

The Herridges: East Ilsley, 1780- 1871

ROBERT HERRIDGE, eldest son of JOHN HERRIDGE and MARY POOR, who was born in 1758, moved from Hampstead Norris a few miles north to East Ilsley, presumably to find work. There he married **SARAH COX** (by banns, both made their marks) in St Mary's church on 21 October 1781. The witnesses were Abraham Deacon, who witnessed many marriages, and John Allen.

SARAH was baptised 15 March 1755 in East Ilsley (parents: Richard and Mary Cox) and was buried there on 1 May 1834, aged 77. Robert died ten years earlier, aged 66, and was buried on 15 May 1824.

ROBERT and SARAH had eight children, all of whom were born and baptised in East Ilsley:

- MARTHA bpt 31 March 1782
- **JOHN** bpt. 31 October 1784
- WILLIAM, bpt. 28 October 1787
- JAMES bpt 09 August 1789
- MARY, bpt 26 December 1792
- ROBERT bpt 2 August 1795
- SARAH bpt. 15 March 1798
- JOSEPH bpt. 29 Mar 1803.



The particular son of interest is **JOHN** (whom I'm calling **Blewbury JOHN**) but we do know something of his younger brothers, WILLIAM, JAMES and JOSEPH, and of his younger sister MARY from parish and then census records.

JOHN's brother WILLIAM married JANE RUMBLE (RUMBOLD, RUMBALL) on 19 November 1810 in St Mary's, East Ilsley. Their marriage was witnessed by Joseph Lambourne and James Deacon. Several Rumbold families were found in E Ilsley and possibly Jane's parents were James and Martha Rumbold, who were neighbours.

William and Jane's seven children were all baptized in East Ilsley:

- Ann b. 1814
- Thomas, b. 1816; d. 1867
- Mary b. 1819
- Jane, b. 1823
- George, b. 1824
- William, b. 1827
- Charles b. 1830; d. 1838.



In the 1841 census William is recorded as an agricultural labourer with his wife, Jane, and children, Mary (20), George (14) and William (12).

By the 1851 census, William, now aged 64 and a shepherd, is living in Compton Road, E Ilsley, with a new wife Sarah, aged 45, and half-daughters, Sarah and Ann Paley (aged 17 and 15, both 'servants-out of place') and half-son William Paley aged 7, a scholar. All were born in East Ilsley. William's first wife, Jane, must have died between 1841 and 1851 and William married Sarah, who seems to have been a widow with three children still living at home.



In 1861, William and Sarah are still living in East Ilsley. William is described as a 'sale shepherd' but by 1871 (aged 84) is 'incapable of work'. Living with them in Fidler's Lane is a grandson James Brown, a 'scholar' born in Middlesex, aged 8. In both the 1861 and 1871 census, Sarah's place of birth is recorded as E Garston, Berks..

We know that **JAMES (another of JOHN'S brothers)** married an ANN from the baptism records of their children but her maiden name and date of birth are unknown although she was probably born about 1789 in Winterbrook. We think they probably got married in St Mary and St Nicholas Compton in about 1814 and lived in Compton Parva (just east of East Ilsley) where James was an agricultural labourer.

JAMES and ANN had eight girls and four boys:
Elizabeth b. 1814
Lydia b.1817
Mary b.1819, who married Jeremiah Mills from Ireland in Blewbury on 27 January 1838
Harriet b.1821
John b 1823 (all left home by 1841 census)
Joseph/James b.about 1825
Sarah b.1827 (left home by 1851 census)
Ann b 1829 (a field worker in 1851)
Richard b.1830 (farm labourer in 1851)
Eliza b 1833 (farm labourer in 1851)
George b 1835 (a shepherd in 1851)



Martha b 1837, d 1841.

James died in 1858, aged 69 and Ann three years earlier aged about 66.

I was unable to find **JOHN's brother ROBERT**, who was born in 1795, in the 1841 census but he did appear in later censuses. In 1851 Robert, a shepherd aged about 50, and his wife Kezia were lodgers in Chalk Pit Lodge in Englefield. By 1861, they were living in North St Theale (Tilehurst district) – Robert as a shepherd and Kezia as a field labourer – with their grandson George Thomas Herridge, a scholar aged 9, who was born in Tilehurst. By 1871, Robert was a widower, an inmate of Bradfield Union Workhouse. He was not recorded as an inmate in the 1881 census, which listed 145 residents, so it probable that he died there in his 80s between 1871 and 1881. Possibly his wife had also been an inmate as her death was registered between Oct-Dec 1866 in Bradfield. She was born about 1793 in Bix, Oxfordshire.



Parish records show that **JOSEPH (JOHN'S youngest brother)**, was also a shepherd. He married a local girl, **MARTHA CANNANS** on 17 October 1825 in East Ilsley and that they had a son Robert, born in East Ilsley in 1827, By the 1841 census, **JOSEPH** was living in The Liberty of Eye and Dunsden, Sonning, Oxfordshire, with a new wife, **MARY**, son Robert and three other children; Ellen b about 1830, Emma b about 1835 and William b about 1838. Robert, Ellen, Emma and possibly William are too old to be Mary's – she was only 20 at the time of the 1841 census. We concluded that Martha died before 1840, possibly in childbirth, as **JOSEPH's** marriage to Mary

was registered between April and June 1840 in Henley.

In the 1851 and 1861 censuses, **JOSEPH** was still at same address with **MARY** and several other children, all born in Sonning:

Harriet b about 1841
Joseph 1843
James 1846



David b about 1848,?died before 1856

John b.1850

Thomas b. 1853

David b. 1856

Mary Ann b about 1858.

Also living there was Joseph's oldest son Robert (an agricultural labourer) and grand-daughter Caroline - probably Robert's daughter. JOSEPH's death was registered between October and December 1867 in Henley, so he was about 64.



Of Blewbury **JOHN's sister MARY**, we know only that she had an illegitimate son Robert who was baptized in East Ilsley on 14 November 1812 and buried on 22 November of that year

Apart than **JOHN**, none of **ROBERT** and **SARAH's** children's families was investigated further so we don't know how many survived to adulthood, married and had children of their own.

As far as we are concerned, the action now moves a few miles north again to Blewbury where **ROBERT's eldest son JOHN** settled with his wife **SARAH GARLICK**.