

## THE BROCKWAY FAMILY HISTORY



*Star Paper Mills, Feniscowles*

*Researched & written by Brian Drescher, English Roots.*

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# INTRODUCTION

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It is not certain how the name Brockway originated but the prefix Brock (badger) is common to several English surnames such as Brocklehurst, and Brocklebank. There is understood to have been a small hamlet near Chapmanslade close to Westbury in Wiltshire which was in existence in the thirteenth century. The hamlet no longer exists but a lane still exists there called Brock Way which may have been an ancient pathway. Many Brockways were employed working on the land, and in the wool and button trades. There was a movement in the nineteenth century from Wiltshire and Dorset into Hampshire and in particular the boatyards of Portsmouth where many became carpenters and metal workers. At the 1881 census, by far the strongest concentration of Brockways in Britain was in Wiltshire and to a much lesser extent the immediately surrounding counties. Many Brockways emigrated with the majority going to the United States, which now has by far the largest number of people with the name.



**Shaftesbury St Peter's Church**

The first record of the Brockway family which is the subject of this family history is a marriage between William Brockway and Frances Blandford at the Church of St Peter's in Shaftesbury on 4 November 1760. A search has been made for the baptism of William Brockway in the registers of St Peter's and a number of registers for adjacent parishes but without success. Shaftesbury is in the north of Dorset immediately adjoining Wiltshire.

# BROCKWAY FAMILY HISTORY

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## *Shaftesbury*

At over 750 feet above sea level, it is the height of the land at Shaftesbury that has been the determining factor in its history. It was the Saxons who first founded a hilltop town here because of its strategic position overlooking the surrounding countryside. For the same reason King Alfred, of burnt cakes fame, made Shaftesbury a defended town in the 9th Century, after his defeat of the Vikings. He was so confident in its geographical security that he founded an Abbey for his daughter there in about 888 A.D.

Tradition says that the town may have been known as *Caer Palladur* in Celtic times. Shaftesbury's first recorded appearance as one of only four towns mentioned in the document known as the 'Burgal Hideage'. The Burgh's or fortified settlements were created by Alfred as a defence against the encroachment of the Danes. The foundation of the Abbey led to prosperity for the town and Athelstan authorised three royal mints which struck silver pennies bearing the name of the town

During the medieval period the Abbey was a popular destination for pilgrims who flocked to the shrine of St. Edward. This was Edward the Martyr (c962-979), who was assassinated (presumably by someone who wished to place Edward's younger half-brother on the throne), and who came to be regarded as a martyr for the faith. He is sometimes confused with Edward the Confessor who is buried at Westminster Abbey. The Domesday survey carried out by William the Conqueror described Shaftesbury as having lost 80 of the 257 houses it had in the reign of King Edward the Confessor. In 1260 Shaftesbury was granted a charter to hold a weekly market, and in 1392 that was expanded to two markets. The Black Death entered England at Weymouth in 1348 and Shaftesbury like the rest of England was decimated.



### **The Guildhall, Shaftesbury**

Shaftesbury avoided involvement in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685 even though the Duke of Monmouth had landed with his army at the Dorset port of Lyme Regis. However, along with many other towns it had to display the dismembered remains of some of the rebels as a grim warning to anyone who may have been involved.

The town's chief industries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were button making and gloving. The buttons were the best known and there were several types: a cross wheel made with brass wire and cotton and others known as Dorset Knobs, for decorative use.

Shaftesbury was a transportation hub in the eighteenth century. There were five turnpike roads which converged on Shaftesbury including the Great West Road from London to Penzance and the town had a good coaching trade. Extra horses were needed to climb Tout hill into Shaftesbury.

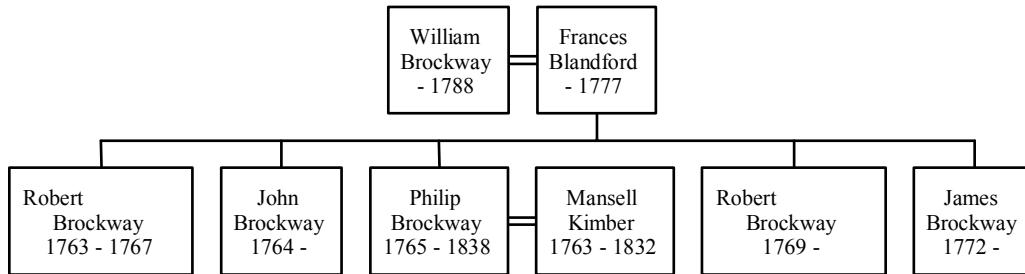
Most towns were market towns at that time and they originally depended to a great extent on the produce of the surrounding countryside for the basics of life. Shaftesbury fell into this category. Markets were the main place for trading and meeting friends. They declined in importance as canals and railways made the movement of goods and produce far easier and cheaper.

Shaftesbury has one of England's most famous streets. The focal point of the town for visitors is picturesque Gold Hill, a steep, thatched cottage lined cobbled street made famous by the Hovis bread adverts with a small delivery boy travelling down the hill on his bike.



**Gold Hill, Shaftesbury**

*William Brockway (died 20 August 1788)*

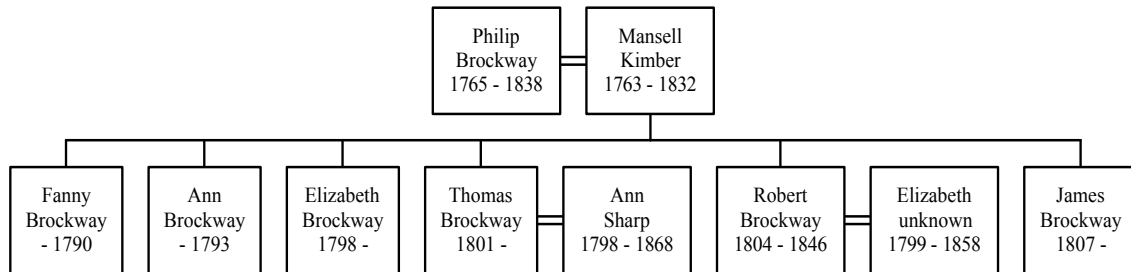


William married Frances Blandford at the Church of St Peter's in Shaftesbury on 4 November 1760. They are known to have had five children. Robert Blandford baptised on 17 July 1763, John baptised on 11 March 1764, Philip baptised on 1 April 1767, a second Robert Blandford baptised on 22 January 1769 and James on 21 April 1772. The first Robert Blandford Brockway had died in July 1767. It was common practice to name children after earlier children that had died.

