



Braemore Church

FOREWORD

IN COMPILING this short account of the Hampshire branch of the Jacob family, the writer has felt that it might be of interest to us of the present generation to know something of the "rock from which we are hewn". It is naturally very fragmentary especially in regards to our earlier forbears, since there has been only the genealogical tree to help one. But it may be well for us to learn how much we each of us owe individually to those who have gone before us and to realize especially how wonderfully the spirit of religion has persisted throughout the centuries.

Our thanks are due to all who either directly or indirectly have made it possible to gather together the information which is contained in these pages. A few blank pages have been added so that those into whose hands this booklet falls, can have the opportunity of adding any details of special interest to themselves.

Perhaps the writer of this story may be allowed to state the impression it has made on his own mind.

As he has, so far as is possible, described the God-fearing character of his more remote ancestors and as he has recalled to mind the deeply religious and simple and lovely lives of the members of the past generation with whom he was personally acquainted, he has been filled with gratitude to Almighty God, that in His good providence, he has been allowed to be born into this family.

For there is not the slightest doubt that each of us is greatly influenced in mind and character by the lives of those members of our family who have passed into the other world.

INTRODUCTION

MEN WHO have become famous on account of some signal service which they have rendered to their country, and others who have occupied positions of public importance, after their death, have generally found someone to write an account of their life or as we generally describe it, to write their biography.

But the great majority of people who have lived uneventful lives pass away without any memorial. As the writer of Ecclesiasticus puts it: "Some there be which have no memorial; who are perished as though they had never been born, and their children after them." And yet in a smaller degree their lives have been as full of interest as those of the more celebrated.

To these latter, the family whose history is recorded in the following pages, belongs. It may be then of some little interest to the present members of the family, if the few scanty notices, as far as can be gathered together, with regard to their ancestors, are here set down.

We each of us owe, perhaps a great deal more than we are aware of, to those members of our family who have long since passed away. There is a great deal to be said for the study of heredity. It is for this reason that so much stress was laid upon genealogies in the ancient world. Not only did the Jews attach great importance to this subject, as is evident from the numerous genealogies we find in the Bible, but also the Greeks and other nations as well.

From this we may learn what an important part the family plays in the life of each individual who belongs to it; since each descendant receives some characteristic from his ancestors, physical, mental, and even moral as well. What our several ancestors were, what they became by their efforts to grow better or by their self indulgence to grow worse, all this they have handed down to us. We started life in this world helped or handicapped by the kind of life they lived. A wonderful power is thus put into the hands of men and women and a serious responsibility for which they will have to give an account on that day when every man will be judged according to his works.

Here we may notice how wonderfully God acts, in providing a remedy for any legacy of evil we may have received from our ancestors. For in Baptism He offers us grace—the very life of Christ—to counteract any evil tendencies we may have inherited from our forbears, so that gradually we may be enabled to overcome our weaknesses and to strengthen our efforts to do right; at the same time retaining our individual characteristics and personality.

CHAPTER

I

THE origin of the Jacob family like that of many another is lost in obscurity. There is a tradition that the family in England is descended from some Jews who were merchant princes of the Italian Republic in the early middle ages. Some of these merchants of the name of Jacob, were sent by Pope Gregory IX from Lombardy to England in 1229 for the express purpose of lending money to those ecclesiastics in England who were unable to pay their tenths to the authorities in Rome. At any rate one of these Lombards, who was a merchant in London, nearly a hundred years later, held lands at Winchelsea in Sussex. There is a petition in the State papers of 1320, from one, Jannio Jacob for the payment of monies owing to him by Parliament. It is an interesting fact that some members of the Jacob family, in recent years, did possess a Jewish type of countenance. We find mention of the family as landholders in the fourteenth century in the counties of Norfolk, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Northamptonshire, as well as in Kent. Henry Jacob was a landowner in Oxfordshire in the year 1398.

In the Muster Roll of Hastings there is a record that in the year 1284 John Jacob held lands at Battle Abbey, for which he was bound to maintain a certain number of "Armyd Fottmen"! Except for the fact that there lived at Tolpudde in Dorsetshire, a William Jacob 1435-1515) who held lands under the Abbot of Malmesbury, nothing is definitely known about the family until the

sixteenth century, when registers began to be kept in all parish churches.

Our branch of the family settled in Hampshire. It may have been an offshoot of the family of Jacobs who lived in Kent. There are some grounds for thinking this may be the case. Charles Jacob of Basingstoke was very like in feature to Bishop Edgar Jacob, Bishop of St. Albans who belonged to the Kentish family, and there is a story of how some years ago when the daughters of Ellen Gray were living with their aunts in Winchester one of the little girls ran up to a lady in the street and greeted her "O Auntie, Auntie!"

