

THE JESSOP FAMILY OF SWINESHEAD

There have been Jessops in Swineshead since the late 17th Century when John Jessop was baptised on 4th March 1696. His parents were Thomas Jessop and Margaret who also had Thomas baptised 26th November 1700 and Sarah and Mary both baptised on 4th January 1701. There was another Thomas Jessop in Swineshead at that time, married to Ann, and they had Thomas baptised 19th September 1694 and William baptised 22nd December 1695, followed by Ann baptised 22nd October 1699. There is also a Richard Jessop baptised 8th May 1698 but only the father's name is given, so this child could belong to either Thomas as the mother was not named.

These two men, both named Thomas, could have been cousins – or maybe were not related at all – but obviously were not brothers as they shared the same name. However there may have been Jessops in Swineshead much earlier than that as Alice (sic) Jessop married John Tebb on 15th July 1707. Unless she was a very young bride she would have been too old to be part of either Thomases' family as she would have been born around 1680 or maybe even earlier if she was a widow at the time of this marriage. This would suggest there were other families, or branches of Jessops around the Swineshead area then.

John Jessop born 1735 may have been a grandson of one of these Thomas Jessops. He married Mary Burton on 5th January 1764 at St Mary's Church, Swineshead. They quickly had a child Zebedee born that same year who lived to the age of seven and died in 1772 being buried on 5th January. Also born to this couple was John Burton Jessop baptised 27th April 1767 and who died at the age of five months. In 1774 two years after the death of Zebedee, another son arrived and they named him Zebedee again. This Zebedee lived until 1833 when he died aged 58.

An advertisement viewed at The Gentleman's Society in Spalding showed the owner of The Wheatsheaf Inn to be John Jessop in 1800. Apparently John had been doing some alterations and improvements to his house (The Wheatsheaf) and hoped he would once again enjoy support from his customers. Perhaps his establishment had been closed for some time. This was John born 1735 and when he died in 1821 he left a will (Ref LCC Wills 1821/156 at Lincolnshire Archives) in which he left to his son Zebedee his 'mill, messuages, lands, tenements' in Swineshead, Little Steeping, Little Hale and 'elsewhere in the County of Lincoln.' Zebedee was to pay his mother Mary Jessop £70 per annum to be paid half yearly. Mary was to have £30 and all the household goods, plate, china etc to have use of same until her death when they were to go to her son Zebedee. These household items were said to be worth under £20. John Jessop signed his will with a steady hand and died on 25th January 1821. The executor was Thomas Ingall and the witnesses were Richard Glead, Abraham Jackson and Richard Brand. This will was proved on 18th July 1821.

John's son Zebedee Jessop married Mary Brewster in Swineshead on 16th June 1795. Their first child, a son John named after his grandfather, was born in 1797 and lived till 1876, but their second son, Zebedee born in 1801 died the following year. Another son born 1804 was named Zebedee again and he lived to the age of sixty five. The next son born 1805 was named James and he grew up to marry and have a family. Their only daughter Mary arrived in 1814 and she seems to have been their last child. She too lived to become an adult.

Zebedee died in 1833 aged 58 and was buried on 27th January 1833. His will, dated 1833, found at the Lincolnshire Archives (Ref LCC Wills /1833/156) showed that he was a wealthy man. His three sons, John, James and Zebedee were left everything "that they are now in possession of" and he released them from any debts they owed him. This meant that John had The Wheatsheaf, as he was currently the landlord there.

At the time of his death Zebedee Jessop was erecting a new mill on land known as the Old Mill Piece, which was the mill that was later to become Houlder's Mill. He left instructions for his wife to complete the building of this mill for their son James. There was also land running behind The Wheatsheaf down to this mill that was to go to his son Zebedee. There was land at the north end of the village known as First Cattle Holme and Far Cattle Holme which was to go to his son John.

Mary, Zebedee's wife was well taken care of as she was to have all his personal goods and chattels and Hardwicke Grange, which was then in the tenure of Mark Jackson. She also received another 30 acres of land. After the death (or remarriage) of his wife, Hardwicke Grange was to go to their daughter Mary. However in the meantime, daughter Mary was to receive £25 per annum from each of his properties [ie Hardwicke Grange, Wheatsheaf, mill etc]. Mary Jessop married John Milnes on 25th September 1836, three years after her father's death.

