

THE HOLLYYER FAMILY

A Genealogical Review



George & Joseph Hollyer, from the "Kent Hollyers"

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by Peter Walker

Introduction

This document has been written with two groups of people in mind. Firstly, to all Hollyer family historians and genealogists, this work is intended to record all I currently know about the state of research on this family name, though in such a short volume it is not possible to include everyone and everything. However, I hope it will stimulate further exchange of research data. Secondly, this review is also addressed to all current members of the Hollyer family and other descendants of Hollyers who are encouraged to contribute their own knowledge of their families so that future versions of this work can cover even more than the present.

Since not all readers will be familiar with genealogy or aspects of English history and geography, I have added notes in an appendix, referenced by superscript numbers, thus⁽⁰⁾. Unless otherwise stated all locations are in Britain.

I should introduce myself. I was born in Enfield, Middlesex⁽¹⁾ in England in 1949, the second son of Douglas Thomas Walker and Nellie Eileen Hollyer. Since 1990, I have been researching my family history, particularly my mother's Hollyer ancestry. I pursue this purely as a hobby, and through it have made contact with previously unknown members of my family and many other Hollyers who come from other, so far unconnected, Hollyer family lines, but who share an interest in finding out more about this interesting family name.

The research carried out to date suggests that there is probably not one single Hollyer family⁽²⁾, but several families carrying this name with a good deal of mutation between the various spellings of the name, such as Holyer

and Hollier. In bringing together the various strands of research, I have had to reach some of my own views on the work done by others and I apologise in advance if I appear to contradict their earlier work or have chosen to draw a different conclusion from their data.

The Name and its Origins

Like so many names, the Hollyer family name has had many spelling variants down the years, often due to the level of illiteracy and the fact that Parish Clerks wrote up the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials based on what they thought they heard. The Hollyer name is definitely closely linked with the name variants Hollier, Holyer, Holliar, Holier, Holyor, Hollyar and Hallier, but almost certainly the Hallier name *from Gloucestershire* is a different family altogether. The special case of the name Ollier will be discussed later.

The surname dictionaries usually reference a link between Hollyer and Hollier and variously describe its meaning as relating to Old English or Old French words meaning 'Dweller by the holly tree' - hardly surprising - or 'Whoremonger' which most of us would prefer to pass over quickly. Such dictionaries rarely give any proof of such assertions and so must be considered as speculative.

Early references to the name can be found in the 14th century Lay Subsidies.⁽³⁾ There is a Robert le Holyere in the 1309 Bedfordshire Lay Subsidy Rolls and an Adam Holiere in the 1327 Essex Subsidy Rolls. It was in this period of the 14th century when the adoption of hereditary surnames was becoming fairly common,



A Cottage Garden, from a painting by Eva Hollyer

stemming initially from the need of land owners to establish hereditary title, caused by the reduction in the variety of first names that had occurred since the Norman Conquest. There are no Hollyers in the Lay Subsidy for Warwickshire for 1332, but in 1373 there is a record of a John Holyer, bailiff of John de Clynton, knight, in his manor of Shustoke. In 1433, there is a record of a Roger Holyer of "Antesley" (Ansley) holding property in the nearby Parish of Arley. So there is some reason to believe that the many Hollyers living in the northern Warwickshire area might originate from one family in the 14th century when surnames came into regular use.

There is less information at present to explain some other groups of Hollyers who appear in Southern England by the mid 16th century. There are Hollyers in the New Forest area of Hampshire (Milford, Newchurch, Lymington, Beaulieu), probably linked to others across the Solent in the Isle of Wight (Newport, Freshwater, Calborne, Carisbrooke). More Hollyers are known in Sussex in the 16th century at Tortington, Arundel, Bexhill and Hooe. In nearby Kent, there are also references at Goudhurst and Sandwich ("Holye"). A few also exist in Surrey at Kingston and Ash towards the end of the 16th century. Elsewhere in Britain, the name is almost unknown at this period. I have appended two maps showing some of the

early locations of Hollyers in the Warwickshire and in the Kent and Sussex area.

What is certain is that the name Hollyer, being relatively rare, has provoked considerable genealogical interest among family members. In several families, extensive family trees have been passed down the generations. Many have believed that all Hollyers are related, which appears improbable. However, many researchers of the name have corresponded with each other down the years, and even met, and this has led to a considerable degree of sharing of family myths and beliefs. It is best to address here the most common myth amongst Hollyers: that the name is Huguenot (4) and that we are all descended from a single immigrant Huguenot family. Before exploring the evidence for this, it is worth quoting David Hey's *Oxford Guide to Family History*(5) :-

"We have already quoted examples of surnames that were altered over time. When such mysteries arise, a popular explanation is that the name belonged to foreign immigrants, usually Huguenots. However, this explanation is rarely the true one."

He goes on to say:-

“Write everything down, remain sceptical about claims that the family are descended from King Canute, the Duke of Marlborough, Huguenot refugees, Border cattle-rustlers, or all of these people.”

We must keep in mind the 14th century references above which are far more likely to be the origin of the name Hollyer. Nevertheless, the myth is strong. Lilian Hollyer (1903-1983), writing to John Umney-Gray (1912-1992) says:

“I have no doubt you know that our forebears came to this country with the Flemish Weavers and that we are therefore descended from Huguenot stock. The original name was D’Oyler”

Another informant reports:-

“The origin of the name Hollyer is divided into two schools of thought:

1. That it came from “Hulyar” which is Dutch and are said to have come over from Holland with William of Orange.
2. That it originated from France and that it was D’Ollier.”

And again:-

“There appears to have been a line of Huguenot stock, the name originally being D’Oilier, which signifies ‘The dweller by the holly tree’. They came to England from France in the 16th century, I believe, and settled in Warwickshire”

Given the above, the information given by Stella Walker (no relation), who is researching the OLLIER name is of particular interest. Her Great Grandmother was a Hollier, but further research showed that it was originally Ollier. She says:-

“The origin of the name OLLIER is probably French and Huguenot. From my research it seems possible that 2 or 3 brothers came to Cheshire in the 17th century and probably most of the Olliers in England at the present time are descended from them.”

Though her research clearly focussed on a small group in Cheshire at the beginning of the 17th century, she did manage to find in a book called *French Protestant Exiles Vol 2* by Rev David C. A.



“Spring” by Eva Hollyer

Agnew (1866 revised 1886) a long description of the D’Olier family. This family was certainly a Huguenot refugee family. Agnew describes the early origins of this French Huguenot family and reports:-

“One Isaac Olier suffered very severely both in person and property, but escaped with his life, and found refuge in Holland along with thousands of his fellow sufferers.” “Wishing that himself and his descendants should be recognised as of French Protestant descent, he assumed the prefix D’.” “Isaac D’Olier, of Montaubon, merchant, was admitted a burgess of Amsterdam on 21st May 1686. The expedition of 1688 led him to follow the Prince of Orange into England, and to go over to Ireland.” “On 21st October 1697, Isaac D’Olier, merchant, was admitted a burgess of the City of Dublin.”

The text goes on to record that Isaac Matthew D’Olier, a great grandson of Isaac was granted

You can help us!

You may be able to add to our knowledge of the Hollyer family. Could you write a short piece about yourself and your family? What stories and facts do you have? Could you draw up a family tree of your immediate family? Do you have items stored away which you could share? For example, do you have any of the following: certificates of birth, baptism, marriage, death; wills, family bibles, family trees, photographs, newspaper cuttings, correspondence, records of personal, educational or professional achievements? What about the family's interesting hobbies or sports? Where were they educated? What did they do for a living? How did you come to live where you do? Maybe you can also tell us of some interesting links between today's families and those of the past; perhaps you have some interesting family heirlooms? Remember that today's memories are tomorrow's history - don't hesitate to get in touch with myself or any family member helping with this research.

Arms in 1818 by Sir William Betham, Ulster King of Arms for all Ireland.

This is clearly the source of many of the supposed family origins quoted above. So how could this tie in with the Hollyer family or families? Certainly the International Genealogical Index (IGI) (6) records the D'Olier family in Dublin in 18th and 19th centuries with some marriages occurring also in London and Edinburgh. Clearly, however, a family that came over with William of Orange in 1688 could hardly have been the ancestor of Hollyer families who were well established in Warwickshire, Hampshire, Sussex and Kent in the mid 16th century.

So what should one conclude? The density of the name in the Warwickshire area certainly suggests that there might have been a common origin a few centuries before, when surnames emerged. The bailliff John Holyer at Shustoke is a potential candidate. Small clusters of Hollyers elsewhere suggest that the name could also have emerged independently. No doubt some descendents of the Huguenot D'Olier family may well have come to England, from Ireland, and may be the source of the Ollier name. However, the earliest known reference to Ollier, spelt as such, is in 1627, and records exist of Ollheir(e) in 1611 and 1614, so if they are linked to Huguenots, it is difficult to see how it could be via Isaac D'Olier who only left Holland in 1688. The only known possible link between the name Hollyer and the Huguenots is a lone baptism record from the French Huguenot

Church at Threadneedle Street in the City of London which is recorded in the IGI. This is for Marie Houlier in 1635. All in all, I suggest that someone, somewhere, may have tried to make a link between the Hollyer family of Warwickshire and the Huguenots, based on Agnew's published D'Olier material. This would have been done in the days before the collection and indexing of parish records that now give a quite different perspective on the name. Through history, several Hollyers have been interested in Arms and even, incorrectly, adopted them. It could be that this led to the discovery of the D'Olier family and all the subsequent stories. Even in my own family, the myth was that the name used to be Hollier but was changed to Hollyer to Anglicise it and lesson the "Germanic (!)" sound of Hollier. As it now transpires, the name did change, but it was from Holyer to Hollyer.

The name spreads.....

From the group of Hollyers in Warwickshire, the name quickly spread out to the surrounding areas of Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and of course the growing conurbation of Birmingham. It seems likely that the Hollyers in Berkshire and Oxfordshire also originate from the Warwickshire group. The IGI records show how strong the name was in the Midlands in the 16th to 18th centuries. Of the approximately 1000 Hollyer christenings in the IGI before 1800, some 530 are from the six counties of Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire,



A pencil sketch by Frederick H. Hollyer of Buckby Lock

Oxfordshire and Berkshire, compared to 204 in London and just 71 for the southern counties of Kent, Sussex and Hampshire. By the 18th century, an increasing number of Hollyers had migrated to London and this creates extra challenges in understanding family linkages. Indeed, it appears that while the name variant Hollier remained strong in the Midlands, the Hollyer spelling became confined to branches of the family which moved south to London or those from Kent who similarly gravitated towards London. Indeed by the census of 1881, which has been indexed for the whole country(7), there are no Hollyers in the Midlands at all, save for one of the Kent Hollyers who had moved to Birmingham. This broad distribution is confirmed by the birth, marriage and death indexes from the General Register Office (GRO) (8) at St Catherine's House.

....overseas

Amongst the earliest emigrants from Britain were Richard Hollyer who was sentenced to transportation to America (9) in 1662 for 10 years in the plantations, followed by Joane Hollyer who was similarly sent to Virginia in 1663 until 1679. Another transportee to Virginia was Margaret Hollyer in 1670. It was, however, not until the 19th century that mass voluntary emigration from

Britain occurred. The result is that Hollyers and their descendants can be found in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The Hollyer Families

Through records collected by myself and many others who I will acknowledge below, I have been able to group together many Hollyers into family groups and extensive family trees have been recorded on computer databases. The Hollyer name from Kent (my own line) links into these, but in general much less work has been done on the Hollier spelling in the 19th and 20th centuries, though there is plenty of evidence that most Holliers appear to come from the main Warwickshire group.