The lady looking down upon the child said: "I think you must have made a mistake. I am not your auntie."

It happened to be a Miss Jacob, the daughter of old Archdeacon Jacob, who lived in the Close—a sister of the Bishop. Aunt Sarah and she were very much alike. Probably in the middle ages one of the members of the family in Kent left home and settled somewhere in Wiltshire or Hampshire. He may have married into some family in the neighbourhood and as communications in those days were very difficult, he may have drifted away from the other family. At any rate it is to this family in Hampshire that we belong. It is first heard of in the sixteenth century when a Henry Jacob was living at Braemore, a village on the Avon, near Fordingbridge. Some of the family may have been living there before this time but his is the only authentic name of the family that we know owing to the introduction of registers about this time.

He would appear to have been a farmer as many of his descendants were. Braemore in which his home was

situated possesses a church of Saxon origin, though it has been considerably altered in successive ages. But within the church there is a perfect round arch beneath the tower on the south side which has an inscription in large Saxon capitals. Translated into modern English it runs thus: "Here the covenant becomes manifest to Thee". Over the doorway is a small round medallion of an Agnus Dei. There are benches in the porch with the date 1617. The hillside is very pleasant here though somewhat difficult of access nowadays. Climbing it by the ancient Long Steeple lane, past the village pound and great elm at Upper Street and turning up the hill by a footpath after passing a farm, in private ground nearby is to be seen an ancient miz-maze.

It was amidst such surroundings that our forefather, Henry Jacob, passed his life. He was born in 1515 in the reign of Henry VIII and lived until 1573 in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In the village church he and his family worshipped. They lived just at the time when the Christian religion was undergoing a great change in our land. The old services to which they had always been accustomed were being replaced by the new Prayer Book of 1549; the parent of our present Prayer Book. Already a Litany in English had been in use for some years. One would like to know what happened at Braemore and how the people accepted the changes. Evidently Henry must have clung to the old ways since in his will he left a small sum of money for a mass to be said for his soul. Probably the next generation adapted themselves to the changes, until soon the old ways would be forgotten.

How interesting it would be if one could know more about these ancestors of ours. What was Henry Jacob like? Was he a sunburnt sturdy farmer with a strong

and determined will? That he was a religious man is evident from the fact of the clause mentioned in his will. Then we would like to know something about his wife Joane. Where did he meet her? Was she the daughter of a neighbouring farmer? What attracted them to one another? And when they were married and had a home of their own, did Joane attend to the dairy and make the butter and bake the bread? And when the children came (there were three of them: Henry, Amys, and Ralph) did she make all their clothes? It must have been a busy household with Joane so occupied in the farmhouse and Henry engaged in looking after the cattle and growing the corn. We can picture the keen interest on the part of the parents, as they saw their children growing up and Joane's tender love and affection for each one of them as they passed from childhood to manhood and womanhood.

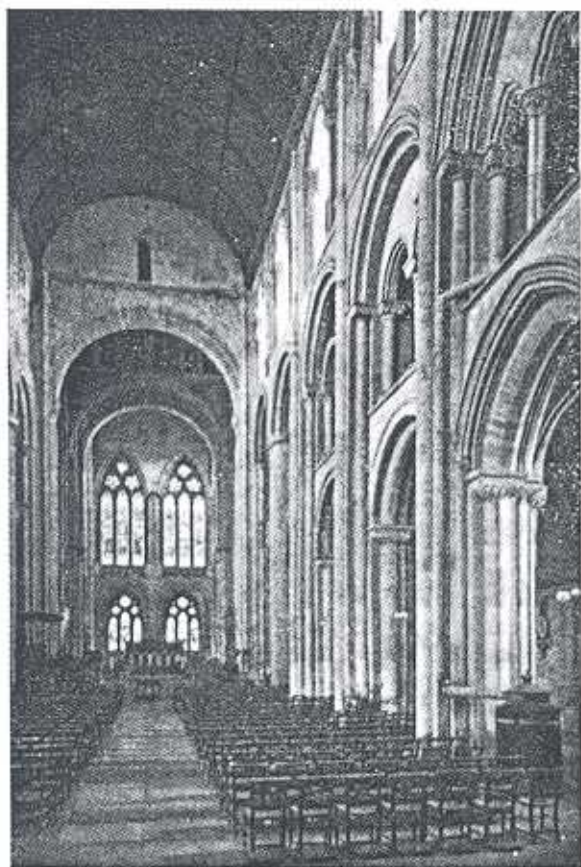
The eldest son, who was also named Henry, was born in 1550. He must have paid visits now and then to the relatives who lived at Romsey. They were Malsters. One reason for his going to see them was that they had a daughter whose name was Frances. With her, it would seem, he fell in love and then the time came when they made up their minds to be married.

