
Walton Price Family Organization

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David L Walton, Editor

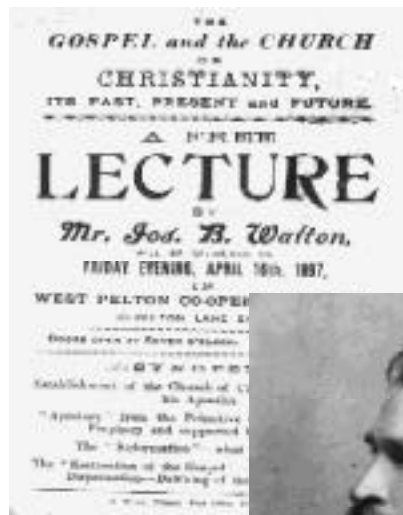
Newsletter

J.B. WALTON

Efforts Yield Results After 100 Years

Joseph Benjamin Walton, oldest son of Joseph and Ann Thompson Walton and grandson of Thomas and Jane Walton Price, provided eyewitness clues to the identity of Thomas Price and his family in a journal he wrote 100 years ago while serving as missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in England. This edition of the *Newsletter* is dedicated to him and the recent discoveries to which his mission journal has led.

Special thanks go to Norma Parry for drawing attention to the clues and for helping with the research. The photograph and handbill are courtesy of Floyd Brereton.



married Emeline Louisa Jacques (Emma) of Springville (born 10 January 1857 at Provo) on 31 October 1877 at St. George. They

became parents of four children. J.B. died 29 April 1935 at Provo.

J.B. authored a history of Provo. This is housed at the BYU Special Collections Library. In addition to



J.B., as he was known, was born at Alpine, Utah, 10 October 1855. He attended Brigham Young Academy and became a prominent Provo educator. He

REUNION REPORT

Approximately 180 members of the extended family gathered at East Mill Creek on 29 June for the 1997 family reunion. Genealogical information was shared, acquaintances were renewed and those attending were entertained with histories, piano talent and a handcart experience.

During the business meeting it was determined that the *Newsletter* would be distributed annually, or, if news warrants, semi-annually. This will reduce operating costs and keep **dues** at a minimum. Dues are used to fund the newsletter mailings, Web site, and research projects. Family members wishing to receive the *Newsletter* should make a contribution of \$5.00 per mailing address per calendar year. Dues should be sent to Walton Price Family Organization, 376 E. 1090 N., Orem, UT 84057.

Information included in the *Newsletter* together with additional photographs and stories will be available at the **Walton Price Web Site**. This series of informative pages is found at

<http://users.itsnet.com/~dwalton/WaltonPrice.html>

Funding for the Thomas and Jane **Memorial Stone** was finalized. Additional research was needed to gather information for the stone, and is now completed. A bronze marker will soon be added at their burial plot in Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Progress was reported on the **family history** and subcommittees were organized. Additional volunteers are needed and welcome (call Wendel Walton at 801 431-0101). Photographs of the grandchildren of Thomas and Jane and their husbands or wives are needed. If you have such photos, please let us know. We will arrange for copies to be made.

It was recommended that the next reunion be held in the year 2000.

his career in education, J.B. operated a large fruit orchard near the present BYU football stadium. A grandson and granddaughter have homes within the original property boundaries.

Thank You, J.B.

by David L. Walton

In June, 1897, Joseph Benjamin Walton (J.B.) set out on a quest to meet his cousin, Ann Walton Pearce (Annie), daughter of James Walton. He had never met this cousin, nor had his father, Joseph, nor had his grandparents, Thomas Walton Price and Jane Colley. The only American relative who could have met this cousin was Ann Walton Townsend, oldest child of Thomas and Jane. (Ann did not leave England until 1860; the rest of the family left their homeland by January, 1853.) Whether by letter from James or his wife, or from personal knowledge of Ann Townsend, the family had learned of this little girl who remained in England.

J.B. travelled to England as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (August 1896 - September 1898). During the first year of his service there, near Newcastle on Tyne, he recorded receipt of six letters from his parents and many from his wife and young family. We can only assume that the letters from his parents included some of the details he used to pursue this quest to meet his father's relatives.