For the purpose of describing peoples' connections, I have numbered and named these family groups based on locations as follows:

1. The Warwickshire Hollyers, especially the group descending from Joseph Hollyer of Wyken who married in 1687 at Brinklow, whom I refer to as the "Coventry Hollyers". Other Hollyer/Holliers in Warwickshire and surrounding areas of Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire may all have descended from a common line. Many of these are probably the ancestors of present day

Holliers, but most "Warwickshire" Hollyers that have descended to the present day seem to be descendents of Joseph of Wyken.

2. The City (of London) Hollyers, who were connected with the line of Matthew Hartley Hollyer (1780-1856); builders, painters and glaziers at Warwick Lane, off Newgate Street. Note however that London attracted many Hollyers and Holliers and not all are linked to family 2. We now know that family 2 is directly linked to family 1.

3. The Linslade Lock-keepers: Hollyers descended or connected with John Samuel Hollyer (1814-1905) and his brother Frederick Henry who were, like so many others in this family, Lock-keepers on the Grand Junction Canal.⁽¹⁰⁾ A speculative link with family 1 cannot yet be established. The earliest ancestor is Henry Hollyer, who probably married around 1812.

4. The Daventry Hollyers, so called because their births are shown in the Daventry registration district in the GRO indexes. It turns out that these refer to events at Droitwich and Braunston (which is on the Grand Junction Canal) and are linked to family 3.

5. The Kent Hol(l)yers, my line, who descend from John Holyer born around 1714. Some of this line changed their name to Hollyer, others have remained faithful to the original spelling that John used on his marriage licence in 1737. He and many of his descendants are associated with the Kent village of Woodchurch. There are a good number of events under the Hollyer spelling in nearby places such as Cranbrook, Ashford and Tenterden which are almost certainly part of this family. There also remain many Holyers in Kent and Sussex.

6. The Farnham Hollyers, again based on the Farnham GRO registration district, though I believe the family was always connected with the nearby town of Aldershot. The frequency of distinctive middle names from the past shows they descend from family 2 and this link has now been substantially established.

7. The Portsea Hollyers. A group of Hollyers around the Portsmouth area in the 19th century, that appear to have no link to any other, but might just descend from the several Hollyers recorded in Hampshire in the 16th century. Alternatively, they could be connected with army or navy families who stayed temporarily in the area.

The origin of this set of family groupings stems from the 5 separate trees which I acquired from Peggy Quigley and John Umney-Gray, whose work is described below, and 2 more groups I added myself. Now that many of these families have been linked together, a more rational way of describing Hollyer families is needed, but this will have to wait for a later edition of this document.

Evidence from censuses shows that, in line with the generally observed trends, many Hollyer births were not registered in the early years after 1837 through to around 1870. This adds to the difficulty of establishing ancestry.

There are many more Hollyers who have not yet been linked into any of the above families, in particular the many events in London, where so many people gravitated.

The Researchers and Correspondents

As mentioned above, researchers today and in earlier times have managed to link up with one another and exchange material, pedigrees and family name myths. I have been fortunate to have made contact with quite a few of them, and through them the considerable work of earlier researchers no longer with us.

My first links were with my Aunt Molly in South Africa, born 1924 as Marjorie Hazel José Hollyer. She put me in touch with Margaret Wilbourn, of Beddingham in Sussex, granddaughter of Amelia



Molly Aimer



Margaret Wilbourn

Ellen Hollyer (1878-1946). Margaret had researched family 5 in the early 1970s and had got back as far as John Hollyer (1771-1824) who married in Woodchurch. She had written to many Hollyers at the time, including my grandparents. Margaret did much work on some of the siblings along her ancestry, including the Hotel Keepers who had connections with Lewes near where Margaret lives. I also linked up with Harry Holyer of Mannings Heath, near Horsham who is doing a "One-Name Study" (11) of the name Holyer/Hollyer/Hollier. Like Margaret Wilbourn, he is a distant relative of mine in family 5. He gave me the information about the Woodchurch family going back to John Holyer (b.1714). He has also collected a large number of references for the three name variants from the GRO indexes and elsewhere.

During my long correspondence with my Aunt, she told me about two Hollyer families she had found in South Africa. By coincidence, members of these two families had met one another, but had done nothing to find out if they were related. In fact, I have failed to find a link between them, but have traced their respective lines back. One family, that of Alfred Ernest (b. 1891) emigrated in 1948 and were descendents of family 3, while the other, that of Reginald Frederick (1895-1957) descended from family 2 and emigrated in 1924. One of the descendents of Reginald Frederick is Beatrice Hollyer (b. 1957) who is a TV and radio newsreader and has worked in South Africa, America and Britain. One of my family, Louvain, wife of Norman Hollyer (b. 1920), a cousin of my mother did write to Beatrice some years ago, but nothing further came of this correspondence.

Margaret Wilbourn had also told my Aunt Molly about Derrick Hollyer (b. 1925), who has avidly collected all things "Hollyer" and has amassed a lot of information about his Lock-keeper ancestors from Linslade (family 3). He has corresponded widely and even owns two pictures painted by Eva

Hollyer of family 5! In contrast, Margaret Wilbourn has a drawing by Frederick Henry Hollyer (of family 3) of the canal lock at Buckby, a copy of which can be found elsewhere in this document.

I was keen to trace my lost relatives who went to Canada earlier this century. I was fortunate to make contact with Peggy Quigley (née Hollyer (12), 1924-1994), a cousin of my mother. She too had been researching the family, not by any primary research, but by adding to, and clarifying the enormous amount of research done by John Umney-Gray (1912-1992), who again descends from my family 5. Her family and John's found themselves living as close neighbours in Canada and this has led to my having many details of distant parts of family 5 and many wonderful photographs, some taken by Peggy's father and some by contacts made by John Umney-Gray down the years, including a photo of my 3xGreat Grandfather Joseph Hollyer, the Herald Painter. Sadly, Peggy died in 1994, but her elder sister, Jo Field (b. 1921) has recently re-established contact.

John Umney-Gray, from family 5, was researching during the 1960s and 1970s and amassed a huge quantity of material on various Hollyers. He attempted to put all the known Hollyers onto one big family tree, despite the fact that, as we now know, there is no known link between family 1 and family 5. In his research, he came across another very significant Hollyer researcher in Canada: John Elphicke Leslie Hollyer (b. 1896, family 1) who was very active in the 1950s and 1960s. They eventually met in 1968. The mutual exchange of information was most productive, but they failed to find a link between themselves, just as I have also failed, but some other important work was exchanged.

Amongst information exchanged was the work of Richard Samuel Hollyer (b. 1924) of Houston, USA, who in 1977 wrote down the results of his



Barbara Machell



Richard Samuel Hollyer

research into the early ancestors of family 1. In his text he acknowledges the material given to him by John Umney-Gray, who he says got some earlier material from (Henry) Berkeley Hollyer (1890-1982), who lived in London. Berkeley was a keen researcher and part of family 4, but I have not been able to get to any of his original work, though because of his contacts, we probably have much of this. Berkeley died in 1982 at the age of 92, but both Derrick Hollyer and Margaret Wilbourn met him. Margaret felt sure that one of his charts did go back to a Huguenot family (but see comments above), so it would be interesting to try to find this information, however suspect some of it might be. I did write to his son, himself now in his 70s, but did not get a reply. Derrick has told me that he feels there is a Huguenot link.

John Umney-Gray wrote a compendium of facts, correspondence and trees associated with the families, for circulation amongst the family and contacts. When reading John's book, it is sometimes hard to work out who wrote to whom, but suffice to say that between Berkeley, John Elphicke Leslie ("E.L.") and John Umney-Gray, contact has been made over the years with several other Hollyers, for example, Lilian Rosalind Hollyer (1903-1983) and her brother Hartley John Hollyer (1904-1977), from family 2. They both died in Bournemouth, Dorset and I believe that Derrick Hollyer once went to visit them, despite there being no known connection. I believe that Derrick thought they looked alike. Often when such Hollyers meet, they are struck by facial similarities. Margaret Wilbourn has said that of Derrick and John E.L. Hollyer said it about his father Alfred John (1863-1941) and William Perring Hollyer (1834-1922). An employee of Cecil Thomas Hollyer (1910-1976) from England said the same of John E.L. Hollyer when they met in Canada. In each case, there is no known

connection but this sort of experience leads many to believe that all Hollyers are somehow related!

Another correspondent from the 1950s was Gregory Hollyer (1871-1965), son of William Perring Hollyer, from family 5, who emigrated to the USA. His son Daniel (1905-1987) also wrote. Cecil Thomas Hollyer ("Bunny"), who I have mentioned above, was another member from family 5 who wrote at that time. He exchanged several letters with John E.L. Hollyer. He appears to be the source of the photograph of Joseph and George Hollyer that I have used on the front cover. I have, through Margaret Wilbourn, met his sister Barbara Machell (b. 1923), who lives in Glasgow. As well as Barbara, Margaret also put me in touch with Nancy Hollyer Hunter (b. 1919) from family 2, who has been a most interesting correspondent, especially concerning Matthew Hartley Hollyer II and has supplied photographs and a family tree drawn by Matthew himself in 1799 showing how this family links back to the Coventry Hollyers of family 1. Matthew is thus the earliest known Hollyer genealogist!

Marjorie Hollyer of Detroit (1910-1978) wrote to John E.L. Hollyer and gave details of the three brothers from family 1 who emigrated to the USA. She mentions that James Hollyer (1834-1930), one of the three brothers, had, from evidence in a letter of 1916, traced the family origins back to Warwickshire and mentions that Hollyers are mentioned in Dugdale's *History of Warwickshire* of 1642. Marjorie's brother, Robert Nelson Hollyer (1895-1972), also wrote in 1969. Indeed, it appears that several members of family 1 kept extensive family records. W. Goodwin Barnes, who in 1868 married Lillie Hollyer (b. 1846), was the person who commissioned the Sanderson-Hollyer Pedigree. It was this pedigree that Berkeley Hollyer came across, sent to John Umney-Gray and found its way to Richard Samuel Hollyer of Houston. The latter says that a second version of this pedigree was received from Mary (Aunt Polly) Hollyer Riggs (1901-1985) and this had more data on it. Richard also refers to "some inconsistencies and errors" in this pedigree. (I too have found some errors in it). Helene Smallwood, daughter in law of Frederick Hollyer (1838-1933), the photographer, also compiled a family tree back to John Hollyer of Radford, presumably drawing on the Sanderson-Hollyer pedigree.

Amongst the many researchers, I must also mention Aleya Lyell Reade whose book *Johnsonian Gleanings* (1939), which I found in the

library of the Society of Genealogists, contains a good deal of research by the author to attempt to discover the tenuous link that Samuel Johnson, the famous diarist and lexicographer, said he had with John Hollyer of Coventry, thought to be John Hollyer (b. 1723) who married Susanna Sanderson. While the author admits failure in this task, the comprehensive data does help piece together the early years of family 1 in Coventry. He also refers to W. Goodwin Barnes mentioned in the previous paragraph, though most of his data from family 1 appears to have come via Frederick Thomas Hollyer, husband of Helene Smallwood.

As for myself, I have tried to piece together the various families, based on the set of trees from John Umney-Gray and his associated notes, my own research on the South African families, the GRO indexes and the IGI references. To that have been added the many trees submitted by more recent correspondents described below. I completed some of the GRO references that had not been collected by Harry Hollyer on the Hollyer spelling variant. I have also extracted from the 1993 IGI on CD-ROM all the references to Hollyer and all its name variants, including Ollier. I have also researched London parish records and the census to help fill in missing data from families 1 and 2. I have also purchased some extra certificates from the GRO in an attempt to link the remaining "unknown" Hollyers into the wider picture.