What an exciting occasion it must have been for the members of the two families. Most likely all the family at Braemore went to the wedding. It would be a great event in their lives. Travelling was not as easy or as comfortable then as it is to-day. A matter of some twenty miles in a car on a smooth road is nothing now. Then it was a serious undertaking. The roads were only tracks and the best way to travel was on horseback. So you can picture Henry and his family setting off in the early morning,

Henry on his grey mare. Joane on her palfrey, and the younger members of the family on their ponies, Amys and Ralph, for no doubt Henry, the elder son, had gone a few days before. They may have had a packhorse to carry their clothes for the wedding. Before nightfall they would arrive. What a clattering of horses' hoofs there must have been as they entered the courtyard of the Malsters' house. What a shaking of hands and embracing as they greeted one another. And there stood Frances, the bride-elect, looking rather self conscious and shy in the presence of her relatives whilst Henry stood proudly at her side.

The next morning all would be up betimes, arraying themselves in their best clothes. It was a much more colourful and picturesque scene than it would be to-day. The men were dressed in blue and red and green with brown stockings and flowing robes, and the ladies in their lace and coloured dresses must have presented a beautiful sight. So they made their way to the abbey, then as now with its massive pillars and old Norman arches, built soon after the Norman Conquest, a typical reminder of the permanence of the Church. Up the aisle Frances would proceed, escorted by her father, whilst the numerous friends and relatives would be gathered round and the priest standing ready to begin the service. The young people would plight their troth—then using the same words which are said today "till death do us part", and the second prayer that they might "each remain in perfect love and peace together and live according to God's laws" would be offered for them, as it is in the present day.

As we look back in imagination on that scene and witness those two young people joined together in holy



Interior of Romsey Abbey

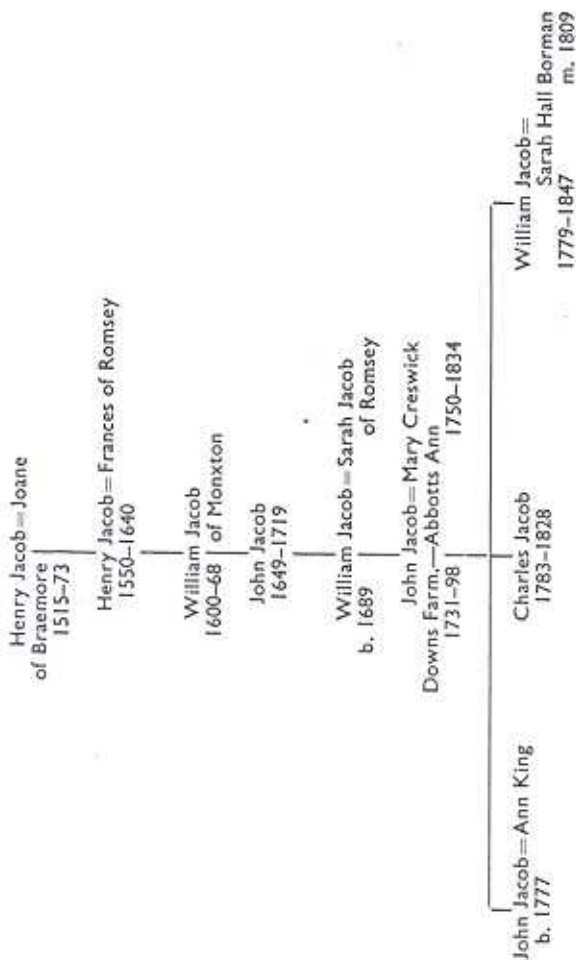
matrimony, how strange it is to remember that in one sense we had a share in that ceremony, though it took place nearly 400 years ago. For we owe the life that flows in our veins to the union of those two young people. And some of the traits in our characters have come to us from them. Who would ever have dreamt of such a thing? Yet there is One who knew, the Almighty Father who ordereth all things in heaven and earth. It was all planned out in His Infinite mind that you and I should receive our life from them.

Henry and Frances had a son whom they christened William. When he grew up he would seem to have settled in a village called Monxton, and there the family lived for many years as several of its members held the office of churchwarden at the parish church for many generations.

Those were exciting times for the great world outside. And although the Jacobs lived a comparatively quiet life they could not have been entirely uninfluenced by what was happening in the country generally. It must have been a topic of much conversation, especially the civil war, when the Royalists were fighting against the Roundheads. Which side they favoured we do not know. Some of their relations and neighbours may have taken part. How anxious those left at home must have been. Some may have gone to the war never to return. Perhaps it was due to all this that William decided to leave Braemore and take a farm at Monxton.