His journal includes this description of his cousin's life, dated June 17, 1897:

"After a breakfast consisting of a little weak porridge, I set out for a search for my father's relatives — his brother's wife and his niece. His brother had one child, Annie Walton. The father soon after died. The mother, unable to support herself, went out to service, and sent the child to my father's Aunt Meese. Thomas Meese kept a pottery in Brettle Lane in 1852. To this place the child was subsequently taken, nothing more has been heard of either the mother or child since."

The "brother" mentioned here is James Walton, son of Thomas and Jane Walton Price. When the other family members left for America, James had not yet married, and chose to remain in the region near Whitbourne. While J.B. does not name James, it appears clear in the above quotation that he knew these facts:

1. Annie was the daughter of his

father's brother, James Walton.

2. James had died when Annie was very young (1857).
3. Annie had been raised by her great aunt "Meese." Aunt Meese was known to J.B. as "my father's aunt."
4. Aunt Meese's husband, Thomas, was a potter, and had operated a pottery in the Brettle Lane district of Kingswinford when J.B.'s father left England in 1852.
5. Except for the fact that Annie was sent to live with these relatives, the family had not heard more since that time.

He records his footsteps from the train station to her door as follows:

"I was directed to take the cable train to New Inns, next to Dudley, next to Briarly Hill, and finally to Brettle Lane. The distance is over 10 miles. I rode from New Inns to Dudley and walked the balance of the journey, at times, too, through drenching rain..."

"When in Briarly Hill, I called at a little shop to buy a cake and a little cheese for I was very hungry. I made known my errand to the people of the house, a lady was called in, and the shop keeper asked her if she knew the Meeses who kept a pottery at Brettle Lane. She said she used to know them but the old folks were dead and the property owned by someone else. I thanked them and continued on my way with a first ray of hope that I should soon learn of the whereabouts of my aunt (James' wife, not Aunt Meese) and cousin.

"I walked a good distance again and inquired of a man who was cleaning the street if he knew of a pottery in the neighborhood once owned by Mr. Meese. He said he did and showed me the works from where we stood. I asked if he knew whether any of the Meeses were yet alive. He told me they were and directed me to the house of one Harriet Meese who keeps a little shop.

"I went as directed, knocked at the door and was admitted. A tall, heavy set, dark complected lady came to the door. I began my inquiry. A pleasant smile came over her face. I could see

*that I was welcome and was invited to sit down. Another lady having the same build and temperament was also in the room, and was equally interested. They were sisters, daughters of Joseph Meese, who died 30 years ago. **Thomas Meese died October 11, 1882, and Catherine Meese, his wife, died January 23, 1888.***

“Harriet Meese, 66 Brettle Lane, Staffordshire and Mrs. Rawlings Meese (sister), 34 Dudley St., Briarly Hill, were the first to tell me of my cousin and mention the name, Annie Walton, and my aunt Mary Walton Gritton. They referred me to Mr. Roberts at the pottery, whose wife kept the club money sent by my cousin Annie. They could tell me directly where to go. I went at once and began inquiry as usual.

“John Roberts, 22 Silver Street, Brettle Lane, was also raised by my father’s aunt Meese with little Annie Walton. Thomas Jevens now owns the pottery; he is a grandson of Thomas Meese. (I may not have these last two lines just correct.)

“I was directed by Mrs. Roberts to take the train to Smerwick and get off at Spawn Lane and find 46 Glover Street, West Bromwich. This was where my cousin, Mrs. Thomas Pearce, lived. My aunt lived near” (this book ends and the story continues in Book III.)

The first time I read the above narrative, I was so intent on finding out about Annie Walton Pearce that I cannot now recall noticing the information about the Meeses. As it turns out, the facts about the Meeses may be the most significant information about the identity of **Thomas Price** we could ever hope to find. The Pearce story is therefore interrupted here in favor of clarifying this last sentence.

Many years ago I was told by older relatives that J.B. Walton had information about the family that would clarify the Price lineage, but even a visit with his daughter-in-law 20 years ago revealed no direct clues that this could be true. I had nearly decided that I would never know what information he was rumored to have known. However, during the past few weeks I have been investigating the identity of Thomas and Catherine Meese, and am certain that you will be as happy as I am to learn what I have

learned about them. Aunt Catherine Meese is the key to the identity of Thomas Price.