Through a contact card deposited at the Society of Genealogists, I exchanged letters with Ron Norman, whose ancestor Joseph Knocker married Elizabeth Hollyer (b. 1797), a member of family 5.

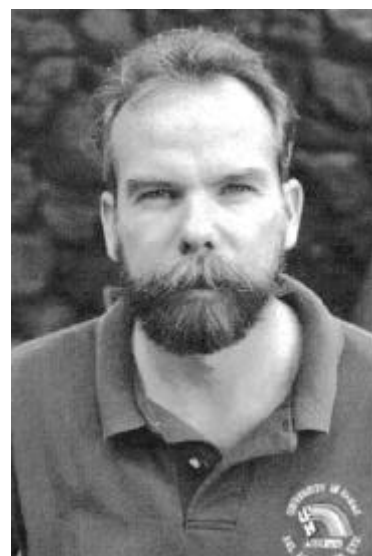
More recently I have heard from Sandra Lynn Owen (née Hollyer, b. 1946) from New South Wales in Australia about her descent from Thomas Shields Hollyer in family 2.

Another contact made in 1994 was Amy Hollyer from Phoenix, Arizona. Her husband (Gordon) Stewart (b. 1924) descends from Gregory Hollyer, the eldest son of William Perring Hollyer from family 5. Amy has provided a comprehensive tree of the American descendents of Gregory Hollyer and has passed on an interesting letter from 1942 when Gregory related to his son Gordon about a supposed "Hollyer fortune" - some land in Battle, Sussex - which can be claimed by an eldest son of an eldest son named Gregory Hollyer. He states he would be the current heir but can't spare the

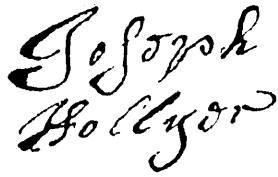
effort to go to England. This story is probably contrived, but has had the effect that Gregory perhaps wanted, as all his descendents have used the name Gregory in their families. But who knows? There were Holliers in Battle in the 16th century, but it seems inconceivable that Gregory had any proof of descent from this family.

1995 proved another fruitful year for Hollyer contacts. James Robert Hollyer (Jim, b. 1958), who descends from the Detroit, USA Hollyers (part of family 1), and now lives in Hawaii, made contact. Jim is the nephew of Richard Samuel Hollyer from Houston. Jim has built on his uncle's work and aims to trace every Hollyer in the USA and Canada and establish their links with the families of the past. Jim's academic background and facilities have been invaluable in tracing references to Hollyers in literature and other published material. We have corresponded extensively by electronic mail. His family have been extremely helpful in submitting new information. He has also been in touch with his 3rd cousin, once removed (13), James Hudson Hollyer III (b. 1927) from New Jersey, USA, who has also researched the family and has family bibles with important data. Again, his family have been very cooperative in helping add to the family tree and providing some wonderful photographs which are shown elsewhere in this document.

Advertising for Hollyer contacts on the Internet (14) brought forth a contact with Harry Duckworth from Winnipeg, Canada who has extensively researched the Hollier families in Warwickshire, establishing many extended pedigrees. It was



Jim Hollyer



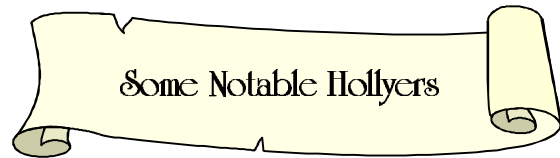
Joseph Hollyer of Wyken's signature
on his 1687 Marriage Bond

Harry who found the Lay Subsidy reference to the bailiff John Holyer at Shustoke in 1373.

Jim Hollyer managed to locate an extensive document on the Wheeler-Green families which had a connection with Martha Bingham and Gregory Hollyer.

Other 1995 contacts included Victor Harris from Belfast who had come across a marriage between a Jane Lackington and Philip Hollyer in 1855. This was a new event to me, for Philip's name is missing from the GRO indexes, though Jane is referenced. Gavin Hamilton from New Zealand contacted me concerning his sister-in-law's Hollyer ancestry. This is the Reading family of Walter and Rose Ann Hollyer, an interesting army family which I am still researching. Despite some conflicting data, it may connect to my own family 5. Mark Richard Hollyer (b. 1948) was another E-Mail contact; he is part of Gregory Hollyer's family.

Finally, I must mention a piece of serendipity. While researching my Vasey line at the Guildhall Library in the City of London, I had cause to inspect the parish records of Christchurch, Newgate Street. Many records from this church were badly burned during the blitz in the Second War, but the Guildhall indexes showed the existence of a transcript from the registers taken in the late 19th century. It turned out to be selected transcriptions relating to the family of Henry Hucks Gibbs, 1st Baron Aldenham. He was rich enough to employ a researcher to work on his family ancestry. Somewhere he was related to the Hollyer family (no 2), since the extracts contain 13 Hollyer events which were later to be destroyed. Amongst these are the marriage of Matthew Hollyer to Mary Hartley in 1778 and their subsequent children, starting with Matthew Hartley Hollyer in 1780. I understand that these Christ Church extracts were published in the *Genealogists Magazine* in 1987, so other researchers are aware of these records.



I have an extensive database of Hollyers on my computer and can supply information, charts and trees from these on request. In this document it is not possible to describe every Hollyer or Holyer - I have some 559 on file with a similar number of close relatives with other surnames. However, I have appended some partial pedigrees of some of the key family lines. I will attempt here to say a few words about some of the more notable Hollyers in the various families we know about. In this edition, with one exception, I have avoided mentioning any living Hollyers, but it is to be hoped that those of you reading this review might wish to commit to paper what you can about yourself and your families, so that perhaps in later editions I might do justice to more Hollyers of the 20th century.

Apart from the supposed facial similarities of apparently unrelated Hollyers, it has often been remarked about the recurring interests of Hollyers across separate families. There are many artists amongst the Hollyers, some specialising in painting, some were heraldic artists, some were artists on glass, some were signwriters, some were engravers and some were photographers. There were also musicians. The City Hollyers had long standing connections with glass and many were members of the City livery Company of Glaziers⁽¹⁵⁾. Other professions were handed down through the generations, notably family 5's butchers, family 1's wine merchants and silkmen, family 3's Lock-keepers and family 5's hotel keepers and publicans. Many Hollyers were proud of their heritage and the continuing appearance of forenames from past generations is evidence of this. For example Hartley John Hollyer (1904-1977) clearly links back to his 3 x Great Grandparents Matthew Hollyer and Mary Hartley who married in 1788. Equally George Jarman Hollyer (1896-1978) shows his descent from his 3 x Great Grandparents Richard Hollyer and Sarah Jarman who married in 1750. Many descendants down female lines have kept the name alive by using Hollyer as a middle name. It even appears that some Hill descendants of family 5 took to using the double barrelled name Hollyer-Hill.

First let's look at family 1.

The Coventry Hollyers

Many of the Coventry Hollyers seem to have been quite prominent people in their time, but many dates and facts remain obscure and some of the connections seem to come only from the Sanderson-Hollyer pedigree which Reade describes as "thin" and "of a sketchy and inaccurate character". As mentioned above, the oldest ancestor of this line was **Joseph Hollyer** of Wyken who married Barbara Brown at Brinklow in 1687. There is some doubt about when he died, how many wives he may have had, what he did for a living and, of course, where he was born. Things get a little clearer with his son **John Hollyer** of Radford (1689-1749) who was either a Distiller or Wine Merchant (or perhaps both?). He was rich enough that in his will he left £400 to each of his three daughters, quite a substantial sum for those days. His son, **John Hollyer** (b. c1723) was the one who is said to have corresponded with Samuel Johnson. Oddly, neither his baptism or burial records have been found, but his marriage to Susanna Sanderson is notable in that it occurred just days after the burial of her previous husband Barford Watts, also in the distilling business. The marriage was so quick that they had to get a special licence, as there wasn't the normal three weeks calling of banns⁽¹⁶⁾. The researchers seem to disagree about John's occupation. Some describe him as a Wine Merchant, like his father and some as a Silkman, like his son John and possibly also his Uncle Joseph. Some have associated John with a place called Hollyerst, but this is almost certainly Hollyhurst, near Bulkington. Susanna Sanderson not only descends from the Sanderson family

traced back tentatively to 1140 (this is shown on the Sanderson-Hollyer pedigree), but also seems to have given the name Anna Maria to the Hollyer family. It was her mother's name. This name turns up in many of the Hollyer families down the generations and even suggests that the Lock-keepers of families 3 and 4 may be linked to family 1. Moving on another generation, we find **John Hollyer** (1760-1833). He was a Silkman in Coventry who married Susanna Ford. John apparently sold up his business and moved to London and is said to have put all his money into dock building in East London, but lost it all. Latterly he lived in Clerkenwell and both he and Susanna were buried at St Mary's Church in Islington.

There are several lines of descent known from John and Susanna: their son **John Hollyer** (1786-1852) who married Harriet Barnes Hughes and from them down to their Great Grandson John E.L. Hollyer who lived in Toronto, Canada and did so much research on the family. Another line went via **John Sanderson Hollyer** (1818-1897) who settled with his family in Wales. However, by far the most significant line of descent was from John and Susanna's youngest son Samuel, who has many living descendants in America today

Samuel Hollyer

Samuel Hollyer (1797-1883) became a line engraver and art publisher. Samuel was born in Coventry, but came to London with his father, John Hollyer. He also became an expert collector of water colours of the early English school. He passed on his artistic talents to three of his sons. His other claim to fame is that until 1853, Samuel was Deputy Sealer at the Court of Chancery ⁽¹⁷⁾.



The family of Samuel and Mary Ann Hollyer.

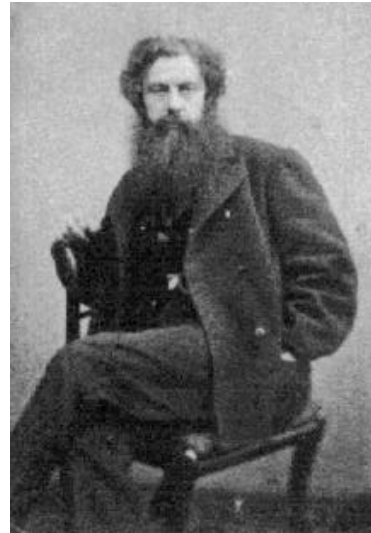
Circa 1866

Top Row: Samuel jnr, (probably) his 2nd wife Madeline, Christopher Hollyer.

Bottom Row: Mary Ann, Samuel snr and daughter Mary Ann.



Samuel Hollyer, sr



Samuel Hollyer, jnr

In 1853 this post was abolished by an Act of Parliament, though his wife successfully pressed the Treasury to grant him a pension. Dickens, in his novel "Bleak House" refers to this post as "Deputy Chaffwax".

Samuel Hollyer

Samuel Hollyer (1826-1919) was one of three sons of Samuel who emigrated to the USA in the 1850s. The other two were Alexander and James. Samuel, like his father became a distinguished line engraver. What better than to quote from the Dictionary of American Biography:-

"Samuel was apprenticed at fourteen to the Findens, engravers, for a fee of five hundred pounds, but after serving five of his seven years he was transferred to Ryall's studio. He afterward worked for Ryall and other engravers. The first plates which bear his signature are dated 1842. In 1850 he married Amy Smith and the following year they emigrated to New York. Hollyer did well, executing plates for book publishers, but in 1853 his wife died and he returned to England for a few months. On returning to England again in 1860 he found his stipple in great demand and remained for six years, marrying meanwhile, in 1863, Madeline C. Chevalier. After his permanent settlement in America in 1866, he lived for many years at Hudson Heights, near Guttenberg, N.J., commuting to New York. During his more than seventy years of active work he engraved in line

and stipple excellent portraits of most of the literary celebrities of his time, as well as landscapes, bookplates, and vignettes for book-illustration. He also made excursions into mezzotint and etching. His self-portrait, etched at the age of forty, is a fine piece of work. According to Stauffer he engaged at times in lithography, photography, and the publishing business. In 1904 he published a series of etchings of historic buildings under title *Prints of Old New York*, of antiquarian interest. During his later years he was a picturesque and familiar figure on the streets of New York, known and liked everywhere in the print world. In appearance he is described as resembling Ruskin: "a handsome, patriarchal figure with flowing white beard, sealskin cap and coat, and his portfolio under his arm."