Then during his lifetime and that of his son John and his grandson William, who was born in 1689, the expansion of England overseas began. Many had already found a home in North America and a flourishing trade was beginning in India. As some members of the other

OUR EARLY ANCESTORS



branches of the family became soldiers it may be that some members of the Hampshire branch went out to India and America. How interested those who remained at home must have been when either the soldiers returned from India or they had news from their friends in America. So in spite of the fact that they lived apparently quiet and uneventful lives, they had some interests in the wider world.

CHAPTER

II

IN THE foregoing pages we have been attempting to give an account of those members of our family of whom we have the earliest records—those members who lived in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

We have now to say something about those members of our family who flourished in the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries.

We begin with William Jacob, the son of John Jacob of Moxnton. William was born in 1689. He too married a cousin belonging to the family who lived at Romsey. Her name was Sarah Jacob and she was also born in 1689. From this union our particular branch of the family is descended, our grandfather, William Jacob Winchester, being the grandson of William and Sarah.

Sarah's elder brother Giles was a famous personage in his day. He became a political and dramatic writer. He was trained as a lawyer and was afterwards secretary to the Hon. William Blathwayte, a courtier in the time of William III. He was the writer of a work called "Poetical Register or Lives and Characters of the English Dramatic Poets". This was published in 1723. It is said to be the best book of the kind extant. He is referred to in Pope's "Dunciad":

"Jacob, the scourge of grammar, mark with awe,
Nor less revere the blunderbuss of law."



Mrs. Creswick

whose daughter Mary married John Jacob of Abbots Ann,



Mary Creswick

of Abbots Ann. Born 1st May 1750. Married John Jacob of Down Farm, Abbots Ann. Died at the residence of her son, John Jacob, at Western Court Farm, Bishop's Sutton, near Alesford, 11th January 1834, aged 84, having been a widow for thirty-six years. Was buried near her husband at Abbots Ann.

He also published several poems, "A Journey to Bath", etc. He died on 8th April 1744.

William and Sarah's son John was born in 1731 and occupied Down Farm, Abbots Ann. He married in 1769 a lady of Abbots Ann, whose name was Mary Creswick. Her picture and that of her mother are given here.

Mary, we gather from her portrait, must have possessed a very strong character. She must have been a mother who commanded respect and obedience from her children. Certainly her sons and daughters seemed to possess strong characters like their mother. There were fourteen of them.

How interesting it would be if we could get a glimpse of this family in their home at Down Farm, Abbots Ann. What a busy household it must have been, with so many young children to be looked after and all the other domestic duties to be attended to. Mary's life must certainly not have been a life of leisure and yet she lived to the age of 84. Probably the elder children had to take care of their younger brothers and sisters. We would like to know where they went to school. Was it in the village or did they go to school every day in a neighbouring town. At any rate both William, our grandfather and his brother Charles, who became a doctor, must have had a town education. For William as soon as he was old enough was apprenticed to a printer in Winchester. The girls settled in Winchester. Mary married a Mr. Johnson. Another daughter, Susan, married Mr. Hooper; Sarah married Mr. Wells; whilst Eleanor became the wife of Mr. Godwin. Her other son, John, was the only one to become a farmer. He settled at Western Court Farm, Bishop's Sutton, near Alesford, and married Ann King of Fullerton. It was to his home that his mother went to

live after her husband died. She died at the age of 84 in 1834. The house in which they lived at Western Court Farm is still standing and in the fireplace of the large kitchen can still be seen the iron hooks on which the sides of bacon were hung for smoking.

Their two sons William and John, with their sister Anne, went out to Australia in 1814. They were remarkable characters as the subjoined account, taken from the *Hampshire Chronicle* of 23rd August 1902 clearly shows.

This is the account, which we give in full:

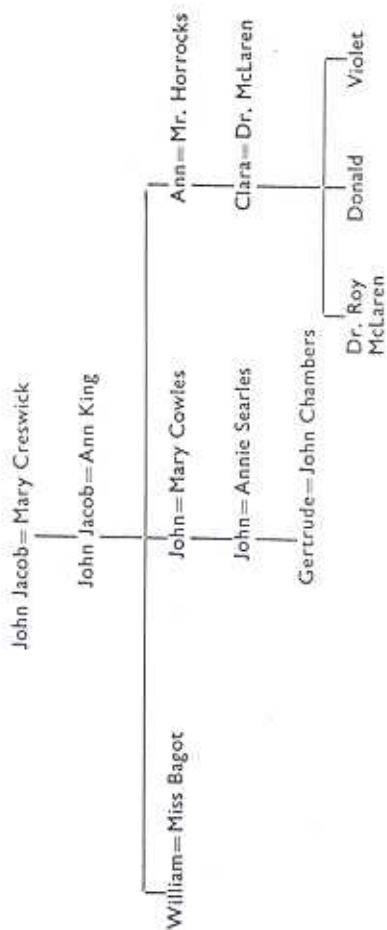
DEATH OF A PIONEER COLONIST

"A life full of interest, and that of a Hampshire man, has recently closed in South Australia. Eighty-eight years ago, in 1814, Mr. William Jacob, whose death occurred last month at Moorooroo, some forty miles north of Adelaide, South Australia, and to whom we refer, was born in this county. Descendant of an old agricultural family, who farmed, early in the last century, at Abbott's Ann, Monxton, Sandford (Kingsclere), Western Court (Bishop's Sutton), and Leckford, the subject of this memoir was brought up as a surveyor in offices at Winchester under a Mr. Gale and Mr. Simonds. New Holland, as Australia was called, was then being colonised, and in the year 1836 Col. Light, a gentleman who had served through the Peninsular War, went out, in charge of a colonising party, to settle in South Australia under a scheme devised by Mr. E. Gibbon Wakefield, an advanced political economist for those days. Col. Light was Surveyor General, and his right-hand assistance was the now deceased Mr. W. Jacob. The 'South Australian Register' of July 16th, noticing Mr. Jacob's death, says: 'Mr. William Jacob, of Moorooroo, a pioneer of South

Australia, and a link with the distant past, died on Monday at the age of 88. His death will be regretted, as he was a most estimable colonist, and one of the very few who remained of the sturdy band of pioneers of 1836. Mr. Jacob came to Australia in the brig *Rapid* with Col. Light, as assistant surveyor. He was employed in connection with the original survey of the city of Adelaide, and was subsequently appointed draftsman in Col. Light's office. The *Rapid* was only a brig of 140 tons, the size of a modern yacht today. Many of the *Rapid's* other passengers were from Twyford and other parts of Hampshire, so it is recorded in the 'Hampshire Chronicle' files of that period. Mr. Jacob was, shortly before his death, interviewed by the inevitable reporter, and he concluded his remarks to that individual as follows: 'A short time prior to his death Light met me at Gawler on his way to report to Mr. Angas on his surveys, and he said: "Jacob, if you live an ordinary life you will see these plains enclosed." Little did we dream then that they would develop to what they are to-day, and be connected with a railway. I may claim to have lived an ordinary life, but what has transpired has been far beyond my expectations. Light shortly afterwards died in his cottage at Thebarton. I was at his death-bed and at his funeral, and saw his body deposited where the monument now stands. I then turned my attention to pastoral pursuits.' Light is buried in an open piece of ground in the heart of Adelaide.

"Mr. Jacob purchased plots, now immensely valuable, but he parted with them before the beautiful city had developed. He married a Miss Bagot, a family noted in the history of the growth of the colony, and he leaves a son and daughter; another son, the eldest, having died

THE AUSTRALIAN COUSINS

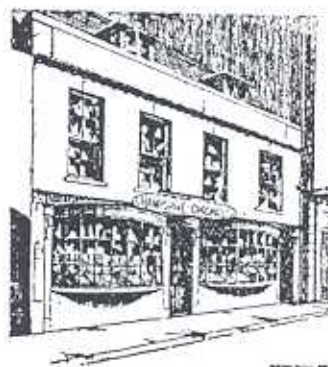


CHAPTER

III

OUR IMMEDIATE ANCESTORS

ONE of the members of the large family of John and Mary Jacob was named William. It is from him that we are descended. He was born in 1779 and when he was old enough he was apprenticed to a printer and bookseller in Winchester. After a time, in conjunction with his brother-in-law, Mr. Johnson, he became the proprietor



*The Offices of the
"Hampshire Chronicle"*

of the business in High Street and of the old county newspaper *The Hampshire Chronicle*. This paper is still published under the same name of Jacob and Johnson. The house where the offices were situated still exists in the High Street. It has the original very fine old Georgian

frontage, quite unspoilt, whilst many of the panes of old crown glass still remain. By many architectural and antiquarian experts it is said to be the best example of such work in Winchester.

It was to this house that William Jacob brought his wife, Sarah Hall Borman, whom he married at St. Thomas Church, Winchester, in 1809. Her mother was formerly Miss Sarah Hall who had married Mr. William Borman at Hurstbourne, Tarrant, in 1784. This Mr. Borman was the son of the Rev. Daniel Borman. There would seem to have been some connection between the Bormans and the Jacobs because there is a record of the fact that Mr. Stephen Smith, the father-in-law of the Rev. Daniel Borman, left the sum of one guinea to his nephew, Thomas Jacob, in the year 1747. The portrait of Mrs. Sarah Hall Borman, the mother of Mrs. William Jacob, which we have, shows that she was quite a different kind of person to Mary Creswick, the mother of William Jacob. She is very elegantly attired in black, she wears blue gloves, and her forehead is adorned with ringlets.