First, what have we known about Thomas Price and when and where did the information enter our family tradition?

1. Thomas Walton Price named his father as “Thomas Price of Staffordshire.”
2. Joseph Walton wrote in his journal that Thomas Price was his grandfather, that he was born in Staffordshire and “died September 15, 1828, at the same place.” This entry is overwritten in red with a birthplace, “Drews Forge.” Burial records for Halesowen, film 886634, include “Thomas Price of Drews Forge bur 1 Sep 1828 age 68 years.”
3. Thomas Walton Price’s mother is named “Abbigal” Walton in Joseph Walton’s record, born about 1766, with a death date of October 10, 1796. When Thomas Walton Price went to the Endowment House in 1859 he names his parents as “Thomas and Sarah” but this record does not specify their surname(s). The birth entry at Bromyard states Thomas is son of “Sarah Walton.” Joseph concludes his entry for this family with this statement: “Thomas Price, his wife Abbigal Walton and their son Thomas Walton Price constitute all that is known of the above family.”
4. During more than 20 years, from the 1940s and into the 1960s, Howard and Vera Price championed research regarding Thomas Price. Whether or not they were aware of the above statements from Joseph’s journal is not known, but I believe they did not. They paid considerable sums for “professional research” both directly to individuals in England and indirectly through the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City. This research produced, in the mid 1960s, what they accepted as “the” Thomas Price in the form of a marriage — Wolferlow Parish, February 12, 1809, Thomas Price to Sarah Wauton. The unusual spelling should not be seen as a problem, as this and other spellings for

Walton are readily available. This marriage seemed to resolve several problems or questions regarding individuals identified during this research period:

— Nancy dr of Sarah Walton, christened 7 Nov 1802 at Bromyard

— Elizabeth, daught of Sarah and Thos Price, christened, Bromyard 7 Jul 1811.

5. A check of the family group sheets most of us have, whether or not from the LDS computer program, Ancestral File, probably reveals we have incorporated a mix of the above data into our genealogies. Many will have pedigree information following this Thomas Price (christened 1759 at Bromyard) back one or more generations as well.

Howard and Vera Price must have felt very strongly about the results of this research, for in an undated letter, sometime after 1964, announcing a family reunion to be held in Ogden on August 12 (**does anyone know the year?**) they announced resolution of the Thomas Price identity question as given in number 4 above.

I have had reservations about this conclusion for a long time — not reservations about a Thomas Price, but about this Thomas Price, and, is this Sarah our Sarah Walton?