Do you have any engravings by Samuel Hollyer? It would be nice to add some in a future edition of this review.



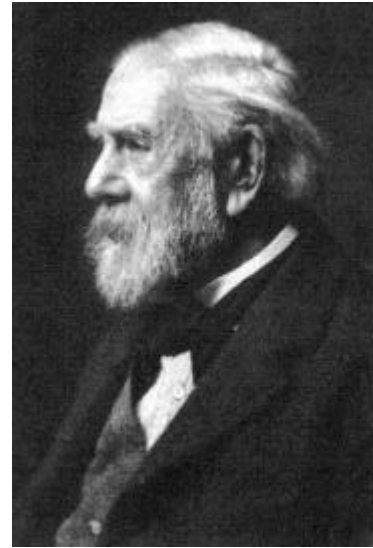
Christopher Charles Hollyer

Christopher Hollyer (1836-1874) was another son of Samuel Hollyer. He became an artist and engraver and exhibited work in 1867 and 1872. He died, just 38, due to the effects of a fall.

Frederick Hollyer

Frederick (1837-1933), another son of Samuel, took up photography about 1860 and established a business in the photographic reproduction of works of art, notably the paintings of the Pre-Raphaelites and the drawings of Sir Edward Burne-Jones. He became ranked as the greatest specialist in this field. As a relaxation he photographed people, and at his studio at 9 Pembroke Square, Kensington, Mondays were reserved for portraiture. Again, he became widely admired by his contemporaries for this work and photographed many well-known artists in their own surroundings during the 1890s and the Edwardian period. He was a member of the Photographic Society. His son, Frederick Thomas (b.1870), worked with him. His obituary in The Times stated:-

“Mr. Frederick Hollyer, who died on Tuesday at his eldest son’s house at Blewbury, Berks, at the age of 95, deserves to be remembered as the pioneer in the artistic use of photography for reproducing pictures. Since his time the methods of such reproduction have been improved and “standardized”, but though they have gained in



Frederick Hollyer

mechanical facility for extensive multiplication, it is questionable if there has not been some loss of quality. The two kinds of work, however, are not really comparable, for Hollyer stood to mass reproduction in the relation of the “private press” to commercial printing. The same virtues cannot be expected in the two kinds of work, and each has its own advantages.

Hollyer was the son of an engraver, and two of his brothers followed the same craft. His introduction to the work that was to make him famous was about 1860, when Simeon Solomon brought him in touch with the pre-Raphaelite group of painters. From that time Hollyer was closely associated with them, and he may be said to have done as much for their popularity by reproducing their work as Ruskin did with the pen. His modest premises in Pembroke Square, Kensington, became a place of pilgrimage for everybody who was in the aesthetic movement. With Burne-Jones, whom he met in the early seventies, and Watts, his collaboration - for it amounted to that - was particularly close. He photographed their work at different stages - the prints often suggesting modifications to the artists - and his collection of negatives must contain some interesting records of early “states”. Rossetti, Albert Moore, and Sir W.B. Richmond were other artists whose work was made familiar to the public through Hollyer’s reproductions. In workmanship he was extremely fastidious, giving

PERMANENT PHOTOGRAPHS

OF THE WORKS OF

SIR EDWARD BURNE-JONES, Bart.

G. F. WATTS, R.A.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI

HÖLBEIN

Drawings at Windsor Castle by kind permission of
Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria.

HARRY BATES, A.R.A.

Homer and others.

HAGUE GALLERY

A Selection from, by F. Hollyer, Jun.

BOTTICELLI'S

"PRIMAVERA," and other works in the Florentine
Galleries, by F. Hollyer, Jun.

Can be obtained from

FREDK. HOLLYER

9 PEMBROKE SQUARE, KENSINGTON

The Studios are open to Visitors daily, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.,
and on Mondays from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Portraits from Life are
taken on Mondays only. An appointment is advisable.

Illustrated Catalogue, post free, 12 Stamps, or Foreign
Stamps from Abroad.



Alexander Hollyer

relatives been found, then the estate would have had to have been sold in order to allow the proceeds to be shared. The present location of Frederick's original work is therefore unknown, but there are albums in the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Alexander Hollyer

What of the other two brothers who emigrated to the USA? Unlike Samuel, both Alexander and James had families and many descendants down to the present day in the USA. Much is therefore known of their descendants, but less of the brothers themselves. Alexander and James went together to New York in 1855, some four years after Samuel. In 1857 a city directory quotes Alexander as being a gilder, but it appears that both he and James had connections with Piano Making. Alexander (1830-1900) appears to have been a partner in the firm of piano forte makers Steedman & Hollyer in 1869 when he wrote on company headed paper to his brother Frederick on the occasion of Fred's marriage to Mary Armstrong. In 1878, however, Alex was in Boston making show cards, as the advert below demonstrates.

personal attention to every stage of the process, so that the final result was not so much a photograph of a painting as a translation of its qualities into photographic terms. If memory can be trusted Hollyer did not himself experiment in colour reproduction, but the work has been carried on by his sons with very successful results in the cases of William Blake and Turner."

There is a strange post-script to Frederick's life. Frederick had two sons and a daughter but apparently no grandchildren. When Eleanor Mary died in 1968 aged 97, it appears that there were no close relatives to whom her estate could pass. One can presume that as the last surviving child of Frederick, she would have inherited the photographic plates and copyright on Frederick's work. In 1971, a firm of solicitors advertised in the *News of the World* seeking 6 first cousins of Eleanor Mary to whom any estate would pass. These were Christopher William Hollyer, Samuel Joseph Hollyer, Minnie Wheelock, Emily Louise Horrocks, Alice Pauline [sic] Duryee and Winthrop Frederick Hollyer. At least two of these died in the 1930s, and most lived in the USA, so it is unclear what the result of their searches were and what therefore happened to the estate. Had several

A. HOLLYER,
CHROMOS,
SHOW CARDS, ETC.
 Mounted and Varnished on Stretchers.
Canvassers' Outfits.
75 ESSEX STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

James Hollyer

James (1832-1930) worked for a company called Mason & Hamlin, which was primarily an organ manufacturer. In 1870 James reported that they had sold over 1000 organs in England and 6000 in America. The firm employed over 400 people and James was the company Treasurer. Sadly, the firm faced collapse in the "crash of 1903" and James had to leave without a pension.

As I mentioned above, there are many descendants of Alexander and James living in America today who have cooperated in producing an almost complete family tree. Several, including Richard Samuel Hollyer, James Hudson III and of course Jim Hollyer are enthusiastic family historians and have received a good deal of help from their families in their work.

The family which I call family 2, the City Hollyers, descends from Richard Hollyer who was born in Coventry in 1778. This is some of what we know of this line.

Richard Hollyer

Richard Hollyer (1728-1778) was the first of the "City Hollyers" (family 2). He was born in Coventry, the son of Joseph Hollyer (1691-1734), the second son of Joseph and Barbara. At the age of 14, in 1742, he came to London and was apprenticed to a Mr J. Blakey, a blacksmith trading as a glazier in the City. He died and Richard was transferred to Matthew Jarman to complete his apprenticeship. Matthew Jarman was very prominent in the trade being Master of the Glazier's Company in 1746.

On completing his apprenticeship, he was admitted to the freedom (18) on 25th April 1750, and later the same year, on 30th August, he married Matthew's daughter Sarah. He was

admitted to livery in the Glazier's Company on 7th September 1753 and eventually followed in his father-in-law's steps by becoming Master in 1775. Richard and Sarah had three children, Matthew, Joseph and John.

Matthew Hollyer (Matthew Hartley Hollyer I)

There were three Hollyers who were known as Matthew Hartley Hollyer. To assist clarity in the following text, I have used the American convention of using suffices I, II and III to distinguish them, though they did not, of course, use such titles.

Matthew (1754-1804) followed in his father's footsteps as a Glazier, though it should be mentioned that Glaziers were usually painters and often builders too, and this seems to be the case with the family firm. He was admitted to the Company of Glaziers in 1775, the year his father was master. He married Mary Hartley in 1778 at Christchurch, Newgate Street, almost opposite Warwick Lane where the family business premises stood. Mary was the daughter of Thomas Hartley who worked in the same company as Matthew and Richard. It is said that after marriage he was encouraged to take the name Matthew Hartley Hollyer. In Thomas's will of 1796 he refers to his son-in-law Matthew Hartley Hollyer. Nancy Hunter has always assumed that this referred to Matthew Hartley Hollyer II (1780-1856), his son, and that his son must therefore have married at the early age of 16. However, I think, given the story about his being asked to take the name Hartley and bearing in mind that the son was *baptised* with the middle name Hartley, that it must be Matthew (1754-1804) that is referred to in Thomas Hartley's will: he was after all, the son-in-law of Thomas.

Richard Hollyer

1728-1778



Richard's wife

Sarah (née Jarman)





Matthew Hartley Hollyer II and his wife Elizabeth Tabitha

Matthew and Mary had 5 children all baptised at Christchurch (these are the records from the Gibbs manuscript) : Matthew Hartley Hollyer II in 1780 and then 4 girls.

Matthew Hartley Hollyer II

The next of the Hollyers of that name was born in 1780 and was apprenticed to his father in 1795, being admitted a glazier by patrimony (19) in 1805. He continued the family business in Warwick Lane.

In 1799, Matthew II produced a pedigree of all his known ancestors and it is this chart which confirms the link back to the Coventry family 1.

Nancy Hunter's information on this family suggests that Matthew married twice. The first marriage was said to be to a Harriot Hartley, but there is no hard evidence for this. Nancy's charts do show a Harriot Hartley, but she was an Aunt of Matthew II and she married a William Corp. Nancy does say that this first marriage produced no children.

The second marriage took place in 1831 when Matthew Hartley Hollyer II was 51, late enough in life to support the idea of there having been a first marriage.

A London Directory for 1827 shows the firm as Hollyer & Sons, Painters at 2 Warwick Lane. The reference to "& Sons" suggests that at least two sons were involved. This suggests two possibilities. Firstly the name could have originated in Richard's time and that one or more of Richard's other two sons were involved in the business. Since we know that Matthew I had only one son then alternatively, it might suggest that Matthew Hartley Hollyer II had sons. However, his first marriage was childless and his second

marriage was not until 1831; and this produced only one son who died in infancy.

However, it now appears, based on evidence from the census of 1841 for Warwick Lane and a death certificate from 1842, that Matthew had a son George in 1803, probably before either of his marriages. George worked as a painter and glazier in Matthew's business and lived with his own large family at the Warwick Lane address. It was this George who was the father of Matthew Hartley Hollyer III. George died at the early age of 39 from asthma and gout and the death was registered by Matthew II, who identified himself as George's father. Nancy believes that Matthew II may have had other illegitimate children.

Matthew Hartley and Elizabeth Tabitha, his second wife, had four children. The first son, Matthew, died an infant soon after his birth in June 1831 and is quoted as being buried in Bunhill Fields. After Matthew, they had three daughters: Elizabeth Mary Calder, Sarah (who died unmarried) and Mary Ann. Mary Ann's descent includes Nancy Hollyer Hunter, whose records have been invaluable in sorting out this family.