Nothing is known for certain about the lives of William, Frances and their family. More is known about the major events that were shaping the world. George III was on the English throne. There were significant successes against the French in the Seven Years War with major territorial gains in Canada and India but the American Colonies were lost in the American War of Independence from 1776 to 1782. The open field system of agriculture that had prevailed over centuries was being progressively eroded by enclosures some private and some by Acts of Parliament. The enclosure of land not only changed the rural landscape but also worked in favour of large landowners and against small farmers and peasants with the loss of common pasture where all had a right to graze their animals.

Frances died in December 1777 and William in 1788, the year before the French Revolution.

## *Philip Brockway (1765 – 1838)*



Philip, William and Frances's third child, married Mansell Kimber at the Church of St Peter's, Shaftesbury on 8 September 1789. They had six children. Their first two children, Fanny and Anne, died in 1790 and 1793 respectively. As there is no record of their baptism it is assumed that they died very young and probably unexpectedly as it was a high priority to baptise children in imminent danger of death. Alternatively, it is possible that they were baptised in another parish. Elizabeth (baptised 23 December 1798), Thomas (13 September 1801), Robert (20 May 1804) and James (29 March 1807) were all baptised at Shaftesbury St Peter's.

It is not known when, or why, Philip and Mansell moved from Shaftesbury other than it is likely to have been between 1821 and 1827 based on places where their grandchildren were baptised. By 1827 Philip, Mansell and at least two of their children, Thomas and Robert were living in Swallowcliffe which is seven miles from Shaftesbury, and fifteen miles from Salisbury. Swallowcliffe is a small, scattered community which in 1831 had a population of 278 (by 1951 it had fallen to 192 and there are currently less than 200 people living there). Tisbury, four miles away, is nowadays the nearest place of any size with shops and other facilities.



**Church of St Peter, Swallowcliffe**

Mansell died in 1832 and Philip in 1838. Both were buried at Swallowcliffe St Peter where most of their grandchildren had been baptised

At the 1841 Census, there were three Brockway families living in Swallowcliffe. All the husbands were Philip and Mansell's children. Thomas, who was an agricultural labourer, had married Ann Sharp on 24 July 1823 at Ansty, which is the next village to Swallowcliffe. They had eleven children.



**A view of Anstey, Wiltshire**

Robert married Elizabeth (surname unknown) and they had nine children. Robert was a mason. There was also John Brockway whose wife was Patience Bartlett who he had

married at Shaftesbury St James on 15 February 1820 and they had eight children. John was an agricultural labourer. The 1851 Census gave his birthplace as Porchester in Hampshire which was near Portsmouth but the British Isles Vital Records Index shows a baptism on 8 May 1796 for a John Brockway, son of Philip and Mansell Brockway at Hastings in Sussex.

### *Life in rural Wiltshire*

As the Brockways lived in rural Wiltshire for almost fifty years in the early to mid-nineteenth century it is helpful to understand their way of life.

In Wiltshire most people lived in the country and most were poor. An inquiry into English agriculture made in 1850-1851 by Sir James Caird stated that the diet of a typical Wiltshire labourer was for breakfast – flour with a little butter and water, midday – bread with cheese (cheese only if there was no young family to keep); afternoon – a few potatoes with bacon if he could afford it, and bread and water for supper. Twenty years later the diet was said to be chiefly bread and cheese. Providing for the poor was the responsibility of the parish from the end of the sixteenth century to 1834 with the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act. The costs were borne by all living in the parish through the levying of a poor rate. Widows and orphaned children were the main beneficiaries but when there was a recession then able bodied men, who were unable to find work, and their families would require assistance. The poor Law Amendment Act established unions of parishes and led to the establishment of workhouses. Outdoor relief, which allowed people to live in their own homes, was the usual practice before the 1834 Act but now generally the poor and infirm had to live in workhouses. Husbands and wives were separated from each other in workhouses and both were separated from their children.

The village community was varied. Most communities were self-sufficient with blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, millers, carriers and shopkeepers. Tinkers and peddlers visited many communities selling goods otherwise only found in large towns.

There was little change with events as fixed as the seasons. Years were often remembered for exceptional events such as fires and floods. The changing weather and seasons were

all important. Summer was hard and hot work in the dusty fields, winter was a time of hardship with little food and warmth, wet and freezing working conditions and no light in the evenings.

Home for the labourer and his family was usually a small thatched cottage with a garden for cultivation. Many families kept a pig feeding it on scraps from the kitchen and milk products and usually killing it around Christmas time. A pig killing was an event to be celebrated with jars of cider and often a small sweepstake on the weight of the pig.

Work on the farm was varied. A man may be a carter or stockman but was expected to turn his hand to any job. Laying hedges, making hurdles and gates, doctoring sick animals and repairing machinery were all extra jobs that cropped up during the farming year.

Work on the farm was hard. Labourers often rose before dawn and worked for most of the hours of daylight. A ploughman would walk between nine and twelve miles a day. At harvest time when the working day was from dawn until dusk, the intake of cider for liquid refreshment was enormous. Sheep shearing was carried out by highly skilled contract gangs who worked extremely quickly and moved from farm to farm during shearing time. Hay making time is romanticised in art and literature. In practice, it involved long days of hard work by men, women and children to cut, turn and gather the crop while the weather was dry and hot so that the hay for winter-feed was sweet and would not turn sour in the hay rick.