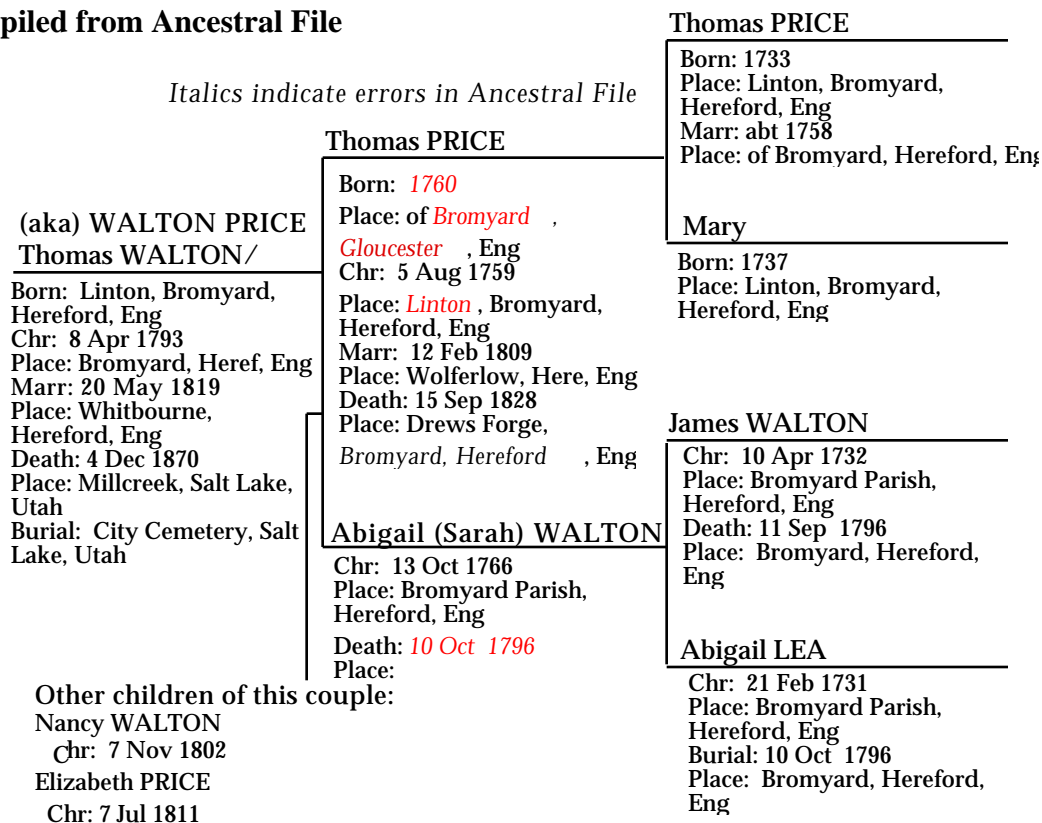
Thomas Price is a relatively common name around Bromyard. Is there any record from that generation that will confirm or reject the various conclusions the family has drawn? The facts uncovered about Catherine Meese provide a reasonable base **for partial confirmation.**

Here is the research process I followed:

1. Knowing a death date for both Thomas and Catherine Meese after 1881 meant it was possible to confirm their address, age, and birth places in the index to the **1881 Census of England and Wales**. The census at Kingswinford confirms the address as Brettle Lane — *Thomas Meese, head, 70, potter, born at Kingswinford and Catherine Meese, wife, 71, born at Bromsgrove, Herefordshire*. (Bromsgrove is actually in Worcestershire; this census does not specify who supplied the information.)

Chart compiled from Ancestral File

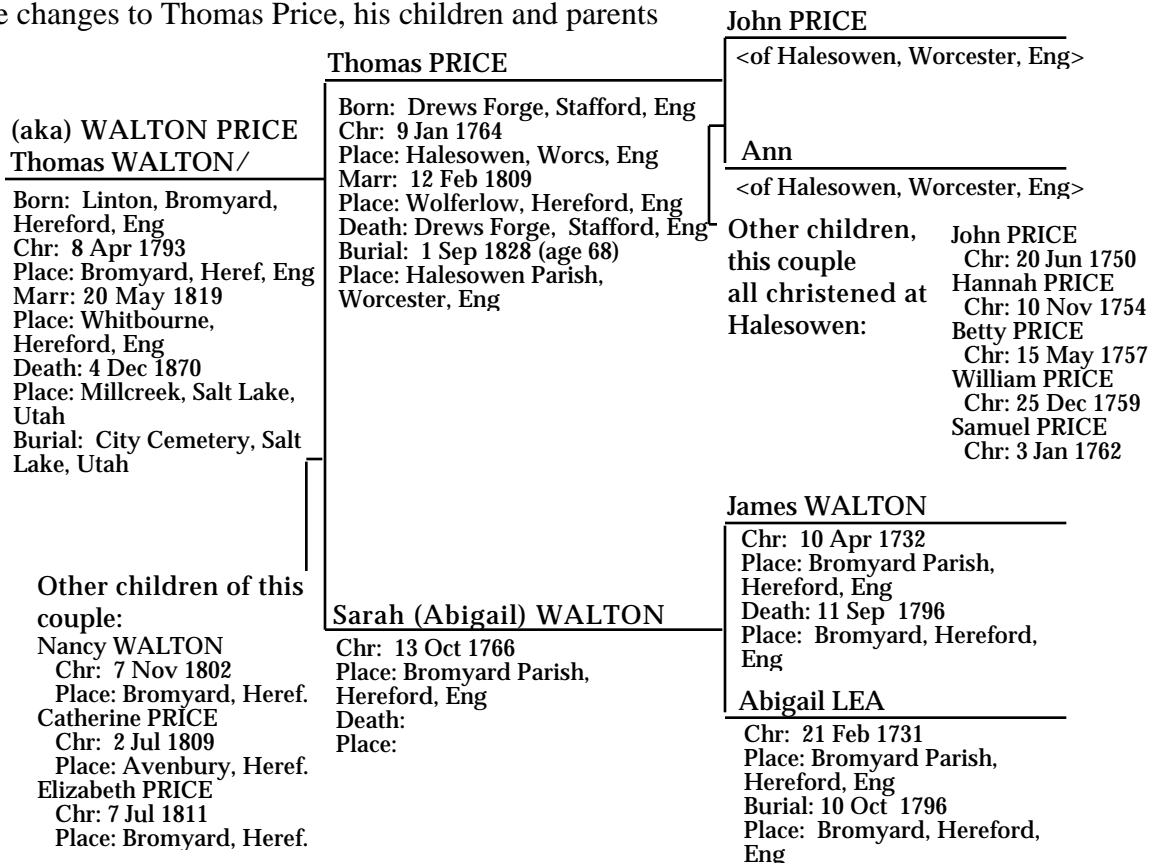
Italics indicate errors in Ancestral File