He was evidently very successful, since his will (in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury) lists a considerable number of properties he owned and rented out. In 1854 he was living in Canonbury Square, Islington, but was at Haverstock Hill, Hampstead, when he made his will in 1849. Most of his wealth passed onto his wife and three daughters by his second marriage. Nothing was left to the family of his late son George, even though it appears that George's son Matthew III continued the family business at Warwick Lane. This tends to support the view that the son George was illegitimate. His reward was perhaps just that he received a free apprenticeship in the trade and

accommodation at Warwick Lane.

Matthew Hartley Hollyer is buried in a family vault in Highgate Cemetery (plot 7080). This reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
MATTHEW HARTLEY HOLLYER

Born Dec 11th 1780 died Jan 14th 1856

*“The grass witherith, the flowers fadeth but the
ways of the Lord endureth forever”*

also of

ELIZABETH TABITHA, widow of the above,
who died 2nd April 1870 aged 70 years.

also of

SARAH HOLLYER second daughter of the
above MATTHEW HARTLEY HOLLYER who
died 17th Septy 1874 aged 39 years.

“I go to the will of my heavenly father”

THE FAMILY GRAVE OF
MATTHEW HARTLEY HOLLYER
OF CANONBURY SQUARE

[on the side]

ALSO

MARY ANN HOLLYER, who died April 9th
1857, aged 75 years

ALSO

MARY ANN, daughter of M & E Hollyer and
widow of the late R.K. Blessley died Dec 6th
1931 aged 93 years.

Matthew Hartley Hollyer III

We now proceed to the last Matthew Hartley Hollyer (c1827-1884). His baptism has not been found, but the 1841 census for 2 Warwick Lane, his marriage and death certificates all point to his being born in 1827, son of George Hollyer, a Painter and Glazier. As mentioned above, it appears that George was the son of Matthew Hartley Hollyer II. The only record of his middle name being Hartley was his death certificate. One wonders whether he adopted the name to strengthen his ancestral links.

Two of his grandchildren, when corresponding with Berkeley Hollyer, said of their ancestry:-

Lilian Rosalind Hollyer:-

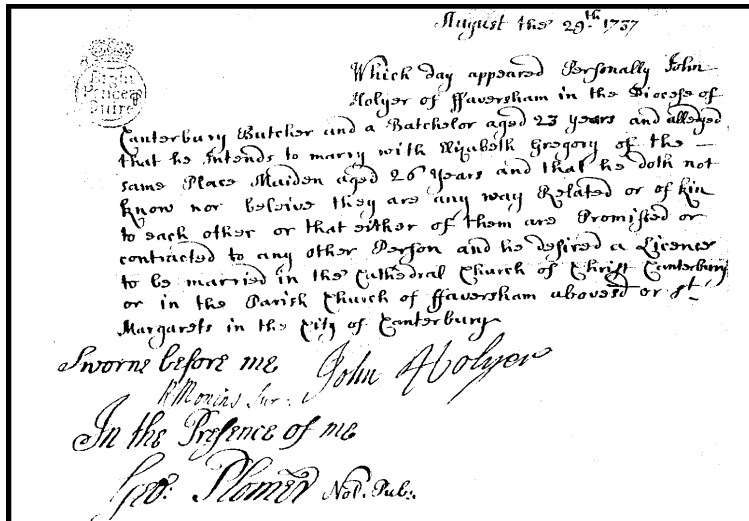
“Matthew Hartley Hollyer, my grandfather, was the last of a family of builders; they had lived in the City of London (Newgate Street) for over 400 years. Unfortunately our family records were destroyed when Christchurch, Newgate Street, was destroyed by enemy action during the last war. There is a commemorative tablet in the crypt of St Paul’s Cathedral in recognition of the work done by my grandfather and his sons when the dome was threatened by the black watch beetle. I understand there are a number of early family graves in Highgate Cemetery”

I have not been able to find this commemorative tablet, nor any records of such repairs to the Cathedral.

Lilian’s brother Hartley John Hollyer says in contrast:-

“We, on our branch, can go back about 300 years or more, but as far as I can recollect, my great-great grandfather was a silk merchant in the City of London, when, of course, the City then consisted of only wealthy merchants such as shipping, insurance, banking, livery etc.”

All in all, this represents a very confused picture, but with the usual grain of truth. Certainly Lilian links the family back to the Warwick Lane family of builders and glaziers, but they hadn’t been there 400 years. While they were some silk merchants amongst the Coventry Hollyers, when Richard came to London, it was to become a glazier’s apprentice. His father John Hollyer the Silkman



John Holyer's signed marriage allegation to Elizabeth Gregory, for their marriage in Canterbury Cathedral in 1737.

was already dead.

Matthew and Helen had four children, Matthew George in 1854, Helen Harriett in 1857, Alexander Charles in 1859 and Henry William in 1863. On Matthew George's birth certificate the father's name is quoted as just Matthew Hollyer and his occupation as Journeyman Painter and Glazier, another case where the middle name Hartley is absent. There are many descendents of this line, much helped by Matthew George who had an enormous family.

As with family 1, there are many living descendents of family 2 in many parts of the world. Perhaps in future more can be recorded of their lives.

We now turn to another Hollyer family, my own, family 5.

John Holyer

John Holyer (1714-1772) is the oldest known ancestor of family 5. The first hard fact we know about him is that in 1737 he married Elizabeth Gregory in Canterbury Cathedral by Licence. How he came to marry in such an illustrious place we don't know, but we might assume that Elizabeth's father had the right contacts. At the time, both John and Elizabeth were shown as being of Faversham. We can speculate however, that John might be the John Hollier shown as being baptised about 8 years old in Egerton, Kent in 1722/3. Since no parents were mentioned and given the age at which he was baptised, it could be he was an orphan under the control of the parish. It is easy to imagine that he must have descended from earlier Hollyers in the Kent and Sussex area,

but by this time in the 18th century, he could just as easily have been linked to various families in the London area, or the surrounding area of Kent - there were Holliars at Lewisham, for example.

Once married, John became a butcher at Woodchurch, establishing a link with the village that went on for many generations. He had his own land, suggesting that the Gregory family may have "set him up". John and Elizabeth had 7 children. Many of the sons and grandsons also became butchers at Woodchurch or nearby villages such as Charing, Egerton and High Halden.

In his will of 1772, he divides his land and monies across his children. This did not break the link with Woodchurch, as Holyers and their descendents were butchers there for 150 years.

Down my line of descent, the next two generations were **William Holyer** (1741-1810) and **John Hol(I)yer** (c1771-1824) who seems to have adopted the double L spelling. William was a butcher at Charing, while John pursued the same trade at High Halden. John's baptism, presumably at Woodchurch, is missing from the parish register, but he is mentioned in William's will.

Joseph Hollyer

Joseph Hollyer (1809-1887) descended from 3 generations of Butchers from Woodchurch in Kent and was the great grandson of John Holyer described above. His parents John and Sarah Hollyer were living at High Halden, not far from Woodchurch, where John was the butcher. However, it is not in High Halden that Joseph's baptism is found. His parents were Wesleyans



Joseph Hollyer, Herald Painter
1809-1887

and just two days after Joseph was born they travelled 12 miles, presumably on horse and cart, to Rye, on the Sussex coast, where he was baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel there. The register uses the old spelling Holyer, though earlier baptisms in this family had already used the Hollyer spelling.

He didn't follow in his father's footsteps however, since he became an Heraldic Artist and it is said also a Coachbuilder. (Curiously this combination of skills reappeared 3 generations later when my grandfather and his two brothers helped their father run the business of Hollyer & Sons Signwriters and Motor Body Builders). Joseph married in Hougham in Kent in 1828 to Amelia Perring Mannings, the daughter of a Dover pilot. They settled in Dover. His brother Josiah became a Hotelkeeper in Dover, so perhaps the whole family moved there. In 1843 Joseph was elected a town councillor and served one term of office.

So much for the facts. The family myths say that he was made a Freeman of Kent and Amelia was made a Maid of Kent, but this seems odd as Freedoms were granted by towns not counties. (20) There again, the family story was also that he became Mayor of Dover (not true) and designed Dover's Coat of Arms (not true either!). A strange aspect of Joseph is that on just three amongst many certificates where his name is quoted down the years he is recorded as having the middle name Wilson. The name was not quoted on his baptismal record, death certificate or gravestone, but is believed to be used on the marriage record. He certainly did name one of his sons Joseph

Wilson. I note that at his baptism, the register was signed by a minister called Joseph Wilson. Could this be the explanation?

In 1851 the family moved to South London, first at Kennington and then various nearby places in Lambeth and Camberwell. What prompted this move is not clear, but one might imagine that working as a highly specialised artist demanded a market larger than rural Kent could supply. Just after their arrival, for some reason, the family then decided to have 6 of their children baptised at the local church, though they were all well past the usual age for baptism. Evidently, they hadn't been baptised as babies, though at least two others were. On this occasion, the register incorrectly records Amelia Perring Hollyer's name as Julia Perrin. Gradually the business changed from being Heraldic Artists to Artists on Glass. This involves the use of a strong acid to etch patterns and writing onto glass. There was a great demand for this during the 19th century, especially for the glass windows and dividing screens in public houses. Some heraldic work was still done. He ran the business with several of his sons who took up the trade: George, Joseph Wilson and Charles Greig. Their skills were passed on to several of their children and grandchildren, so that over several branches of the family we find Glass Artists or Signwriters over 4 generations.

Joseph and Amelia had a very large family. There were 14 children plus two still-births. The very first child, Joseph William Oke died in infancy and is buried at Dover in the same plot as Amelia's father Henry Daniel Mannings, his wife Sarah and Sarah's father Henry Selden. The stone gives



Joseph's wife Amelia and
their daughter Mary Edith



This may be
Josiah Hollyer or
George Hollyer

details of the family and the number of surviving children in each generation. The choice of the name Oke is interesting, as one of Joseph's daughters later went on to marry a Merchant called Oke, the son of a Naval Captain. They lost their second son Joseph too at the age of four. Not long after they moved to South London they lost another young child Martha Louise in 1854, but for the time, they were remarkable in bringing up such a large family in what must have been difficult circumstances. In comparison, Joseph's son George also raised his family in the Lambeth and Camberwell area, but lost no less than 7 of his 13 children in early childhood; three in one month due to diphtheria.

Joseph died in 1887 and along with Amelia, who died just a year later, is buried in Beckenham Crematorium, originally the Crystal Palace Cemetery.

Josiah Hollyer

Josiah (1799-1864) was an elder brother of Joseph and became a hotel keeper first in Dover, where he kept the Shakespeare Hotel, and later in

Cliffe, Lewes where he kept the Bear Hotel. Sadly, his last resting place was swept away in modern times when a road tunnel was built to give traffic relief to the historic town of Lewes. His son William Josiah also became a hotel keeper at Brighton.

George Hollyer

As mentioned above, George (1843-1902) was one of the three sons of Joseph who followed their father in the trade of Artists on Glass. It is said that George made the etched glass for The Angel pub at Islington, sadly now closed, but which gave its name to this area of London. As mentioned above, George and his wife Elizabeth (née Reed) had a very large family, but only 6 children survived to adulthood. The family seemed to move frequently, though staying always in the Camberwell and Walworth area, close to the family workshops at Lorrimore Road. He was a proud man, believing his self employed status put him a cut above the common man. However, the trade was always "boom and bust", which together with the family's misfortunes perhaps explained his frequent moves. In his adulthood he was a far sterner individual than the youngster portrayed in the front cover. He passed on his business to his sons Stanley and Adrian Cecil ("Bob"), while his other Glass Artist son, Charles George, had set up his own business in North London at Enfield.