The child's world was one of a small community bonded by family and friends within the town or village. There were few opportunities to travel far afield and a trip to the nearest market town would be a major event. Until the passing of the 1870 Education Act, primary education was very uneven and many county children were employed on the farm from an early age, often as bird scarers or looking after pasture animals. Families were large, infant disease and mortality high and many children lived with their parents in two and three room cottages, often with families of 8 or 9 sleeping in the same airless room. Landowners and farmers lived in completely different worlds to their labourers. Bird nesting, fishing and scrumping apples were popular pastimes. Self-sufficiency was a necessity. The gathering of harvests from hedge and wood was very important. In their season, mushrooms, gooseberries, crab apples, sloes, blackberries and nuts would all have been collected for the kitchen.

The most important animal in the country was the horse as horsepower was paramount until steam power took over. The best paid on farms were horsemen and carters.

The village inn was a focal point for the male community not just as a place to drink but also as a debating place and games room.



**The Royal Oak, Swallowcliffe**

The Royal Oak Inn in Swallowcliffe is over 400 years old. It was established as an Inn in 1852. Already old, the building had previously served as a tannery, and, within living memory, the inn was still referred to as the tanyard by local residents. The Royal Oak is constructed of Tisbury stone, the older half having stone mullion windows and a steep-pitch thatched roof.

Swallowcliffe has a seventeenth century manor house with mullioned and transomed windows.



**The Manor House, Swallowcliffe**

There is an Iron Age settlement one mile south of the village on Swallowcliffe Down. In 1925, four acres of the site were stripped revealing over a hundred pits containing loom weights, bone combs, brooches and Iron Age pottery.

*Robert Brockway (1804 – 1846)- see family tree at Appendix 1 for reference*

Robert was born in 1804 in Shaftesbury. He married Elizabeth who had been born in Portland, Dorset in 1799 but no records has been found for their marriage in the parish registers for Shaftesbury, Portland or Swallowcliffe. They had nine children, five girls and four boys. All their children were born in Swallowcliffe and baptised at the Church of St Peter, Swallowcliffe. Caroline, their first child, was born in 1827 followed by Keziah in 1831 and Josiah in 1832. Both Keziah and Josiah died in March 1832.

The risk of death was particularly high in a child's first year, whatever the social class of the parents. In the early years of Victoria's reign (started 1837) infant and child mortality had been as high as 25-28%. It had fallen in the 1870s but then rose again and was as high as 163 deaths per 1,000 births live births in 1899. The most frequently mentioned causes of death were gastro-intestinal disorders leading to diarrhoea and dysentery. These disorders were usually caused by overcrowding, dirt and poor sanitation; they came from contaminated water, and from food and drink infected by flies. Diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles the three most dreaded diseases could strike at any time, but children were most prone to sickness in winter and spring and risked dying of secondary pneumonia.

As was often the case, Robert and Elizabeth, used the names of their dead children again. Josiah and Keziah were born in 1833. As both were born in the same year and baptised on the same day, 10 February 1833, it can be assumed that they were twins. Robert and Elizabeth had four more children, Jesse (born 1835), Jemima (1836), Eliza Cecilia (1840) and Robert (1841).

Robert died in the summer of 1846 shortly before his first child was married. Caroline married Henry Loder in late 1846 and they lived in Sutton Mandeville. At the 1861 Census, she had recently been widowed and had five children with the eldest aged eleven and the youngest only a year old. She was in the Union Workhouse at Tisbury at the 1871 Census. Her youngest child, Eliza, now aged eleven was also in the workhouse.

Keziah married Thomas Palmer, an agricultural labourer, in 1852. They had six children (three boys and three girls). He died early in 1864 and Keziah married John White, an

agricultural labourer, in late 1866. At the 1871 Census, all Keziah's children by her first marriage were living with her and John in Swallowcliffe as was her brother, Robert (aged 18), who was a shepherd. John and Keziah had two children of their own then and had a further child in 1872. At the 1901 Census, Keziah and John were living at Grateley near Andover in Hampshire.

Both Robert and Elizabeth's other daughters married. Jemima married Thomas Fay on 26 May 1862, and Eliza Cecilia married William Hayter on 9 February 1861. Both weddings took place at the Church of St Peter, Swallowcliffe. Thomas was a labourer in 1881, and William was a pond maker and woodman in 1871. Jemima and Thomas had six girls and a boy, and Eliza Cecilia and William had five boys and two girls.

Josiah married Eliza Palmer in 1859. More details will be provided about Josiah later. His brother, Jesse, married Mary Ann (surname unknown) in the December quarter 1860. They only had one child, Frank, who was born in 1861 in Swallowcliffe. Jesse died in Bury in 1892 aged 57. Frank married Agnesa Theckstone in 1884 at St Paul's Church, Bury.

Elizabeth Brockway died in March 1858. She had been a widow for twelve years. At the 1851 census, she was living with six of her children in Swallowcliffe. Elizabeth was shown as a pauper, and Josiah, Keziah, and Jesse were agricultural labourers.

*Josiah Brockway (1833 – 1898) see family tree at Appendix 2 for reference*

Josiah would have had a difficult childhood. He was thirteen when his father died, and the family would have struggled to survive. It is clear that the older children would have been working to support themselves, their mother and the younger children. Keziah married in 1852, and the responsibility then fell to Josiah and his younger brother, Jesse. Neither married until after their mother had died. Perhaps they recognised that supporting their mother and the younger children was their first priority.

Josiah married Eliza Palmer in 1859 at the Catholic Chapel at Wardour, which is near Swallowcliffe. As there had been no history of Catholicism at all in the Brockway family it is assumed that the Palmers were Catholics. After the Reformation the Arundell family of Wardour Castle remained Roman Catholic, as did most of their servants and estate workers. This fact, and the protection of the local noble family, encouraged others in the area to do the same. When New Wardour Castle was completed in 1776 it included a very beautiful chapel dedicated to All Saints. All Roman Catholics in the area worshipped at this chapel until the Church of the Sacred Heart was built in Tisbury in 1898.

