

THE CRATHORNE FAMILY OF KINGS NORTON

To place the Crathorne family in Kings Norton we need to explore the families' origins. The family dates back almost 800 years to the le Teuler family who were the founding members of the Crathorne family in the Northeast. The le Teuler family had hailed from York, and in the 14th century they began to purchase various sections of land at Crathorne, North Yorkshire, with the family later becoming the owners of the whole manor. William le Teuler, the founding member, was born about 1290, the son of John le Teuler, and William was clearly from an influential family who had the financial resources to enable them to purchase land. But landowners at that time had a greater responsibility, and William, either volunteered or was called upon to fight on the side of the King at the battle of Boroughbridge on the 16th of March 1322. This was a small but important battle in the various conflicts between Edward II of England and his rebellious barons and took place near the bridge across the River Ure at Boroughbridge, northwest of York. William was then knighted for his services to the Crown in 1326, taking the name of Sir William de Crathorne in 1327 after the land he maintained at Crathorne, the same year that the King was deposed and murdered. The family continued to purchase land at Crathorne, and the estate was handed down through William's descendants until 1846 when the estate was sold to the Dugdale family.

The name of Crathorne has been spelt in many ways over the years, especially in parish records. This was due to the fact that most people in earlier times were illiterate, and the spelling of surnames was generally left to the clergy. However, records show that during the mid 1600's some members of the Crathorne family, who were devout Catholics, began to leave the Northeast due to religious persecution. They settled in various counties throughout England, and some individuals chose to live abroad. So where did they go? Those Crathorne's who emigrated can be found in America from the beginning of the 18th century, and later Crathorne's became established in Portugal, India, New Zealand, Australia and also in Ireland.

So far there are two possible theories on the Crathorne's leaving their ancestral homes to migrate south.....The first theory may lie in the 'Pilgrimage of Grace', a major uprising against the dissolution of the monasteries, which took place in 1536 and 1537. It began at Louth in Lincolnshire spreading to Yorkshire and then to Cumberland and Westmoreland, with over 30,000 people marching to its cause. One strand of this revolt was 'Bigod's insurrection' of January 1537, where Sir Francis Bigod of Settrington, Yorkshire, led an uprising at Beverley. Henry VIII's army was not strong enough to fight all the rebels, so he negotiated a peace with rebel leader Robert Aske. The King promised to pardon all the rebels and hold a parliament in York to discuss their demands, so the rebels went back to their homes. However, as soon as they had dispersed, the leaders were arrested and over 200 people were executed for their part in the rebellion, including Robert Aske, Sir Francis Bigod and the Abbots of the four largest monasteries in the north. Henry himself ordered that "dreadful execution to be done upon a good number of inhabitants of every town, village and hamlet that have offended..."

