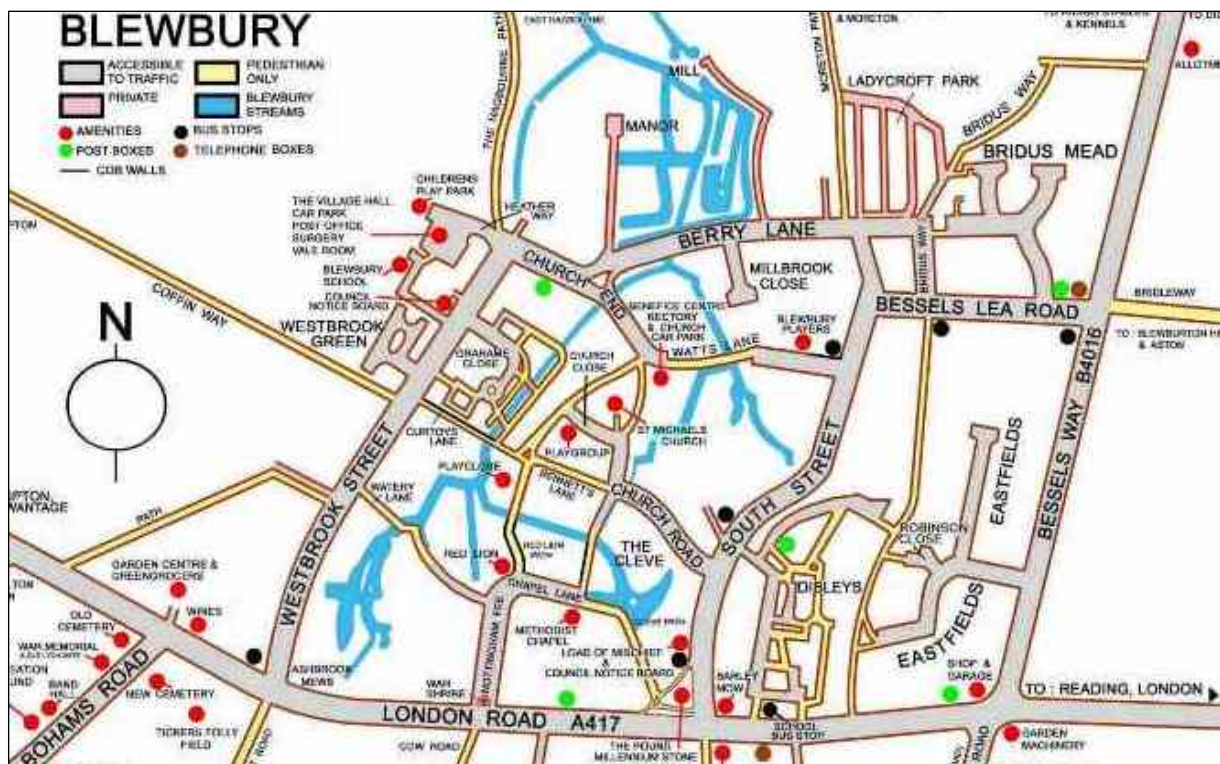
Census 1871 Family – Joseph (age 49), Mary (47), Mary Ann (age 19) and Charlotte P – plus lodger, Joseph's brother Edward age 46 are living in Westbrook St as are Thomas and William and their families.

Census 1881 Mary and Joseph had both died in April 1880 but their daughter, Mary Ann, is now married to George James (a shepherd, age 38 b Letcombe) with three children: Headley Stephen b abt 1874 in Blewbury, Albert Joseph b abt 1878 in Compton and an infant un-named of 1 week b in Compton. Family living in Woodrows, Compton.

### CHARLOTTE HERRIDGE

Baptism: 24 June 1827 Blewbury, by S Tudor.

Burial: 27 April 1834 age 6, Blewbury



### LUCY HERRIDGE



Baptism: 28 March 1830, by the curate, A Bromiley  
Marriage: 21 Oct 1848. Vicar: J MacDonald. Witnesses: Charles Beasley and Mary Ann Belcher.  
Burial: d reg July- Sept 1897 Wantage (aged 67)

Husband: **Henry Beasley**, b abt 1822, Blewbury, agric labourer, d reg Oct-Dec 1891 Wantage

Children: **George Beasley** , illeg, bpt 5 Nov 1848 (he married Charlotte Martin 17 Oct 1864 in Blewbury, but not investigated further)

**Charles\*** b abt 1851

**Sarah A\*** b abt 1853

**Vinson\*** b abt 1856

**Louisa\*** b abt 1858

**Amos** b abt 1860

**John** b abt 1864,

**Julia** b abt 1866

**Enoch** b abt 1869

**Albert** b abt 1872

**Norah** b abt 1875

**Lucy** b abt 1878.



All the children were born in

Blewbury.

Census 1841 Lucy Herridge living with parents

Census 1851 can't find Lucy or Henry

Census 1861 Lucy, Henry and first 5 children living in East Street, Blewbury. Illeg son George not there

Census 1871 not found

Census 1881 No mention of \*ed children but son Amos and six more children. East Street

Census 1891 Just Lucy, Henry (ag lab), Enoch and grandchild Mercy A E Barefield (age 7) living in South Street

### **EDWARD HERRIDGE**

Baptism: 30 Oct 1831, Blewbury, by the curate, A Bromiley.

Marriage: unknown

Death: died in 1900 (aged 69) in Wantage Union Workhouse - reg July-Sept 1900 Wantage, 2c, 269

Children: **Daniel** b abt 1853 according to 1861 census, baptised 2 Nov 1857, Blewbury

Census 1841 Edward living with parents

Census 1851 agricultural labourer, age 19, living as a 'servant' with James Pierce and family, Blewbury

Census 1861 'agric labourer' - living with son Daniel in Westbrook St between his brothers, Joseph and Thomas

Census 1871 Edward, aged 46, agric lab, lodging with his brother Joseph and family in Westbrook St.. Daniel not found in this census or subsequent censuses and death index.

Census 1881 Edward (labourer, widower) living on own in London Rd Blewbury

Census 1891 'inmate, formerly agricultural labourer, single, age 60' in Wantage Union Workhouse (RG 12/982)

With the death of '*Bob, the Bard of Blewbury*', there were no Herridges left in Blewbury and there have been none living there since.