This digression has been made to account for the fact that the names of Borman and Hall occur as Christian names among the members of William's family. One son was christened Borman as was also one of Stephen Jacob's sons. Hall was a Christian name given to both Stephen and Sarah Jacob.

This alliance may also account for the fact that all children of William and Sarah seem to have been of a literary turn of mind rather than like their ancestors, farmers and in business. It is true William, their father, was in business in the High Street, Winchester, but he had as a partner his brother-in-law, Mr. Johnson, and

when he died his son Henry, who was not much of a business man, had the son of his uncle as a partner. And so the name Jacob and Johnson has continued to this day, the younger generation of Johnsons, Henry and Herbert, taking it over altogether. Neither Charles nor George Jacob were really keen business men. The other sons, Borman, James, and Stephen, were ordained.

William and his wife had ten children, all of whom were born at the house in High Street.

There were four daughters. *Anna* was a clever and handsome woman. It is said that one of the officers at the Winchester Barracks fell in love with her but in those days when parental authority stood for something, her father would not give his consent. He felt that her position as the daughter of a business man would be considered inferior to that of an officer in the army. So Anna remained single for the rest of her life. She was the centre of respect and affection of all her numerous nephews and nieces and very much looked up to by her brothers and sisters. So in the providence of God she may have fulfilled a greater work and have been of more service than might have been the case had she married.

Sarah and *Mary* never married. But they were given to good works and made a home for their nephews and nieces in their house in Cheesehill Street, when the children of their sister *Ellen*, who had married General Gray, were sent home from India for their education. It was after their father died that Ellen became engaged to the young officer named Gray, so that no difficulty arose on that score. They were out in India during the Mutiny and Mrs. Gray had an alarming experience one day when she was driving with an officer and the enemy came and



Miss Sarah Hall
(Mrs. Borman) married William Borman 1784



William Jacob

shot him dead at her side. There were five children: James and William; Nelly, Emily, and Edith.

Of the six sons of William Jacob, *Henry* went into the business of his father. He married a widow and lived in Christ Church Road. *Borman*, another son, went to Cambridge and did well. He was ordained and had a flourishing private school at Calne in Wiltshire. He married Miss Mary Hewitt, the daughter of a doctor in Reading and some distant connection of the first Lady Tennyson. Aunt Mary Borman as she was called, was left a widow and was held in great awe by the younger generation. She was an associate of the Anglican Sisterhood of St. John the Baptist at Clewer.

James, another son, also went to Cambridge. He was ordained and became Vicar of Horningsham, a village in Wiltshire. He was also a Canon of Salisbury Cathedral. Horningsham was famous for two reasons. It was a parish in which Longleat, the seat of the Marquis of Bath, was situated. It was in this house that Bishop Ken, one of the non-juror bishops at the beginning of the reign of William and Mary, found a refuge and the place where the Bishop wrote the well-known hymn "Glory to Thee, my God, this night". James married a Miss Lewis. They had five children: William, Frances, Mary, Lewis, and John. John and William were both ordained. John went out to New Zealand for some years. William became a Canon of Salisbury and Vicar of Warminster and then of Lyme Regis. He died in 1940. He had four daughters. The eldest, Isabel, went out to India and became matron of the hospital at Delhi. Constance was another daughter. Then there was Evelyn Mary who married R. Johnson, i.c.s., and Lois Amelia, who is the wife of the Rev. Philip Sprent.

In an obituary notice of William's death in the *Church Times*, stress is laid upon the influence he exercised over the members of the Rural Decanal Chapter and his solicitude for their spiritual welfare. Frances, his daughter, married Ernest Tempest. Their son, Roger, who was educated at Cambridge, after being in the Melanesian Mission, became Rector of Stubbingfield, Suffolk.

Stephen began his career as a bookseller but afterwards was ordained and eventually became Vicar of Bratton. He married Miss Harwood. They had a large family. Robert, the eldest son, was ordained. Mary the eldest daughter, after her father's death, took up teaching. She became a member of the staff in an elementary school in East London. By dint of hard work she passed all her examinations and was appointed head of a large school in Nottingham. Her school became so famous that the Education Department offered her a Government post. This she was unable to accept because she had the care of her aged mother. Her brother, Frank, became a doctor and by his attainments he rose to be the physician of the Nottingham General Hospital in 1905. At his retirement in 1937 a ward of the hospital was named after him. With his two sisters and his brother Borman he settled in West Malvern where he died in 1952. Another brother, George, lived for many years abroad until he retired. He has one surviving daughter. Henry, another brother, settled in Australia. He died in 1939. He leaves three sons, Frank, Douglas, and Harry, and three daughters, Margery, Winifred, and Freda.