It is highly likely that Eliza and Thomas Palmer, who married Keziah Brockway, were brother and sister. Two people of their name and age were living in Swallowcliffe with their parents at the 1851 Census.

Josiah and Eliza had seven children in Swallowcliffe, four boys and three girls. Hubert their first child was born in 1860 followed by Benedict (born 1861), Thomas (1865), Charlotte (1866), Fanny (1867), Elizabeth (1870) and Robert (1872).

On 2 April 1871 when the census was taken, Josiah, Eliza and their family were living in Swallowcliffe where Josiah was an agricultural labourer. By that time, Josiah's younger brother, Jesse, had moved and was living in Bury in Lancashire where he was a general labourer. Jesse died in 1892 (aged 57) and his wife, Mary Ann, in 1907 (aged 77). Both died in Bury where their son Frank had married Agnes Louisa Theckstone in 1884 at St Pauls. Mary Ann had no family in Lancashire at the 1901 Census when she was a boarder living with the Harrison family at 5 Croft Street in Bury. Frank and Agnes had emigrated

to the United States in 1887 (see Appendix 3). Mary Ann is very unlikely to have seen four of her five grandchildren. Arthur was born the year before in 1886.

Until the passing of the 1870 Education Act, there was no education of right for all children. Before education was made compulsory in 1880 up to the age of ten, half of the children in England did not go to school. The availability of education was dependent on having the money to pay for it and for poorer children on the locality where they lived. In some areas, benefactors particularly religious foundations provided schooling. The national day schools of the Church of England and the “British” day schools of the nonconformists which grew out of the Sunday schools in the first two decades of the nineteenth century became the major providers of regular elementary education. In Victorian times, working-class children had little chance of progressing beyond the elementary stage. Although some scholarships were available for the poor and able, secondary education in grammar schools was mainly for the middle classes.

The Brockways were quite fortunate. At the 1871 Census, Benedict (aged 9), Thomas (aged 6) and Charlotte (aged 4) were all said to be scholars. Hubert, who was 13 years old, was already working as a labourer.



*The Old Schoolhouse, Swallowcliffe (now a house)*

By the time Josiah and Eliza’s last child, John, was born on 14 August 1874 they had followed Jesse and Mary Ann to Lancashire but further north, near Blackburn.

It is interesting to speculate why Josiah and Jesse moved when they did, and why they moved to Lancashire in particular. In the early days of Queen Victoria's reign there had been a period of agricultural prosperity in corn, sheep and dairying but this came to an end in 1870 when many factors combined to bring about a severe depression. A succession of wet, cold springs meant poor harvests while imported North American corn caused a fall in prices. Much arable land was put down to grass but unfortunately the price of wool was also falling while the wet weather caused foot-rot in sheep and liver-rot in cattle. Cheap imports of cheese made more farmers turn to milk production and cheese and butter making on the farm became unprofitable. The conditions for agricultural labourers in south-west England including Wiltshire were the worst in the country. Rural discontent was much less evident in the north, where industrial wages pulled up those paid to farm workers. These factors all combined to encourage the movement of people from rural areas to the industrial towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire where jobs were more plentiful and wages were higher. This migration had been taking place with increasing speed throughout the nineteenth century.

### *Industrial Lancashire*

From the middle of the nineteenth century until well into the 1920s cotton was Britain's most important manufacturing industry regularly employing over half a million people. Lancashire's prosperity was strongly based on cotton. In 1901, 85% of the workforce in the cotton mills in England and Wales lived in Lancashire. Blackburn was known as "Cotton Town". It had suffered badly during the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865 when supplies of cotton were cut off. During the four years that the war lasted - The Cotton Famine - there was great distress in Blackburn, and relief works were started to find employment for cotton operatives who had been thrown out of work. A sewerage scheme, road mending and paving, quarrying, and construction of pathways in Corporation Park above the Broad Walk were all carried out by the weavers. Classes were started to provide instruction in dressmaking, needlework and straw hat making for women weavers, and English, book-keeping and mathematics for unemployed male

operatives. A large amount of welfare benefit was provided in the form of clothing, bedding, corn and flour, but for many weavers, the most lasting memory of the Cotton Famine was queuing at the soup depot to receive a pint of soup and a slice of bread for a penny.

People worked long hours under close supervision in the cotton mills where there was incessant noise caused by the clatter of the machines, and irritating dust and fumes. Women and girls over the age of thirteen formed over half the workforce in the second part of the nineteenth century. Predominant physical remains of Lancashire's textiles industry are the weavers' cottages built during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The industrialisation of the cotton industry attracted workers in droves. The population of Blackburn increased threefold in the first half of the nineteenth century. With few exceptions living conditions were grim. When one worker complained to the mill owner that the houses weren't fit to live in, he was told they weren't for living in, they were for sleeping in, the mill was for living in. Lives were ruled by the factory whistle and the rattle of wires on the bedroom window as the knocker-up made his rounds.

There was violence accompanying the bitter 1878 weavers' strike and lock-out in Blackburn. The town's small Irish population, concentrated in the Penny Street area, was subjected to regular attacks. There were strong anti-Irish sentiments amongst the indigenous working-class population. The Irish were believed to be working for lower wages and taking jobs, and were said to lead a brutish lifestyle. The anti-Irish attacks were distinguished by the degree to which they were condoned, or even encouraged, by local elites through the Orange Order.

Cotton was king in Blackburn but in nearby Feniscowles paper manufacture was the most important employer. The middle years of the nineteenth century had witnessed the early steps towards the mechanical production of paper. Just as for cotton, to produce paper it is essential to have a plentiful and constant supply of water and certain sites along the line of the Roddlesworth valley including Feniscowles were ideal for paper mills. The manufacture of paper in Lancashire is closely related to the textile industry. Linen and cotton rags and waste were the chief raw materials coupled with the introduction of wood pulp in the mid-nineteenth century. There was a

widespread development of the UK paper industry in the 1870s. The founders were often textile manufacturers and one of their key motives was to make use of their industry's waste materials.