Charles George Hollyer

Charles George Hollyer (1865-1930) was George's eldest son. As mentioned above, he became a Glass Artist like his father, but it seems that there must have been quite a bit of tension in this family. Around 1893, Charles George, his wife Emma and their first 3 children moved well away from their South London roots and moved to



The family of Charles George Hollyer on the occasion of their youngest son's christening 1901.

Top Row: Beattie, Emma (with baby Wally), Charles George, Lilly and Charles Stanley.

Bottom Row: Bert, George and



Charles Stanley Hollyer on his marriage in 1920 to his cousin Mary Graffy

Enfield, north of London. There he carried on a trade as a Signwriter. This was much in demand for shop signage and for motor vehicles. When three of his sons, Bert (Herbert Edgar), Bob (Henry James Rasbury) and Wally (Walter Cecil) were grown up, he formed Hollyer & Sons, Signwriters and Motor Body Builders. The signwriting on vehicles had blossomed into the actual construction of customized vehicle bodies on the chasses provided by the motor manufacturers. Another major line of work was the advertising boards often then found outside shops such as newsagents. The work involved the skilled use of fine 22 carat gold leaf for the gilt lettering then popular for signs, not to mention a steady hand for freehand painting. There is an interesting article from the *Enfield Gazette* newspaper in 1925 describing his business.

The Canadian Connection

At this point it is worth noting how several members of family 5 emigrated to Canada and formed a major branch of the family there. The line is still strong though only a few still carry the Hollyer surname. George Hollyer's eldest daughter Mary Louise ("Lou", 1863-1954) married a German called John Graffy and had a family of 6 children. In 1912 they emigrated to Canada. Not long after they were joined by Charles Stanley (1888-1970), the eldest son of Charles George and like him a skilled signwriter. Edgar Hollyer (1878-1967), another son of George, also joined them. Edgar and Charles Stanley were soon to return to England to serve in the Great War.

Charles Stanley became very close to his cousin Mary Graffy, eldest daughter in the Graffy family and eventually the Catholic Church allowed them to marry in 1920. Lou went back to England in 1928 to attend her mother Elizabeth in her last days. For some time, it had been Elizabeth's daughter Helen that had looked after Elizabeth. After her mother died, Helen too emigrated to Canada, but sadly died not long afterwards in 1931.

Lou's conversion to Catholicism is said to have been influenced by her love of music and singing. It was not approved of by her parents George and Elizabeth, who it appears were non-conformists. Lou nevertheless managed to persuade her parents to baptise their youngest son Adrian, after Pope Adrian!

Peggy Quigley (1924-1994), who took such an interest in the Hollyer family history was the second daughter of Charles Stanley and Mary.

William Perring Hollyer

We return back a few generations. Not all of Joseph's family became Glass Artists. William Perring (1834-1922) became a Painter. He specialised in animals. He painted several pictures of Highland scenes (cattle, stag and hounds etc) and Norman and Louvain Hollyer have a picture of a dog painted by him. At least one painting of a goldfish bowl was exhibited at the Royal Academy. Three of his children became artists. He looked and probably was quite an



William Perring Hollyer, the artist



This painting by Eva Hollyer was published in *The Girl's Own Annual* Vol XLIII

eccentric with an enormous beard. I have already mentioned the Gregory Hollyer 'myth', which would appear to have originated with William's son Gregory. However, could William have had something to do with it? Why for example, did William name his daughter, born just before Gregory, Edith Blanch Gregory? Did he know that his ancestor John Holyer married an Elizabeth Gregory? Or was he trying to establish a link back to the Holliers at Battle?

Evangeline Grace Ellen Hollyer ("Eva")

Eva (1865-1943) was one of William Perring's many children. Along with her sister Maud, she too became an artist and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1891, 1894 and 1898. At this time the family were living in Cheshire. Her main work was figure painting and her sister Verna often sat for her. Many members of the family, and not just those in family 5, have acquired pictures by Eva or Maud. Several Galleries are said to have her pictures, notably the Walker Gallery in Liverpool has 27. In 1906 at the age of 41 she married her cousin Joseph Richard Hollyer at Pontardawe in Wales. He too was an artist, but he was only 19 at the time. They both told 'little white lies' to the Registrar as the marriage certificate shows their ages as 35 and 22 respectively. When she died,



Gregory Hollyer, son of William Perring Hollyer, who, like his sisters Eva and Maud, was an artist.

in 1943, her will left everything to her sister Maud with whom it appears she lived with throughout most of the 1930s, so it not clear what happened to Eva's marriage; there would appear to have been no children. She wrote a delightful article for *Woman's Magazine* in 1927 called *Our Property Venture* describing her cottage at Hagbourne in Berks, with drawings by herself and Maud. Maud exhibited work in 1902/3 in the Isle of Man.

Gregory Hollyer

Another of William Perring's offspring, Gregory (1871-1965) received the Gold Medal for original oil painting at the Hugo Lang exhibition in Liverpool. He also painted Queen Victoria's castle in Penrith. At the age of 19 he left England for Canada, though it was in the USA that he finally settled. He painted several portraits of prominent people: Sir Wilfred Laurier, while in Ottawa and Sir John A. McDonald while in Winnipeg. Gregory was also a Pentecostal Minister. Apart from the dubious story of the Hollyer fortune, mentioned above, he also put it about that he was born a "cockney" within the sound of Bow Bells. In fact he was born in Walworth, South London, where most of the family 5 Hollyers lived around that time. So his claim to have been born in Lincoln's Inn Fields was wrong, but interestingly, this is where his mother was born, so proving the point that every family story has a grain of truth somewhere.

Gregory married twice and had 10 children; he has many descendants in the USA today. He was apparently a prolific painter and is said to have had one man shows in London as well as selling hundreds of paintings both in America and Britain. During the depression years he sold many paintings at low prices through a big department store, but using a different name.



Mary Edith Hollyer

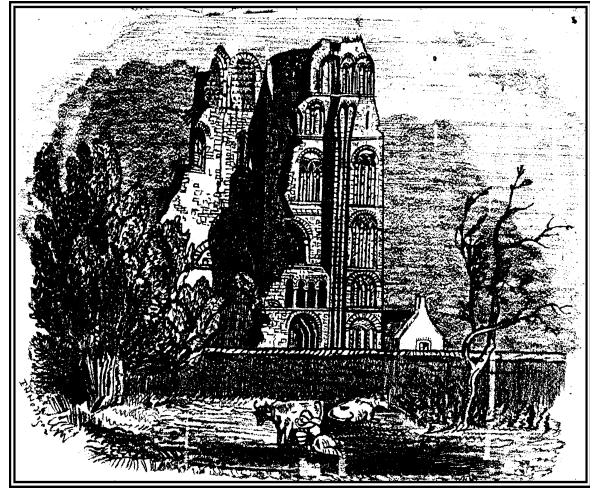
Mary (1854-1929) was the youngest of Joseph and Amelia's children and became a Professor of Music. In 1881 she married Francis Paine Hill whose ancestry (but not on a direct line) included Tom Paine, the famous writer who had such a profound impact on the American independence movement through works such as *Rights of Man*. Mary and Francis's children were also talented. Francis Joseph also became a Professor of Music, married twice, both times to notable musicians. John Hollyer Hill became an Artist and had several paintings exhibited. Brother Clarence Mannings Hill was also an artist.

Once again, there are many members of family 5 who I have overlooked and more information is always welcome.

Families 3 and 4 are known to be connected and involved in lock-keeping.

John Samuel Hollyer

The most notable of all the Lock-keepers in family 3, John Samuel (b. c1814) was the Lock-keeper at Linslade in Bedfordshire for 61 years until his death at the age of 91 in 1905. His gravestone at Linslade Church records his long service for the Grand Junction Canal Company. The census records him at the lock every 10 years from 1851 to 1891, indeed in 1881 the lock is called "Hollyer's Lock".



A sketch of the Augustine Monastery at Canterbury by Frederick Henry Hollyer

Frederick Henry Hollyer

Frederick (c1825-1895) was the younger brother of John Samuel and also worked on the canals, but he was also an artist. Derrick Hollyer has his sketch-book which contains a jumble of charts needed for calculating lock-tolls and other sketches, such as an Augustine Monastery at Canterbury, and Sir Walter Raleigh's home in Ireland. As mentioned above, Margaret Wilbourn has a sketch he drew of Buckby lock. Could Frederick have developed into a fully fledged painter? There is a record of an F. Hollyer who exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1881. Elsewhere in this document I have also shown a painting by an F. Hollyer entitled *The Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner*, dated 1869. Could this be by the same artist? And could it be Frederick Henry? I'm assuming here, of course, that Frederick, the photographer from family 1 never became a painter. Maybe there's another artistic Hollyer waiting to be identified.

I'm sure there are many other noteworthy Hollyers still waiting to be documented.

Hollyers at war

Down the centuries we can be sure that many Hollyers were drawn into war in the many countries where they lived. Modern records tell us that two Hollyers made the supreme sacrifice during the Great War of 1914-18. One was my great uncle George William Hollyer who was a Leading Stoker on the HMS Mohawk, which we believe was sunk in 1915, when he was 23. The other was Henry Arthur Hollyer, a descendant of



George Hollyer 1892-1915

the City Hollyers, who was a Painter on board the HMS Pembroke, which again was sunk in 1917.

In the Second World War, Hilda Pauline Hollyer, a grand-daughter of William Perring Hollyer, was working as one of five telephonists at Croydon Town Hall working in the Control Message Room when it was hit by a 1000lb bomb. Three of the five telephonists were killed, but the remaining two, including Hilda, though seriously injured and working in appalling devastation, continued at her post, accepting only the simplest of medical treatment. She refused to leave her post until another telephonist could replace her. She continued throughout the evening and night until 8 o'clock the next morning, thus keeping vital communications going, particularly those connected with the other major incident when a second large bomb fell in Croydon that night. For her courage, Hilda was awarded the George Medal by the King on 17th June 1941.

During the Korean War, Lft Edgar Hollyer (the son of Edgar, born 1922, a member of family 5's Canadian contingent) was a platoon leader in a forward bunker when the Canadian positions were overrun by a furious and determined Chinese advance on their trenches. In a desperate step, Edgar ordered his men to stay in their trenches while he called on his own artillery to shell his positions. During the attack, he ran amongst the trenches encouraging his men. The shell fire took its toll of the Chinese who were forced to withdraw with heavy losses. For his bravery Lft. Edgar Hollyer was awarded the Military Cross. Edgar continued his career in the forces and became a Major in Military Intelligence. He is now retired and living in Kanata, Canada.



Edgar Hollyer

Hollyers in print

As well as the many Hollyers who were artists, several other Hollyers have had work published. In some cases this is an artistic enterprise, in others the professional requirement to publish one's research or findings.

Before listing a few of these Hollyers, a couple of oddities are worth mentioning. In Mollie Hardwick's mystery novel *The Dreaming Damsel* there appears a conversation, somewhat contrived I would say, between two characters:

"But alas, this isn't even a drawing. It's a photograph."

"A photograph! Not a . . .?"

"A Hollyertype. You know of them?"

"I've read something. But . . ."

"Clever old Frederick Hollyer, of Pembroke Square, Kensington. He discovered how to photograph drawings so that they could be reproduced in quantities as originals. The sales added to the artists' profits, while Hollyer earned himself a nice plump living"

"You mean . . . they cooperated with him?"

"Watts, Burne-Jones, Rossetti. They all cooperated willingly."

The other fictional appearance is from the pen of Georgiana M. Craik, who wrote a young ladies detective novel in 1885 entitled *Mrs. Hollyer*. I wonder where she got her inspiration from?