2. Since census data is provided by anyone at the address, I always check multiple census years both for validation of a place, and to see what changes occur in the family over time. The **1861 census** differs only slightly with this entry — Kingswinford, Pottery Lane (Brettle Lane, Brierley Hill), *Thomas Meese, Earthenware potter, Catherine Meese, wife, born Hanbury, Herefordshire; also in house: Edward Roberts, nephew, 18, potter, born Stourbridge and John Roberts, nephew, 12, born Stourbridge* (Ann Walton would have been 4 or 5 at this time, but is not listed at this house; Hanbury is likewise actually in Worcestershire). At this point I could not explain the geographic errors in identifying the counties of birth.
3. However, the **1841 census** for this same place differs a great deal — Kingswinford, Brettle Lane — *Thomas Mees, 25 potter, born this county (Staffordshire), Dianna Mees, 25, born this county, Ester, 2, born this county*. Note the difference in the wife's name, Dianna, not Catherine.
4. This change led me to confirm the formal name for Catherine at her time of death. Since I had a specific date, I checked the **civil registrations** for deaths and found both Thomas Meese, 71, died at Stourbridge, December quarter, 1882, death entry number 6c 111 and Catharine Meese, 78, died at West Bromwich, March quarter, 1888, 6b 502. It may be coincidence that West Bromwich is also residence of Annie Walton Pearce in 1897. Thomas dies at Stourbridge, the political subdivision name which includes Brierley Hill and Brettle Lane.
5. This set of facts led me to determine whether or not a Dianna Meese's death is recorded between 1841 and 1852. This date range is bounded by the census of 1841 and the known existence of Aunt Meese at Brettle Lane, wife of Thomas Meese, a potter. Indeed, such a death was found — burial of Dianna Meese, wife of Thomas Meese, 24 May 1844, in **Kingswinford**

Chart consistent with new research findings

-- Note changes to Thomas Price, his children and parents



Parish. (Kingswinford is the church name for Brierley Hill and Brettle Lane).

6. With the death of Dianna Meese, I now had a range of dates for a marriage for Thomas Meese to Catherine (surname unknown, but by this time I was sure in my mind that it would be Price). What information would such a marriage offer? Marriages after 1837 in England generally include the bride's father's name and occupation. Would this one? My search would begin in 1844 inside Kingswinford Parish. Minutes later I had this information in hand — *27 October 1844, Kingswinford Parish Church, Thomas Meese, widower, son of James Meese, labourer, married to Catherine Price, spinster of Halesowen Parish, daughter of Thomas Price, labourer.* (The certificate has been ordered for this marriage.)
7. Thanks to information supplied by a Meese relative now living in New Zealand (isn't the Internet wonderful?) the **1851 Census** entry for the same family was located and includes a great surprise -- *Thomas Mees, 40, Master Potter...; Catherine Mees, 42, born at Bromyard Herefordshire.*

What does this information mean? Here is what I glean from this data and other information I now have in hand:

1. In order to fit the description of Aunt to Joseph, Catherine Price Meese must be either a sister or sister-in-law to Thomas Walton Price. Joseph Walton indicates in his recording of his father's family, that Thomas, his mother Abigail (Sarah) Walton, and Thomas Price "are all that is known of this family." At first, this suggested to me that the date of Sarah's death was accurate in the record Joseph kept, and that Thomas Price may have remarried.