George, another son, had a jeweller's business in Winchester. His daughter Annie married Sir Grimwood Mears, a judge on the Indian Bench. After her death he

married Margaret, the daughter of Ernest and Frances Tempest.

The youngest son, *Charles*, was born in 1831. He became a printer and bookseller at Basingstoke. Before his marriage to Emma Barton in 1865, his sister Anna kept house for him. During the holidays, James and Willie Gray, who were at Wellington, spent some of their holidays at Basingstoke. William obtained a post in India, whilst James entered the army. He did not succeed very well and so took up any work he could obtain. Some time in the early part of the year 1906 there was a ring at the bell of the house at Basingstoke one Sunday evening. As the maids were out Mrs. Jacob answered the door. When she opened it, a rather dilapidated man stood there who said he was James Gray. He was asked in and while a meal was being prepared, his uncle Charles, in the course of conversation, said: "James, I have been praying for you continually for many a long year."

This somewhat surprised James. The next morning, being newly clothed and provided with money, he set off for London where he had some work. Nothing more was heard of him for sometime. One morning a letter arrived from a nurse at a hospital in Canada. She said that a patient, James Gray, had recently died there and before his death he had asked her to write to his uncle and tell him that he died believing in God and trusting himself to his Saviour. He thanked him again for his prayers.

Charles had two sons, Harry and Charlie. Harry married a Miss Balleine and Charlie married a Miss James. Both the sons were ordained and spent their lives in parish work until Charlie became an invalid and was

obliged to retire. His illness lasted for many years but he was so wonderfully patient and uncomplaining that many are said to have been greatly helped in their spiritual life by the brave manner in which he bore his cross. He died in December 1949.

Four of the grandsons of William and Sarah Jacob were undergraduates at Keble College, Oxford, between the years 1880 and 1892. One of them at the beginning of this century was instrumental in founding a parish on the outskirts of Birmingham and in building a church there in the Byzantine style of architecture. It was consecrated in 1910 by Bishop Gore. Later on, the apse was decorated with paintings by Mr. Henry Holiday, R.A.

It might be of interest to some members of the rising generation, if an attempt was made to describe the home life of the aunts at Winchester; for it was at their house that the brothers and sisters and the numerous nephews and nieces met.

Besides making it home for the children of their sister in India, they were constantly entertaining other members of the family. They were always pleasant and kindly, taking the keenest interest in these nephews and nieces. They were so very unselfish and thoughtful and always ready to help in any way they could.

On one occasion, it was in 1873, the whole family went to Bournemouth. Bournemouth at that time was very different to what it is now. The gardens were just beginning to be laid out: all the way to Boscombe was covered with pine trees. They stayed at a house near the pier where John Keble had died in 1866. The party consisted of the aunts from Winchester, Aunt Anna, Sarah, and Mary, as well as the daughters of Eleanor Gray and



Sarah Hall Borman

the nieces from Horningsham, Uncle Charles and Aunt Emma, Harry, a little boy of seven, and Charlie, a baby of two. It was a very happy gathering with Uncle Charles the centre and life of all the merriment and fun.

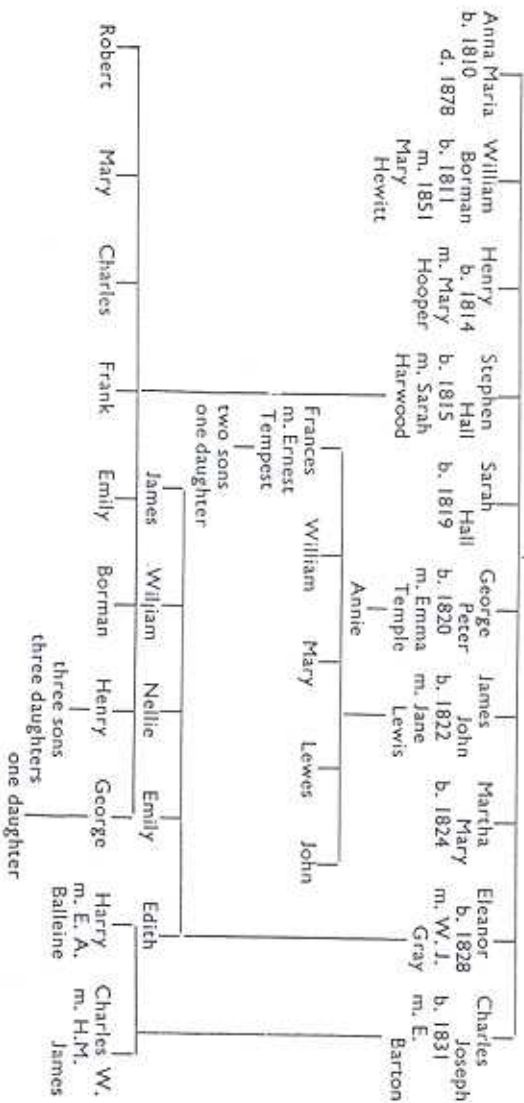
Somehow, in those days, life was simpler than it is in the present day. Young and old found their amusement in their own homes. They made their own pleasures. It was a peaceful existence for the middle class with no crushing burden of taxation and even the poorer folk seemed to be more happy and contented than they are to-day.