Of those who published themselves, I have

already mentioned Samuel Hollyer, the engraver, who published *Prints of Old New York*. As well as this, his engravings illustrated scores of publications in 19th century USA.

Cameron Hollyer, who descends from Gregory Hollyer, the painter from family 5, worked in Toronto and became a noted expert on Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. He has written on this and other topics. Belinda Hollyer, the divorced wife of Christopher Hollyer from New Zealand, has been a prolific writer. Her work is mainly children's books based on bible stories, but presumably not *Staying together : secrets of a successful relationship*.

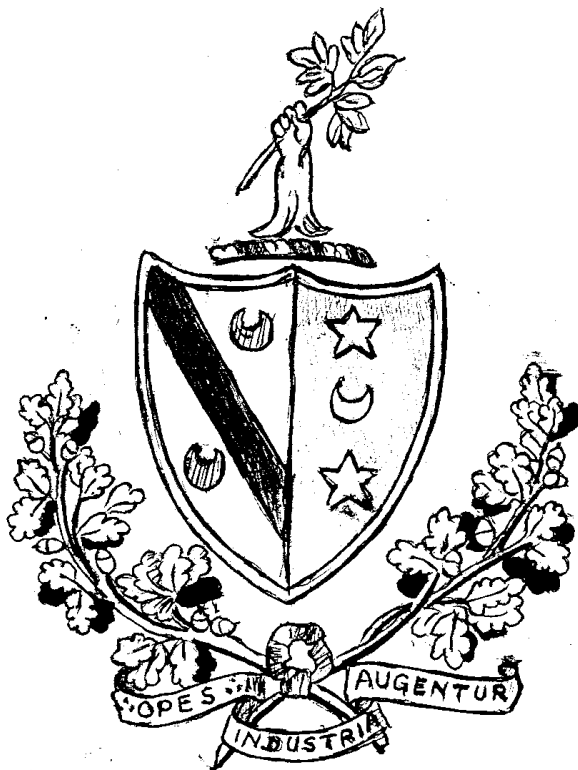
Many other Hollyers have published as part of their professional activities. Among these are many known Hollyers such as Robert Nelson Hollyer, jnr (family 1 in the USA), Mark Hollyer and Gregory Maxim Hollyer (more descendants of Gregory Hollyer), but the identity of J.A. Hollyer who co-authored "*Marketing prospects for Ethiopian livestock products in the Near and Middle East; report to the Imperial Ethiopian Government Livestock and Meat Board, 1972*" is unknown at present, as is a number of Hollyers who have published their medical research, such as J. Hollyer, V.Hollyer and Taras Hollyer. And

who is S.E. Hollyer who published in 1973 "*The Sand and Gravel Resources of the County and Shotley and Felixstowe, Suffolk*"?

The Hollyer Coat of Arms

Well of course there isn't one. Arms are granted to an individual and his direct male descent, with certain rights to modified forms of arms to descendants on other branches. Since we can be sure that Hollyers do not all descend from those granted arms, there can be no such thing as the Hollyer Coat of Arms. Nevertheless, that didn't stop Joseph Hollyer the Herald Painter from painting one, based on an entirely different family. Some members of family 2 apparently had one too. Joseph's one got infected with woodworm and powdered away, but a sketch was taken. Most Hollyers refer to a crest with a bear's paw grasping an olive branch. *Burke's Armory* mentions two people with the name Hollier that were granted arms. The first was Thomas Hollier, a surgeon who died in 1690, but this has a bear's paw and fleur-de-lys. The other arms were granted to a V. Hollier and are in the form of a buck's head with a crest of a man's arm holding a fish. Be that as it may, it has comforted many Hollyer families to believe that they have a Coat of Arms, along with its motto *Opes Industria Augentur* (Wealth is increased by industry)

I don't know of anyone descended from any armigerous Holliers, but as with so many people who hanker after celebrity in their ancestry, plenty of Hollyers like to think they have some connection with this.



Probably the Arms of Thomas Hollier, surgeon 1690, as handed down through the family



An alternative Hollier Arms?

The Arms granted to Isaac D'Olier were quite different to either of the above quoted arms, having a crest of a dove holding an ear of wheat in its beak.

Conclusion

The work done to date has identified at least 4 separate Hollyer families, as far as can be determined from extant records. There is evidence of a major cluster of occurrences of the name around the Warwickshire and the surrounding area, roughly bounded by Coventry, Lichfield, Burton-on-Trent and Hinckley. There is no clear link between these 4 families though one notes with interest that they do possess a higher proportion of professional people than the population as a whole, and the frequently found "Agricultural Labourer" is almost entirely absent. The Ollier name is very concentrated in a separate area in Cheshire, suggesting different origins. With almost all the other name variants, one needs to remain flexible, at least during the period before the 19th century.

Of the families we do know about, there is a rich strand of artists, craftsmen and families who passed their skills down the generations. Remarkably, too, family history has been a continuing interest in the Hollyer family and we can hope will be in the future too.

Acknowledgements

To the many Hollyers, Holyers and their descendants who have corresponded with me, passed on information and helped sort out the many riddles of this family name.

Special thanks to

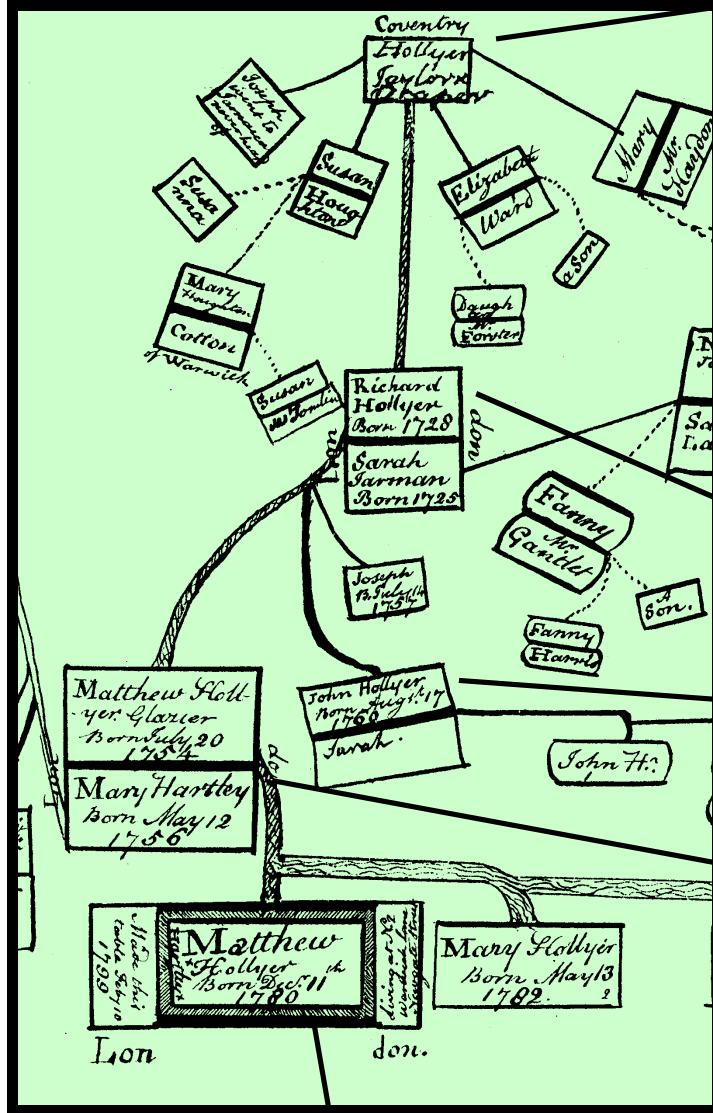
- Molly Aimer, from Knysna, South Africa, for family information, photos and help with research.
- Margaret Wilbourn, from Beddingham, Sussex, for trees, research notes and photos.
- Harry Holyer, from Mannings Heath, Sussex, for his family charts, transcriptions, indexes, information on the Woodchurch Holyers and lots more.
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family charts and correspondence.

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- Gavin Hamilton, from New Zealand, for his information and tree for the Reading Hollyers.

and all the Hollyer researchers from past years whose records have enriched present day understanding.

The 1799 Pedigree of Matthew Hartley Hollyer



Matthew identifies his Great Grandfather as (Joseph) Hollyer of Coventry, a Taylor & Draper, along with his five children who survived to adulthood: Elizabeth, Mary, Susan(na), Joseph and Richard. He records that Joseph went to Jamaica and (was) never heard of (afterwards).

Richard Hollyer & Sarah Jarman, Matthew's grandparents

John Hollyer and Sarah (Shallis)

Matthew Hollyer and Mary Hartley, Matthew's parents.

Matthew Hartley Hollyer, born December 11th, 1780. In the side boxes, Matthew states that he "Made this table Feby 10 1799" and that he was "Living at N^o2 Warwick Lane, Newgate Street"

Appendix 1 - Reference Notes

1. Enfield, Middx. Enfield is in the old county of Middlesex, abolished in 1965. Most of London, north of the River Thames, save for the Cities of London and Westminster, fell into Middlesex. Enfield is 12 miles north of the City of London, and is now a "London Borough". It was here that Charles George Hollyer moved in the late 19th century and set up as a Signwriter, later including motor body building. Cuffley in Hertfordshire, where I now live, is some 5 miles north of Enfield.

2. In this short review I cannot give a comprehensive description of all the research that has been done and sources that have been used, but Appendix 2 gives brief description of how basic research is done.

3. Lay Subsidy was a 14th century tax on property, so called to distinguish it from the Clerical Subsidy which applied to members of the church. Those who paid were written up on Rolls, being made of pieces of vellum stitched together.

4. Huguenots were French Protestants, many of whom fled to England to avoid persecution, notably after the Massacre of St Bartholomew in 1572 and again in 1685 after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Many of those who came to Britain were weavers and craftsmen. Many settled in London's East End, but there was also a major community in Kent. Some Protestants from the Low Countries also came to Britain and are often described as Huguenots too.

5. Oxford University Press, 1993. This book combines a good deal of the background social history needed to understand family history as well as chapters on "how to do it".

6. The International Genealogical Index (IGI) is an index available on computer file or microfiche which contains records of baptisms and marriages from Parish Registers. The coverage for the UK is around 40%. It is compiled by the Church of the Latter Day Saints, (the Mormons) based at Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. It mainly has records for the period 1538 to 1837, when official registration began, but there are some records up to around 1870. There some 3800 events in the IGI relating to the names Hollyer, Ollier and all the similar spellings, which helpfully, the IGI groups together.

7. 1881 Census Index. A joint project by the Mormons and the UK Federation of Family History Societies, and using volunteer labour, to index the entire 1881 census for England and Wales. At the time of writing (April 1996) all counties have been published except London/Middx and Lancashire.

8. The General Register Office (GRO) part of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, situated at St Catherine's House in London. There one can peruse the indexes of births, marriages and deaths from 1837 to date. Full details of each registration can only be seen by purchasing the individual certificates at £6 each. In the early years, up to around 15% of births failed to be registered, as it was the responsibility of the local registrar, not the parents.

9. Transportation. In former times, the death penalty was used for what we would now consider quite minor crimes, such as stealing a sheep. The sentence for some lesser crimes was to be transported abroad to carry out hard labour for perhaps 10 years. This prevented overcrowding in British prisons and provided subsidised labour for those prepared to exploit it. From 1619, convicts were sent to America, mainly to Virginia and Maryland. After the War of Independence in 1776, convicts were sent to Australia. This continued until as late as the 1870s.