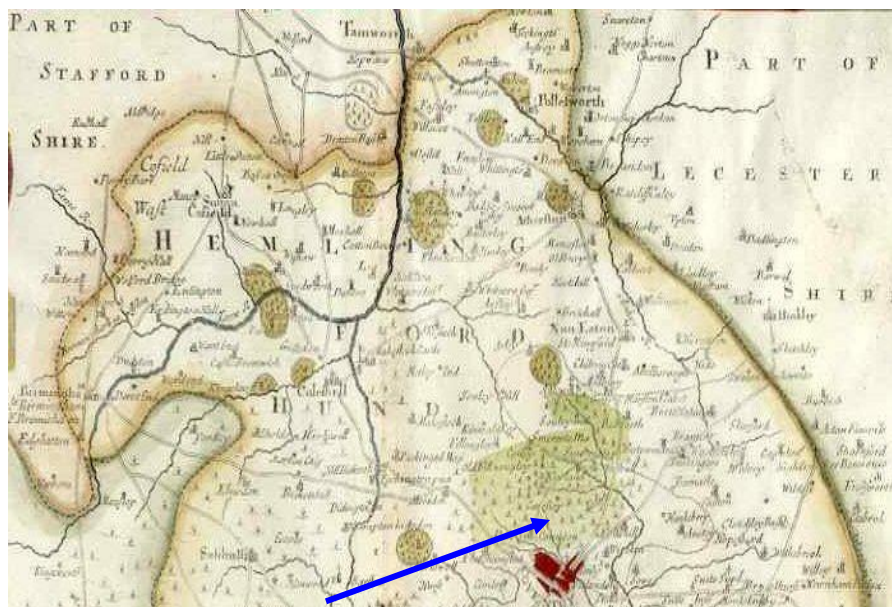
There was now a major religious war going on with Catholics resisting the new Protestant religion, which had been imposed by the King, and they were being slaughtered for their faith. Catholicism was widespread in North Yorkshire and there are well documented centres of recusancy in Stokesley, Hutton Rudby, Crathorne and Osmotherley. The Crathorne family itself was closely involved with this resistance against the state and the family had links with the rebel leaders. In the mid 1430's a Crathorne had married Catherine Bigod, from the prominent Catholic family which later produced both Sir Francis Bigod and Robert Aske, the leaders of the rebellion who had been killed by the King. In this climate of rebellion and fear both individuals and families left their ancestral home for a safer haven, and for those Catholic Crathorne's who stayed they would want to spirit their vulnerable children away to safe houses outside the violence of the North.

After the migration early parish records began to show that members of the Crathorne family had settled in the Warwickshire villages of Kingsbury, the hamlet of Hurley, Fillongley, Coleshill and Sutton Coldfield. In 1697 at Kingsbury, it is recorded in the parish records for charity payments that 5s was 'paid to old Widow Crathorne when she went to Ireland' – It is documented that there were Crathorne's settled in Ireland in the early 1700's but was Widow Crathorne taking a one-way trip, or just visiting? With regard to the village of Fillongley it is possible that Elizabeth Crathorne, born about 1535 and a John Crathorne, born about 1540, were a brother and sister and they were sent south from the northeast to stay with trusted friends in Fillongley in Warwickshire, where it was hoped they would grow up and be married into the local community. If this were true these two individuals were the first two Crathorne's to be married here when Elizabeth Crathorne married Hugh Mills on the 20th of November 1556, and eight years later John Crathorne was married to Agnes Beck on the 12th of November 1564, thus giving rise to a branch of the Crathorne tribe of Warwickshire.

Both the Beck's and the Mills families had been well established in Fillongley for many years. Both couples raised their families in the village, although Elizabeth was to die at the young age of 36. So which family could have been the Fillongley friends that could have looked after the young Crathorne children? There is a possible clue to this in the name of John and Agnes's youngest son, Avery Crathorne, baptised on the 1st of October 1577 at Fillongley. Avery is a very unusual for a Christian name, but the Avery family was an old established family in the village and there were many Crathorne males being baptised Avery from 1540 to 1737. So maybe this first Avery Crathorne was named after the family that looked after young John and Elizabeth Crathorne after their traumatic separation from their parents following the failed 'Pilgrimage of Grace'.....

The second theory involves the next recorded death in Fillongley that of Richard Crathorn, who had been born about 1515 but his birthplace is unknown. He was buried here on the 1st of September 1583. Who was he? He was unlikely to have been John's son Richard, as he went on to marry in 1606 and again in 1623. He could have been an unmarried brother, but the most likely explanation is that these three Crathorne's were one family, the father Richard, his daughter Elizabeth (who later married Hugh Mills) and son John (who later married Agnes Beck), moving south in the early 1500s to the land 'flowing with milk and honey'. The

family settled there, and later Elizabeth and John were responsible for giving rise to another branch of the Crathorne tribes of Warwickshire. If this theory is correct, we can only speculate as to why Richard brought his family to Fillongley,