However, the Bromyard Parish register does not give ages for individuals buried in 1796, and both a James and Abigail Walton are buried that year. No death is recorded

for Sarah Walton or Sarah Price any year around 1796. It is just as reasonable that Joseph has mistaken the information about his great-grandmother to belong with his grandmother.

2. Catherine's marriage record indicates she is from Halesowen. The 1881 census records Bromsgrove while that in 1861 states Hanbury as her birth place. Neither parish yields a birth entry for a Catherine Price or Catherine Walton.

— The 1841 census for Halesowen begins at Hasbury Township. Just a few pages from the beginning of this section occurs the address of **Drews Forge**. This portion of the parish is formally in Staffordshire although the parish church is in Worcestershire. Adjacent to Hasbury, but across the stream which forms the boundary of this township, is the hamlet of Lutley, part of what later becomes Cradley Parish (then part of Halesowen). Catherine Price is working here in 1841 as a servant in the household of James Page. Mr. Page's farm is the fourth census entry southwest of Drews Forge.

— The possibility that Joseph could know about a location as small as Drews Forge, and as far from Whitbourne (25 - 30 miles), without some factual basis, is completely beyond reason. This marriage and accompanying geographic facts lend complete credibility to Joseph's account.

3. Catherine's calculated birthdate is about 1810. A check of Bromyard Parish yields no Catherine Price or Walton in the years 1807-1811. There is "Elizabeth daughter of Thomas and Sarah Price" in 1811. The IGI provides "Catherine daughter of Thomas and Sarah Price, christened 2 Jul 1809" at Avenbury, Herefordshire.

- Avenbury is a parish joining Bromyard on the south. The village is just 1.5 miles from Bromyard town. Could the census taker have mistaken Avenbury for Hanbury? -- he does record Herefordshire. Clearly, Avenbury and Bromyard could be named as the same place.

— This would also coincide with the marriage at Wolferlow that same year. Wolferlow is also near Bromyard and this pregnancy may be the final motivation to have the family recognized by the Church of England. Since we have no record of where Thomas Walton Price was raised, only the christening and marriage dates, is it possible that he was raised in multiple villages. By 1809 he is probably working outside the home.

4. **Catherine Price is a sister to Thomas Walton Price.** She is, therefore, Aunt to James, John, George, Joseph, Jane, and Ann. Why, then does Joseph not name her as a sister (nor any others) when he described his grandparents' family? — after all, Joseph is the one who describes Catherine as his aunt, and the aunt to which his brother's daughter was sent in time of need. All I can do is guess -- when Joseph recorded the family information, he was having mixed feelings about the name Price, as he variously uses the name and crosses it out. This appears to be during the 1870s. Joseph visits the Endowment House in 1874 with his mother, Jane Colley Walton Price, to perform religious ordinances in behalf of his grandfather, Thomas Price, his brother James, his Colley aunts and uncles, and his Walton great grandparents. Why not for these Price aunts and uncles? If they were his relatives, certainly he or his mother would have known them or known of them as they did the others named that day (June 10, 1874). Were there hard feelings between the Price family members over Thomas and Jane becoming "Mormons," prompting Joseph and Jane (died in 1889) to ignore them during this period? The letters to J.B. occur in the late 1890s and may reflect a change of heart.

5. A christening has been found for a Thomas Price in Halesowen Parish with these details — *christened 8 January 1764, Thomas son of John Price and his wife Ann.* Five other children to this couple are listed,

and place the child Thomas in the right parish, and time period (assuming the burial record accurately records his age at 68 years and that he was christened shortly after his birth). If this is the correct birth entry, the Bromyard Prices are not the correct pedigree.

continued, page 8

Research Forum

As family members submit their research or personal family information, it is compared with the data in our current files. When conflicts appear, additional research is pursued to confirm the accuracy of our data base or to bring appropriate changes. One such conflict necessitates a change in each of our files.