10. The Grand Junction Canal. This is one of the many canals built during the early years of the industrial revolution to carry goods and materials in the days before the railways (and later roads) were able to be used. It runs from Brentford in London to Braunston in Northamptonshire, both locations being associated with Hollyers from family 3. From Braunston, other canals connected to Birmingham and the North. Locks were an essential feature of canals to allow the waterway to climb gradients and thereby avoid what might otherwise be a circuitous route. Tolls were collected at locks as a way for the canal companies to raise revenue, so lock-keepers both operated the lock mechanisms and collected tolls from the barges. In 1929, the Grand Junction Canal combined with others and is now known as the Grand Union Canal.

11. One Name Study. This type of genealogical study is where, instead of tracing a family's ancestry or descent, one studies all people with a given surname irrespective of whether they are related. This is what we are doing in studying all the Hollyers.

12. Née, meaning 'born'; this is the usual way of indicating the maiden name of a married woman.

13. 3rd cousin, once removed. Cousinship is often a source of confusion. First Cousins share common grandparents, Second Cousins share common Great Grandparents and so on. 'Once removed' means that the cousin is one generation distant (removed) from direct cousinship. So, for example, the son of one of a pair of cousins would be a cousin once removed to the other cousin and vice versa. This means that the 'once removed' may be one generation ascending or descending.

14. The Internet is a worldwide network of computers, allowing users to exchange messages with each other (Electronic Mail) and explore the wealth of information stored on remote computers. There are several sources of genealogical information on the Internet, in both Britain and America.

15. Company of Glaziers. This is one of many Livery Companies in the City of London. They started as the Gilds in the City, which were associations to regulate the particular trade. The earliest started in the 12th century. They became known as livery companies from the distinctive dress that they adopted. An ordinance of Edward II required all Freeman of the City to belong to a Gild. By the end of the 16th century they had outgrown their original purpose and become wealthy charitable institutions and many schools were set up by the Livery Companies. The situation had by then reversed in that any person admitted to membership of a Livery Company could automatically apply to become a Freeman of the City, which by then had become a largely honorary position. You were 'admitted to the freedom'. Originally, in the days of the Norman feudal system, a Freeman was a person of privileged status accorded to few, since most ordinary people were not free, but duty bound to the Lord of the Manor (and he to the King); one would be a 'villein'. Freeman could hold their own land, independent of the Lord of the Manor; such land was known as 'freehold' land. Once the feudal system broke down, the Freeman became an honorary title bestowed by towns and cities on prominent people.

16. One can marry by Licence or by Banns. In the latter case, the name of the couple are read out in church on 3 successive Sundays before the marriage. Banns are the most common form of

marriage, a licence might be used by those wishing to avoid the publicity of such a public announcement or in cases where the marriage was to take place in a very short time. A Licence would also be needed to marry in other than one's own parish.

17. Court of Chancery. This court was established in 1348 as a court of law though it had existed since the time of Edward the Confessor, when the Lord Chancellor oversaw all the departments of the state. It was a court based on Roman Law to deal with cases for which the Common Law made no provision, and later with cases remediable under Common Law but in which the plaintiff would have found himself under a legal disadvantage. (Common Law cases were heard in the King's courts - the King's Bench and the Common Pleas). The Lord Chancellor was also called the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal [the Seal of England], so presumably the Deputy Sealer was a senior court official. Many types of case were heard at this court but it is perhaps best known for cases of people dying intestate (without a will), where relatives would seek to establish their right to inherit. Where no next-of-kin could be traced, the money is said to be 'held in Chancery' and many families have myths about the existence of such monies, only needing some better proof in order to unlock it. Such stories are usually just that, just as the Hollyer land at Battle probably is. The Court of Chancery ceased to exist as such in 1873.

18. Admitted to the freedom. This means he was made a Freeman of the City of London. See note 15 above.

19 Admitted by patrimony. One of the three ways one could join a Livery Company, being the son of an existing member. The other ways were by serving an apprenticeship with a freeman or by redemption, which meant paying to join.

20. Towns not Counties. As far as I understand it, the giving of honorary "freedoms" was associated with towns and cities, never counties.

Appendix 2 Tracing your family history

The first source of family history are living members of the family. They may have knowledge that has never been recorded elsewhere, which is why I hope that today's Hollyer families will help with this work. Indeed, some records, like the censuses, are subject to a 100 year closure rule and so are not available for research in the 20th century. After that, the GRO registrations of births, marriages and deaths from 1837 are a primary source of data. Through a number of sources, including the GRO certificates and street directories, you may know the address where ancestors lived. These may allow you to find the family in the 19th century censuses, which were taken every 10 years from 1801. Unfortunately, only the censuses from 1841 onwards quote individual names and only from 1851 is the place of birth explicitly recorded. Due to the 100 year closure rule, the most recent census available is that for 1891. The census also allows one to find siblings which might otherwise be overlooked in your backward hunt.

Prior to 1837, one relies on the church parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. The IGI, mentioned above in appendix 1, is a valuable finding aid, since you need to know the exact parish where the event took place. However, as mentioned in the main text, some parish registers are missing, incomplete or destroyed. Since 1978, most old parish registers are in the safe keeping of the County Record Offices and many have been microfilmed. Before this, they were at the mercy of the individual churches and during World War Two, Christchurch in London and Coventry Cathedral, which both had Hollyer records, were bombed and their records partially or completely destroyed. Luckily, parish priests were required to make copies of their registers each year for the Bishop of their diocese and these "Bishop's Transcripts" can be an invaluable back-up resource where they survive.

As one proceeds back in history, early registers are written in Latin and in the difficult to read "Secretary Hand" form of handwriting. But the biggest handicap in establishing links back is movement between parishes. For example, we know that Joseph Hollyer married Barbara Brown in Brinklow in 1687. Brinklow would have been her parish. Joseph was associated with Wyken and Coundon, but there is no baptism of him there. He could have been the Joseph baptised in Bulkington in 1662, but one would need to

establish more proof before assuming this connection is correct.

There are many other important sources of family data which should be mentioned: wills, marriage licences, taxation records of all sorts, gravestones, newspapers, parish records, church records, school records, electoral records, land records, legal records, emigration records, manorial records and many, many more. In fact, the number of records which one could search for evidence of one's family probably exceeds what an individual can achieve in his lifetime, especially as many records have never been indexed, so one would have to search for the proverbial 'needle in a haystack'. That is why other researchers are an important source of data, since you can't afford to repeat what others have already found.

With some lines of ancestry, one can easily get stuck in the late 18th century, especially if the surname is a common one (like Walker, for instance!). We are lucky that Hollyer is a relatively rare name, but even so, we must recognise that there are limits to research and in many ways we should be pleased that the notable Hollyers of the 19th century have left us so many interesting facts and insights into their lives, whereas any early lines we might one day find are likely to be little more than names and dates on a chart. All the same, one hankers after trying to establish if all the Hollyers are indeed from a common root.



The author & family: wife Vaila and daughters Marina and Catherine

The Hollyer Gallery



Alexander Hollyer (family 1) in 1856, aged 26. He was one of the three sons of Samuel and Mary Ann Hollyer who emigrated to the USA in the 1850s.

Do you have any other Hollyer photographs to add to the record?

Four Generations of James.

James Hollyer (right) and his Son, Grandson and Great Grandson, all named James Hudson Hollyer.





The premises of Hollyer & Sons at Enfield, showing examples of their craftsmanship in motor body building and signwriting. Charles George Hollyer ran the firm with his three sons Bert, Bob and Wally.



Amelia Ellen Hollyer,
Margaret Wilbourn's
grandmother



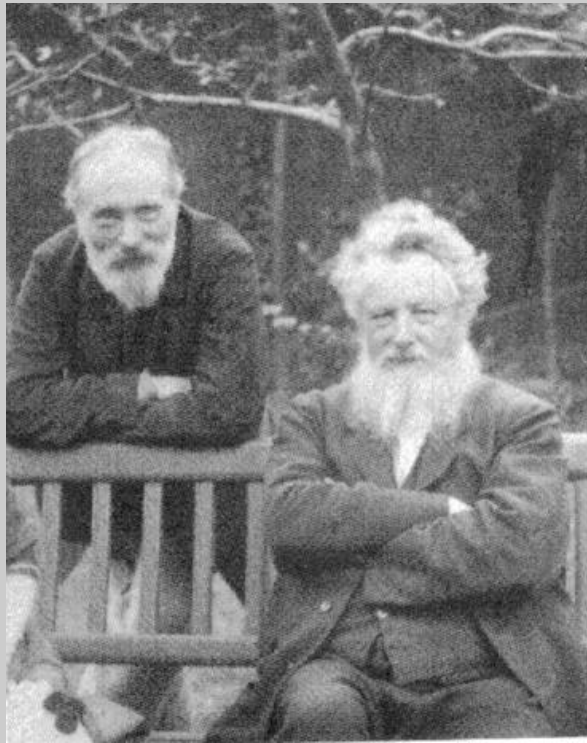
Adrian Cecil Hollyer and
his fiancée Ethel, parents of
Barbara Machell



Ernest Wilson Hollyer on his marriage to Elizabeth Susan Welsh in 1903. Sadly, Ernest died at just 36 in 1912 of Tuberculosis. Like so many in family 5, Ernest was a Sign & Glass Writer. Ernest was the son of Joseph Wilson Hollyer and grandson of Joseph Hollyer, the Herald Painter.

(Clive) Perring Hollyer, son of William Perring Hollyer and brother of Gregory. Perring was a Fine Art Dealer's Manager. Amy Hollyer records that Perring visited his brother Gregory in Canada about 1895. He married in 1904 and had one daughter Hilda Pauline whose heroism in World War 2 is recorded elsewhere. In 1947, Perring moved to Eastbourne in Sussex, where he died in 1970.

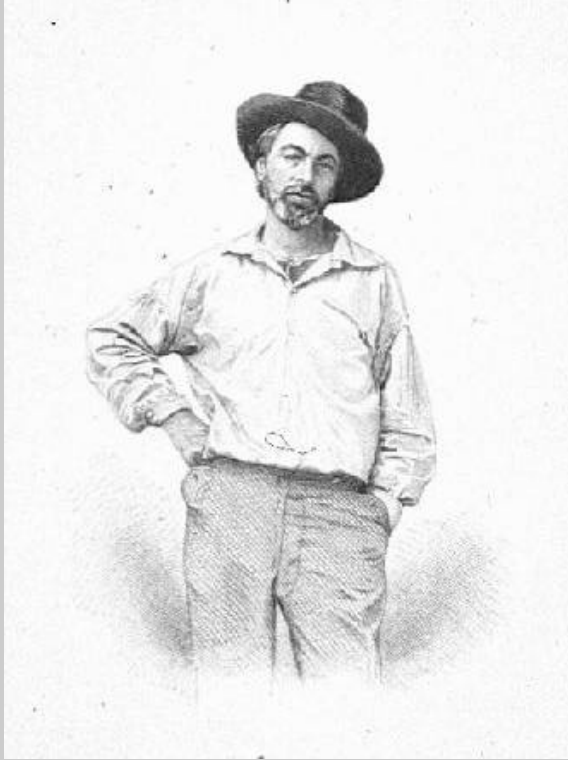




Sir Edward Burne-Jones
(1833-1898) and William Morris
(1834-1896), leading figures in the
Pre-Raphaelite Movement, from a
photograph by Frederick Hollyer
c1890.

The famous actress Mrs Patrick
Campbell (Beatrice Stella Tanner)
1865-1940, as photographed by
Frederick Hollyer in 1893 at his
studios in Pembroke Square,
Kensington.





An engraving of Walt Whitman, by Samuel Hollyer (1826-1919).



"The Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner" by F. Hollyer, 1869. Which Hollyer was this? An F. Hollyer is known to have exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1881.