In looking back and recalling the characters of the many sons and daughters of William and Sarah Jacob, one cannot help being struck by the fact that though none were gifted with a shrewd, keen, business spirit and so never achieved success in the wider world, they did possess certain characteristics which were extremely attractive. They were kindly, genial, very unselfish, and lovable and although general favourites they were not in any way spoilt but remained simple and lovable to the end of their lives.

In spite of the large number of Jacobs in this branch of the family there appear at the present time, 1953, to be only three members of the younger generation who still bear the name of Jacob. They are the sons of Douglas Jacob in Australia. The male line otherwise is almost extinct.

OUR IMMEDIATE ANCESTORS

William Jacob—Sarah Hall Borman



CONCLUSION

MOST of those members of the Jacob family mentioned in this short story are to us just so many names. And yet they were each of them as real as we are to-day. They had each their special character, their hopes and fears, their difficulties and successes, their disappointments and sufferings as we have ourselves. How interesting it would be if one could know something of their individual characters and something of the story of their lives.

There is one feature which seems to stand out very clearly. They would all appear to have been religious people. From the day when Henry Jacob of Braemar showed his faith in God by leaving a small sum of money to the Church for prayers to be said for the repose of his soul every member seems to have been brought up in the fear of God. Some of them became churchwardens and later on, many of them were ordained. As we read the story of the Australian cousins we find the same religious character. "Mr. Jacob," we are told, "was a truly God-fearing man".

What the men of our family were, so were the women. Looking back over the past 400 years, one cannot help feeling how singularly blessed our family has been in the character of its women-folk.

Of Joane of Braemore and Frances of Romsey and the others of those far off days we naturally know very little, but we may make a shrewd guess that they were women, good and true.

It is when we come down to later years that we are on firmer ground, for when we take into account the large families which grew up at Abbots Ann and in the home in Winchester and bear in mind that every one of the members of those families turned out well, it surely does speak volumes for the mothers who brought them up. Quite recently, one who had every right to know, remarked what a noble and splendid woman was Ann Jacob who accompanied her two brothers, William and John, to Australia at the beginning of the last century.

Coming down to our times and to our own generation—to those members of our family with whom we have been personally acquainted, whether wives or daughters, we can testify what noble women they have been; how devoted and self-sacrificing to the other members of their families; how truly and deeply religious too.

How wonderfully good influences make themselves felt, extending from generation to generation. Nothing is more important, nothing is more powerful than the influence exercised by a Christian home. The story of the Jacob family is a striking proof of this. They were none of them great or famous but they were, what is far better, good and devout men and women.

"Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: he hath great delight in his commandments.

"His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the faithful shall be blessed."

Psalm 112: verses 1 and 2.

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There is one thought which comes into our minds when we mention the names of these ancestors of ours. They are still living beings. Some of them it is true are

known to us only by name; many there are, whom we have known personally, and still love very dearly. There they are, in that place of departed spirits and every one as much alive as we are, but only ceasing to be visible. And then what varied feelings must be theirs as they look back on the life they lived here on earth; grieving we are sure for their many faults and shortcomings and realizing more than ever before, how much they owe to the mercy of God in offering them pardon through the death of the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ. We can also imagine how much more clearly they must understand now, God's loving care and protection and the many blessings He showered upon them as they passed through life in this world. Each one of them is there waiting for that last Great Day; and those we have known and loved, for all we know, helping us here by their prayers, ready to welcome us when our call comes.

"What a joy it will be", says St. Cyprian, "to pass into their presence and their embrace. A large and loving company of parents, brothers, and sisters, a manifold and numerous assembly longing after us and awaiting us there."

Could we end this short story more suitably than with the ancient prayer?—

"Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest,
And let light perpetual shine upon them."