Of Zebedee's three sons, John was running the Wheatsheaf at this father's death and also had land in North End which he probably farmed himself. Even if he rented out the land it would bring him in an income but he was also referred to as 'publican and farmer' on the census and so he possibly worked the land himself. He was also a brewer and may have owned the Wheatsheaf Brewery. John had married Jane Hides a local girl, in February 1820 and they had at least nine children. Early in their marriage they lived at Brothertoft where John worked as a miller. When their seventh child Thomas Hides Jessop was born in 1827 John and his family had moved to Swineshead and he was a miller living at Bar Bridge. However by the following year when their daughter Frances was born in 1828 the parish register describes him as a publican. Hagar's Directory for 1849 lists John Jessop as a farmer at Bar Bridge.

Another of Zebedee's sons, James, married Susanna Brown, daughter of John Brown in June 1826. The parish register entry says both the bride and groom were marrying with permission of their fathers. This means they were both under twenty one at the time. Also they were married by license which enables the wedding to take place sooner than waiting for the banns to be called. Susanna gave birth to a son named John Brown Jessop soon after the wedding so the pregnancy must have hastened the marriage. The child, named John, was baptised in September 1826. At this time James was a baker and miller. He had the new mill his father had been building before he died. Unfortunately James died at the early age of thirty five in September 1840 when he was involved in a shooting accident, leaving Susannah with eight children under the age of thirteen and she was pregnant with the ninth..

When James died in this shooting accident the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury newspaper dated Friday September 25th 1840 carried the following:

"SWINESHEAD. A dreadful accident happened to Mr James Jessop, miller, of this place on Monday last. He left home in the morning in company with Mr Peart, of Swineshead, and Mr Meers of Boston, to enjoy a day's shooting; they had not proceeded far when they had occasion to pass through a gap in the hedge; Mr Jessop was first through, and Mr Peart directly after him; when Mr Meers proceeded to get through, a bough caught the cock of his gun and although it had previously been put down, it went off and the contents striking Mr Peart's shoulder, completely carried away part of his coat and shirt, leaving his person unhurt, but the whole charge then lodged in the right side of Mr Jessop's head and he fell down dead, without uttering a groan or making a struggle. He was in the 35th year of his age and has left a young widow far advanced in pregnancy, and eight small children. Had Mr Peart been a foot nearer, he must have shared the same fate as his companion. -An inquest was held on the body on Tuesday: verdict: accidental death."

The third son Zebedee (born 1804) married someone called Ann (surname unknown) but seems not to have had any children. He was variously employed as a miller and baker – on the 1841 census he was a baker and Hagar's Directory in 1849 lists him as a baker and flour dealer. In 1851 the census describes him as a miller – but in 1861, which is difficult to read, he was either a farmer or a joiner. By 1855 there is no mention of Zebedee in any of the directories. Zebedee Jessop died in 1870 and was buried on 18th January. He left a will (Ref WILLS/1870/784 at Lincs Archives). Copies of this will cannot be obtained, it has to be viewed at the archives.

John Brown Jessop, the eldest son of James and Susannah, married Martha Foreman in 1851 at Skirbeck, Boston, Lincs. She was the daughter of Christopher Foreman. John Brown Jessop was the landlord of The Griffin Inn for a few years from at least 1861 when he appears as such in the census and until at least 1872 when he was listed in a directory as butcher, brewer and victualler – Griffin Inn. Like many of the Jessops he had other interests too and by 1882 he was the owner of the Swineshead Gasworks, which was then called GAS LIGHT & COKE WORKS. At this time John Brown Jessop was also a butcher, a cattle dealer, and a wool buyer! The gasworks had previously (1861) been known as SWINESHEAD GAS, COKE & COAL COMPANY when the secretary was William Dolby Reddish. Later in 1886 it was owned and run by Mr Morgan from Leeds who was also involved in starting the Swineshead Brass Band.

John Brown Jessop named his eldest son John Brown Jessop too – which caused some confusion. At the age of 22 he was a journeyman joiner living in the household of William Cook Morris the local carpenter. William Morris had a large family and his daughter Mary Maria who was then only aged 16, later married John Brown Jessop junior. They had seven children., Ada, William, Martha, Frank, Lena, Fred and Sydney.