The proximity of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal provided an added attraction for locating paper mills in Feniscowles. Although there have been occasional changes of ownership the Blackburn paper mills have maintained steady production and remain an important employer in the town.

In the middle and later years of the nineteenth century, Feniscowles was a busy, little place with a railway station and two paper mills. It was, however, very much a village separated from its neighbour, Cherry Trees, by two miles.

### *Josiah Brockway (continued)*

It is thought that Josiah Eliza and their family first lived at Cabbin Hill, Pleasington when they moved to Lancashire. Tragedy struck the family early in 1874. In just over two weeks between 11 and 28 February, all three daughters; Elizabeth (3), Charlotte (7) and Fanny (6) died of scarlatina maligna (scarlet fever). The chances are that they were all sleeping in the same bed and once one caught the fever it would pass rapidly to the others. Josiah and Eliza's last child, John, was born at Spring Cottages, Hoghton Bottoms near Feniscowles on 14 August that same year. By the 1881 Census, the family were living at Feniscowles itself. Josiah was a gardener, Hubert (aged 21) was a paper maker, and Benedict (19) and Thomas (14) were cotton heavers. Robert (8) and John (6) were at school.

Hubert married Julia Gifford in 1883 in Oldham, and Benedict married Elizabeth Miller at Pleasington Priory in 1884, the local Roman Catholic Church. Hubert and Julia who had five children were living at West Street, Feniscowles in 1891. At the 1901 Census, there were eight children. The family were living at Ivy Bank, Fensicowles and Hubert was a machine man in a paper mills.

Bendict and Elizabeth were living at 20 Spring Street, Rishton with their three children at the 1891 Census. Benedict and Elizabeth's sister, Eleanor who was with them were both

cotton weavers. They were living at the same address at the 1901 Census. Benedict and his eldest son, also Benedict (14), were cotton weavers. His other son, Hubert had died in 1895 aged five.

Thomas Brockway, Josiah and Eliza's third son, married Elizabeth Ellen Eccles in 1894. They were living next door to his brother, Hubert, at Ivy Bank, Feniscowles and had one child, Herbert, who was nine months old. Thomas and Elizabeth Ellen later had a further six children.

At the 1891 Census, Josiah was a general labourer living at Preston Old Road, Feniscowles with Eliza. Robert (18) and John (15) who were also general labourers were living with them.



*Houses at Preston Old Road, Feniscowles*

Josiah died in 1896 and Eliza in 1898. They had eight children, and 11 grandchildren.

*John Brockway (1874 – 1933) see family tree at Appendix 4 for reference*

John was born on 28 August 1874 at Spring Cottages, Hoghton Bottoms near Cherry Tree, Lancashire. Hoghton Bottoms is a hamlet between Blackburn and Hoghton on the banks of the River Darwen, close to the grounds of Hoghton Tower. It was once a handloom-weaving colony. Later, 2 cotton mills Higher Mill and Lower Mill were built. Shuttles were also manufactured at Vale Shuttle Works.

The house would not have been a happy place as all three of Josiah and Eliza's daughters had died earlier in the year. Perhaps a new baby distracted the family from their loss to some extent. John was by far the youngest child. His brothers were between nine and fourteen years older than him. The family struggled to make ends meet. John started half time work when he was nine years old, working mornings and going to school in the afternoon. Special permission had been obtained from the education authorities. Many families relied on their children contributing to the family income. John was a keen footballer and cricketer. John had bought a terraced house with one of his brothers before he married.

John married Ruth Hart on 4 February, 1899 at Pleasington Priory. At the 1901 Census, John and Ruth were living at 9 Sutton Street, Feniscowles. They had one son, Charles, who was nine months old. He had been named after Ruth's father. Ruth's sister, Mary, and brother, Charles, were visiting them. Mary (aged 26) was a domestic servant, and Charles (15) was a labourer in a paper mill.



*9 Sutton Street, Feniscowles (house with brown door)*

John was also a labourer in a paper mill. It is understood that he was working at the Star Paper Mill at Feniscowles. John later became a machine man – a kind of foreman.

The Star Paper Mills was established at Feniscowles in 1875. It was one of three paper mills there – the Sun, Moon and Star paper mills but the Moon soon went out of business. Shortly after the Star Mills started production it confined itself almost exclusively to the manufacture of newsprint using waste rags, waste flax and Bombay gunny (native manufactured jute) as raw materials. By 1890 it employed about 300 people and produced 200 tons of paper weekly. In the early twentieth century, the reservoir for the paper mill took so much water that the River Roddlesworth almost ran dry.



*Star Paper Mills, Feniscowles about 1900*

John and Ruth had six children. Charles who was born on 2 July 1900 died in 1902 aged 2. Elizabeth was born on 2 January 1902, a second son named Charles in 1904, Mary Philomena (Phyllis) on 14 December 1905, Mary Winifred on 16 July 1910 and Hubert on 2 April 1914. Mary Winifred must have been only a small baby when she died. Her birth and death were both registered in the September quarter 1910 (covers registrations from July to September). She was baptised on 16 July, like most of the other children, at Pleasington Priory.

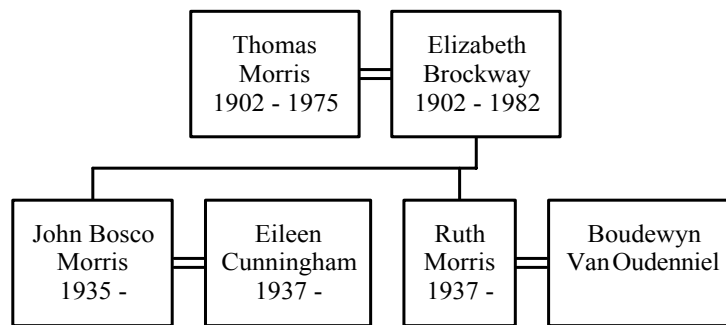


*Pleasington Priory*

All the children except Elizabeth were privately educated. Phyllis went to Notre Dame Convent, Blackburn and Hubert, who was an outstanding sportsman, was head boy of St. Mary's College, Blackburn. St. Mary's was founded in 1925 to provide a secondary education for Catholic boys in East Lancashire.