Thanks to the keen eye of Norma Parry of Salt Lake City, Harriet Walton (born 23 Jul 1826 at Whitbourne), a daughter attributed to Thomas Walton Price and Jane Colley is actually a child of Anne Walton, cousin to Thomas Walton Price. She noticed this child was NOT listed as one of his sisters by Joseph Walton in his journal. This prompted a review of the Whitbourne Parish Register, leading to the correct identity of the girl's mother.

Another family member from Maryland suggested that Mary Catherine Häberli's surname contained a spelling error. It was suggested that the 'b' should be a 'v' creating the spelling "Häverli." In this case, we cannot confirm any record in Switzerland which uses the surname Häverli nor any derivation thereof. The surname is appropriately spelled Häberli and Haeberli; common misspellings are Haberly and Haberley both of which come close to the Swiss pronunciation.

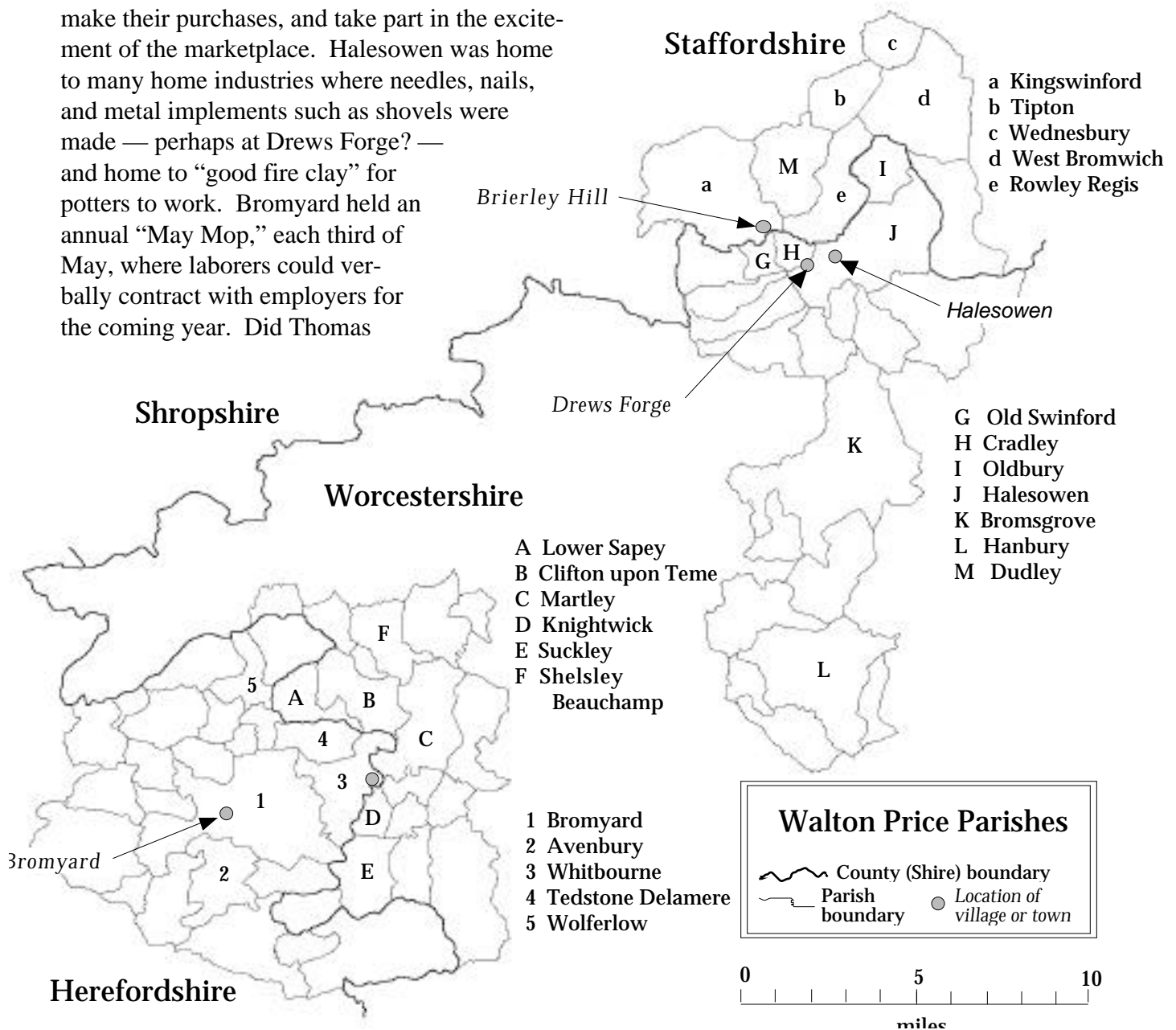
More detailed explanations to both of these research questions may be found at the family Web site together with other research questions with or still needing answers. Your questions and suggestions are invited.