Most of the younger Jessops left the village around the 1870/80 period to find jobs. John Jessop, son of John and Lucy was an architect and surveyor living in Lambeth in 1871 with his widowed mother and his young bride, also named Lucy. Some went to work on the railway as engine drivers as did John W Jessop who was in Doncaster in 1891.

And so after being a dominant family in Swineshead for almost 100 years, gradually there were less and less Jessops in Swineshead.

Sovereign Ancestry

The Willows, High Street
Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire
PE20 3LH ENGLAND

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A document viewed at **The Gentleman's Society** in Spalding suggested that the owner of **The Wheatsheaf Inn** in 1800 was **John Jessop**. However, the IGI shows a **Zebedee Jessop**, son of John and Mary Jessop, baptised on 25th November 1764 at Swineshead and he was the owner of **The Wheatsheaf**, but it was his son John who was at that time the landlord.

Zebedee died on 27th January 1833 and his will, dated 1833, showed that he was a wealthy man. He had three sons, John, James and Zebedee to whom he left everything 'that they are now in possession of,' and released them from any debts they owed him. This meant that John had **The Wheatsheaf**, as he was currently running it.

Zebedee Jessop was erecting a new mill on land known as the Old Mill Piece, which was the mill that was later to become **Houlder's Mill**. He left instructions for his wife to complete the building of this mill for his son James. There was also land running behind **The Wheatsheaf** down to this mill that was to go to his son Zebedee, and land at the north end of the village known as **First Cattle Holme** and **Far Cattle Holme**, which was to go to his son John.

Mary, Zebedee's wife was well taken care of as she was to have all his personal goods and chattels and **Hardwicke Grange**, which was then in the tenure of **Mark Jackson**. She also received another 30 acres of land. After the death (or remarriage) of his wife Mary, **Hardwicke Grange** was to go to their daughter Mary. However in the meantime, daughter Mary was to receive £25 per annum from each of his properties [ie **Hardwicke Grange**, **Wheatsheaf**, mill etc.] Mary, his daughter, may have married **William Wakefield** at Swineshead on 24 July 1832. If this is correct Mary would only have been eighteen, ie underage, and as the entry stated "With consent of all necessary parties," it would seem this was the case.

Of Zebedee's three sons, John was running the **Wheatsheaf** and also had land in **North End** which he farmed himself rather than renting it out, which is suggested by the fact that on the census entry he was referred to as 'publican and farmer'. He was also a brewer and may have owned the **Wheatsheaf Brewery**.

John married **Jane Hides**, a local girl in February 1820 and they had at least seven children. When they were first married John was a miller and he and his wife were living at **Brothertoft Mill**. When their fifth child **Thomas Hides Jessop** was born in 1827 John was a miller at **Bar Bridge**. However by the following year when their daughter **Frances** was born the parish register describes him as a publican. **Hagar's Directory** for 1849 lists **John Jessop** as a farmer at **Bar Bridge**.

James married **Susanna Brown**, daughter of **John Brown** in June 1826. They were under age at the time and so were married by license which enables the wedding to take place sooner than waiting for the banns to be called. **Susanna** gave birth to a son named **John Brown Jessop** soon after the wedding. He was baptised in September 1826. At this time **James** was a baker and miller

When **John Brown Jessop** was aged 35, he was the landlord of **The Griffin Inn** for a few years. In 1872 he was listed in a directory as butcher, brewer and victualler – **Griffin Inn**.

By 1882 he was the owner of the **Swineshead Gasworks**, which was then called **GAS LIGHT & COKE WORKS** [Tarry Hill]. At this time **John Brown Jessop** was also a butcher, a cattle dealer, and a wool buyer!

It had previously (1861) been known as **SWINESHEAD GAS, COKE & COAL COMPANY** when the secretary was **William Dolby Reddish**. **Swineshead Gas Light and Coke Company Ltd.** Registered between 1844 and 1856, and either dissolved before 1856 or re-registered by 1860 [source: TNA: BT 41/671/3669 courtesy Sovereign Ancestry]

Later in 1886 it was owned and run by Mr Morgan from Leeds who was also involved in starting the **Swineshead Brass Band**.

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