Charles married Catherine Nora Roche on 14 September 1927, Phyllis married John Barnes on 10 April 1929, and Elizabeth married Thomas Morris on 28 April 1934. All were married at Pleasington Priory. Hubert married Marjorie Holgate (date and place not known). Marjorie had come from a military family. Charles and Nora moved to Barrow-in-Furness and had two children, Eileen and Peter; and Phyllis and Jack went to live in Warrington and had three children, Harry, Wilfred and Brenda. Hubert joined the Royal Air Force in about 1939. He and Marjorie adopted Janet and later another daughter. Hubert died when he was about sixty years old and Marjorie re-married to John Anderson.

## *Elizabeth Brockway (1902 - 1982)*



Elizabeth was John and Ruth's second child but as her elder brother, Charles, died before she was a year old she was the oldest surviving. She was the only child that did not have a private education and became a weaver, like most local girls at the time, at the Eclipse Mill in Feniscowles.

Elizabeth married Thomas Morris on 28 April 1934 at Pleasington Priory. Thomas's father had been a spinning master, responsible for managing the whole mill but the family had fallen on hard times.

Tom had emigrated to Canada in about 1932 following his brother John and sister Nellie, and worked at Valleyfield Cotton Mills near Montreal. He had previously been going out with Elizabeth and so returned to England, hoping to marry her and take her back. However, as she refused to go, Tom stayed so that they could marry.



*Elizabeth and Tom Morris*

Elizabeth left the Eclipse Mill to look after her ailing grandmother who lived with them, and later her mother who was also ill. She also helped her Aunt Alice, who was her mother's younger sister, but she regarded as her own older sister. Social life revolved round the Catholic church at Pleasington Priory, with services, whist drives, dances etc. She also went to dances at Pleasington Hall, and often walked with her mother to visit relatives in Ecclestone, near Chorley. Elizabeth was considered to be a very warm-hearted person who frequently had her granddaughters to stay often for long periods. She was devoutly religious and visited Lourdes. Elizabeth was patient and hard working, and suffered ill health with forbearance.

Elizabeth and Tom had two children. John Bosco was born on 16 February 1935 and Ruth on 5 June 1939. John married Eileen Cunningham on 29 October 1960, and Ruth married Boudewyn van Oudenniel on 21 April 1963.



*Elizabeth with daughter, Ruth*

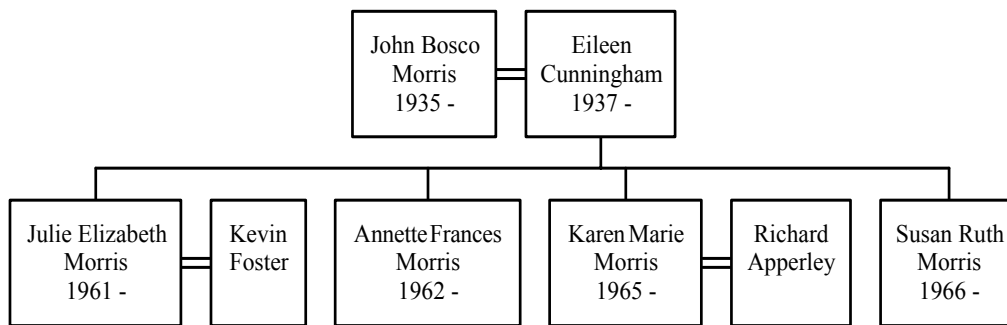
Tom was a Blowing Room Major at the Imperial Mill, Daisyfield, Blackburn for most of his working life. His team of men were responsible for the introduction of the cotton bales into the spinning process, before passing through to the card room. He was also responsible for the servicing and repair of any breakdown in the spinning machines. In later life he developed problems with his ears and balance because of the continuous noise of the machinery, so moved to the Eclipse Mill in Feniscowles where he worked in the office. After retirement from the mill he worked part time at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School on West Park Road Blackburn where he looked after the Masonic Lodge in the grounds, preparing the rooms for meetings etc. and was also a part-time caretaker for the school.



***8 Springfield Terrace, Cherry Tree***

Tom died aged 72 on 24 February 1975 at home at 8 Springfield Terrace, Green Lane, Cherry Tree, Blackburn. Elizabeth died aged 80 at the Hawkhurst Nursing Home, Blackburn where she had been for five weeks. Before that she had been living at 8 Springfield Terrace.

## *John Bosco Morris (born 1935)*



John went to Pleasington primary school in Blackburn, almost opposite Pleasington Priory. It was an asbestos building with a corrugated roof, which has been demolished. He and his sister Ruth travelled to school by train from Green Lane station to Pleasington station. He passed his eleven plus examination and attended St Mary's College Grammar School, Blackburn for a year before moving to St. Peters (boarding) School, Freshfield, near Southport, a junior Seminary for students of the Priesthood. After two years he moved back to St Mary's College.

John was very ill and was suspected to have TB whilst in the sixth form. He was in hospital for several weeks and lost almost a year of schooling, but eventually recovered completely.

After sixth-form he did his two-years National Service in the army in Germany, and then signed on for another couple of years with the East Lancashire Regiment. On returning home to Springfield Terrace he applied to De La Salle Teacher Training College in Middleton, near Manchester. Whilst waiting for entry John worked at Slingers, a hardware store on Orchard Street in Preston.



*John Morris*

He qualified as a teacher and in September 1960 and started teaching at St Alban's boys Secondary School on Penny Street in Blackburn. On 29<sup>th</sup> October 1960 he married Eileen Cunningham. Eileen was born on 12 December 1937 at 52 Queen Victoria Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn, to Elizabeth (nee Lynch) and Francis Cunningham. She was the second of four children

Eileen attended St Peter's primary school, Mill Hill, but when aged 9 transferred to the private kindergarten section of Notre Dame (Grammar School) Convent. She transferred to the main grammar school after passing her eleven plus.