Finally, a word about this geography. Families tended to remain within a few miles of the place of either parent's birth. What brings Thomas Price to Bromyard, a distance of 30-35 miles, and why does Catherine end up in Halesowen? All later recorded events for Catherine occur within five miles of Halesowen as are those of Ann Walton Pearce after she joined the family of Thomas and Catherine Meese. Here, too, Ann's widowed mother met and married Charles Gritton and reared a large family. Yet, **all** recorded events for Thomas Walton Price occur near Bromyard.

Both Bromyard and Halesowen are "market towns." Periodically, vendors came to both towns to sell their wares and citizens came to make their purchases, and take part in the excitement of the marketplace. Halesowen was home to many home industries where needles, nails, and metal implements such as shovels were made — perhaps at Drews Forge? — and home to "good fire clay" for potters to work. Bromyard held an annual "May Mop," each third of May, where laborers could verbally contract with employers for the coming year. Did Thomas

Price work here for the year previous to Thomas Walton's christening, May 5, 1793? Did one of these industries take Thomas to Bromyard where he met Sarah Walton? Did he stay here or return in other years?

Kingswinford, Lutley, Dudley, West Bromwich, Old Swinford, Stourbridge and Bromsgrove all occur within a very few miles of Halesowen. These places are in the northeast of Worcestershire and over the border into Staffordshire. Across the southwest border of Worcestershire — a distance of about 30 miles — lies Whitbourne along the Teme River. Adjacent to Whitbourne is Linton Township, part of Bromyard Parish. The Teme is a tributary of the



Severn River. One of the more famous navigation canals in England connects Halesowen to Worcester and the Severn River. A “tow road” follows the length of this canal along which barges were drawn between the cities. This path would likely be the means of transportation “to market.” Or, perhaps the canal provided a path for news of work at one end or the other. This would mean a lot to a “labourer” who had need for the work he depended upon to support himself and his family.

The family of Thomas Walton Price appears to bridge this waterway with the Waltons on the

west near Bromyard and Prices on the east near Halesowen. How they met may never be known. Yet, Thomas Walton Price clearly knew about his father and his sister, Catherine. So, when James Walton’s wife, Mary Stringer Walton, had the need for help, and her in-laws were in America, and thus were not available, she turned for assistance to her husband’s aunt, Catherine Price Meese.

Thank you, J.B., for taking such good notes, and for the challenge and fun of assembling the puzzle they presented. Did you happen to ask for a photograph?



New questions posed by these findings include:

1. When and where did Sarah Walton Price die? Where is she buried?
2. Did either of the other daughters grow to maturity? Did they marry? Do they have descendants?
3. Can the Price ancestry be further extended?
4. What is the maiden name of Thomas Price’s mother? When did John Price marry Ann?
5. Who are Thomas Price’s cousins?

If you would like to assist in finding answers to these or other questions, please coordinate your efforts with us. Results, as they are found, will be posted to the Web page

<http://users.itsnet.com/~dwalton/WaltonPrice.html>

and printed in future newsletters.

Contact us at (801) 226-1123 or by email at dwalton@mail.itsnet.com

Thanks for your help!