Eileen was keen on sport and played netball for the school, was in the gymnastics team, and on occasions swam in the Lancashire junior team.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1953 Eileen's Dad died of lung cancer. He had been a heavy smoker.

On leaving school, Eileen started work in the Production office at Mullards Ltd, the largest employer in Blackburn, and the following year was appointed secretary in the Personnel Office. She attended evening classes for several years at Blackburn College and obtained a Secretarial Diploma. Eileen played netball for Mullards and on occasions, hockey for Darwen.

When they first married, John and Eileen rented a one-bedroomed flat above a hairdresser's shop on Manor Road, Blackburn near Eileen's Mum. They moved around Lancashire and Cumbria as John's teaching posts changed. John and Eileen had four girls. Julie Elizabeth was born in Blackburn on 28 July 1961, Annette Francis was born in Whitehaven on 15 October 1962, Karen Marie on 14 October 1965 in Lancaster, and Susan Ruth on 29 July 1966 in Whitehaven.



***Julie, Annette, Karen and Susan Morris (left to right)***

Most of John's teaching career was spent working with children with special educational needs. In the mid- 1970s he gained an Open University Honours degree, and an MA in educational research from Lancaster University after many years of part-time study. In 1986 he was appointed Head Teacher at Crookey Hall, Cockerham near Lancaster a boarding school for children with special educational needs and other problems. John took early retirement when the school closed in 1989. He had worked there since 1965.

Eileen was a founder member of Cockerham playgroup, then as the girls grew, a founder member and Tawny Owl of Cockerham Brownies. She was in Cockerham WI, on the Committee of Thurnham Catholic Church, and Secretary to the Parent-Teachers Association of Garstang High School. Eileen passed a number of "O" and "A" Levels between 1974 and 1978, and gained a BA in English Literature and Geography through the Open University in 1986.

When Susan started school in 1971, Eileen started work part-time in the Library Research Unit of Lancaster University. When the Research project finished she moved to Cartmel College Office, and in about 1980 moved to a full time post in the Library Acquisitions Office. She was subsequently appointed Acquisitions Senior Assistant and stayed in that post until she retired in December 2000.

John is keenly interested in fishing and shooting. After his retirement he continued with these interests and worked part-time on various environmental projects, mainly for or on the Abbeystead Estate – heather burning, seagull monitoring, tree planting and picking-up or beating with his three dogs. He was an enthusiastic fly-fisherman and was a member of various clubs including the Fly-Dressers Association.

In late 2001 John and Eileen moved to Suffolk and live at Nacton near Ipswich close to their daughter, Julie, and her family.

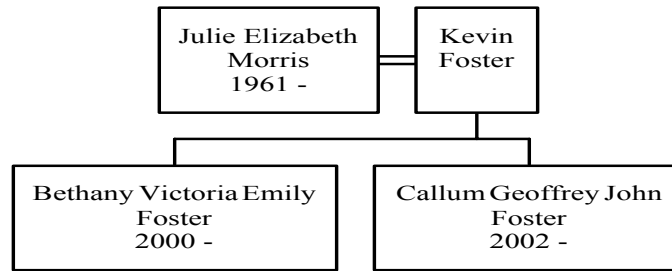
All their daughters have been successful in their different spheres. There is information about Julie in the next chapter. Annette is a senior manager in the nuclear industry. She has been an international level triathlete and is also a keen mountaineer who has completed many expeditions worldwide. She lives in the Lake District with her long-term partner who is equally passionate about outdoor sports travel and adventure.

Karen trained as a nurse and emigrated to New Zealand in her mid twenties. She married Richard Apperley on 19 October 1991. He is also English and is a civil engineer. They have three children. Karen is an accomplished fundraiser for her community.

Their youngest daughter, Susan lives in London. She is a senior Macmillan Nurse and national leader in the palliative care and natural death movements. Karen is a key nurse and front line manager on disaster programmes. For example, after the London terrorist attacks on 7 July 2005 she took responsibility for managing staff as not all medical staff were experienced enough to deal with trauma on such a large scale.

Karen is on the board of several cancer charities.

*Julie Elizabeth Morris (born 1961)*



***Ruth, Eileen and John Morris at Julie's christening***

Julie was born on 28 July 1961 in Blackburn. She was the eldest of four girls.

As a student, Julie travelled widely (alone). In her early years she was an accomplished artist & horsewoman. She became the first woman to work for Mercedes Benz in a senior position in truck sales.

Julie married Kevin Foster on 10 November 1984. In her thirties she started her own business making and distributing toiletries. This has been a considerable success and clients have included the Royal palaces and the House of Lords. Kevin Foster is a senior electrical and communications engineer at British Telecom's research laboratories at Martlesham and travels world wide representing his industry.

Julie and Kevin have two children. Bethany was born on 27 February 2000 and Callum on 21 June 2002.

# CONCLUSION

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The Brockway family history starts in rural Wiltshire and ends in present day Suffolk another county that is predominantly rural. As with most families, circumstances have changed considerably over time mainly for the better. Life in Wiltshire was hard for agricultural labourers and their families. It was often at subsistence level and could drop below when harvests were particularly bad. People generally lived in small houses but families were large with many people in the same room and often in the same bed. Privacy was virtually non-existent in these circumstances.

This was the background to the lives of the Brockways. When there was a deepening of the agricultural recession in the early 1870s Josiah Brockway decided to move north to Lancashire where jobs were more plentiful and wages higher. It would be interesting to know if Josiah and his wife, Eliza, regretted this decision. The family suffered a tragedy in February 1874 when all three of their young daughters were struck down and died of scarlet fever in the space of less than three weeks. John Brockway was born later that year. He and many of the other men in the family spent their lives working in the paper mills at Fensicowles, which remains the major employer. Many of the women worked in the cotton mills.

John and Ruth's daughter, Elizabeth, married Tom Morris whose father had managed a cotton mill. Tom spent his working life at the Star Paper Mill at Fensicowles, and he and Elizabeth lived in a terraced cottage at Cherry Tree near Fensicowles and on the edge of Blackburn. There is still a paper mill on the site of the Star Paper Mill. It is owned and run by Sappi Limited which is a \$4 billion global group of forest products companies with operations spanning three continents. The cotton industry in Lancashire has declined considerably because of low cost competition from overseas and now employs only a fraction of those working in its hey day in the nineteenth century.

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Wiltshire and Lancashire county records offices – mainly parish registers.

Censuses from 1841 to 1901.

England and Wales Civil Registration records for births, marriages and deaths.

# APPENDICES

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- 1 - tree for Robert Brockway (1804 – 1846)
- 2 - tree for Josiah Brockway (1833 - 1898)
- 3 - an American Connection
- 4 - tree for John Brockway (1874 - 1933)
- 5 - “Brothers” – a poem by Isa Craig

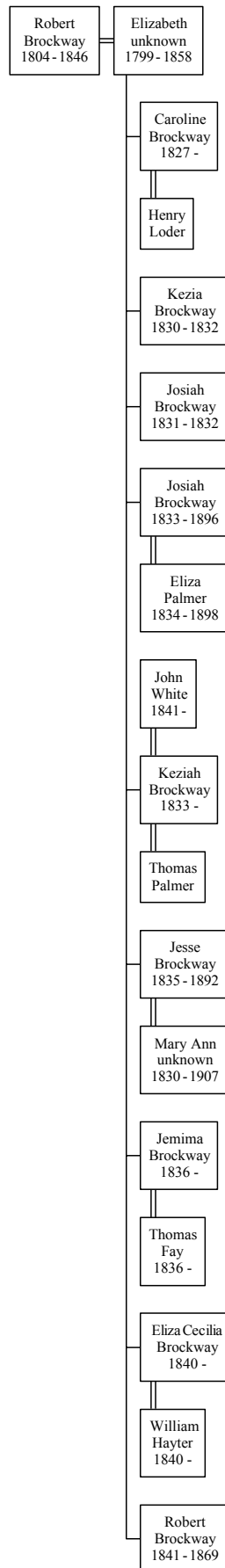
# BROCKWAY FAMILY HISTORY

## -APPENDICES

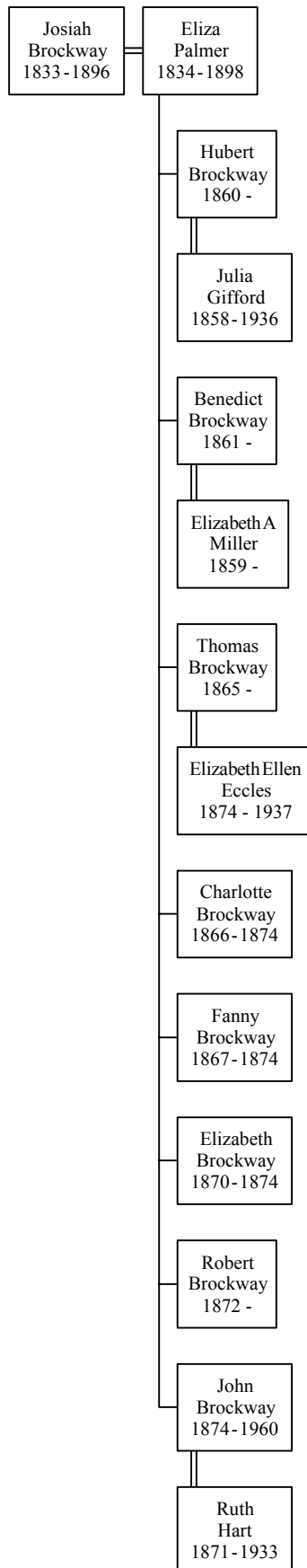


*Researched & written by Brian Drescher, English Roots.*

**Appendix 1 - Tree for Robert Brockway (1804 - 1846)**



*Appendix 2 - Tree for Josiah Brockway (1833 - 1898)*



## Appendix 3 - An American Connection

There are many Brockways living in America and their origins, in many cases, are likely to be Wiltshire and Dorset. A definite connection has been found for the Brockways of Swallowcliffe. Frank Brockway, Josiah's nephew through his brother Jesse, emigrated to the United States with his wife, Agnes Louisa, in 1887. They travelled from Liverpool on board the SS Aurania arriving in New York on 1 February 1887. Frank was described on the passenger list as a paper maker and their destination was Massachusetts.

It seems likely that Frank had a job in the paper industry awaiting his arrival. The Holyoke city profile includes the comment that it has been “long a center for papermaking. With the increased industrial needs brought by the Civil War, the Holyoke's population more than tripled between 1860 and 1870. Local mills attracted thousands of immigrants from western Europe and Canada.” At one time 25 paper mills operated in the city; Holyoke was called “The Paper City of the World.”



*Holyoke City, High Street between 1890 and 1900*

At the 1900 US census, Frank was described as an engineer. He was living at Holyoke City, Hampden County, Massachusetts. His neighbours included people working in the paper industry. Frank and Agnes had a son and three daughters. Arthur was born

in England in 1886, while Gertrude in 1892, Marian in 1897 and Charlotte in 1900 were all born in the United States. At the 1910 US Census, Agnes was a widow but had two further children, Lillian born in 1903 and Walter in 1908. It is assumed that Frank died sometime between 1907 and 1910. He would have been in his late forties when he died.

No trace has been found of Agnes in either the US 1920 or 1930 Censuses (the latest currently released to the public). It is assumed that she had re-married, died or returned to England. By 1920, Arthur had married Rachel, whose parents were Irish. Arthur was a shipper with a clothing manufacturer and they were living in Boston in Suffolk County. They had three sons. Wilbur was born in 1915, David in 1917 and Robert in 1919. At the 1930 Census, they were still living in Boston in Suffolk County but in a different Ward. Arthur was a shipper but now working in the paper industry. They had a daughter, Ruth, born in 1922.

*Appendix 4 - Tree for John Brockway (1874 - 1933)*