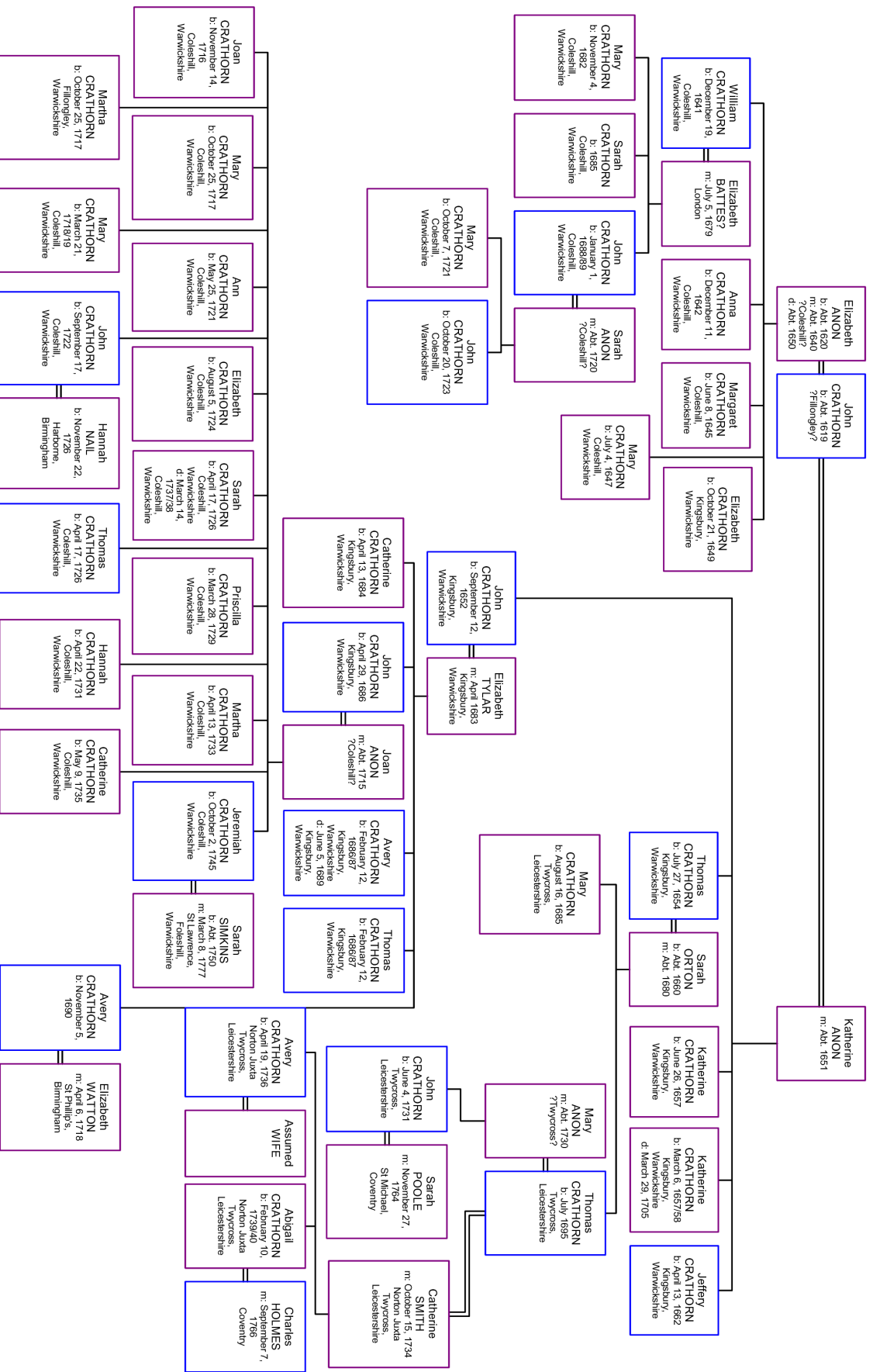
Early map of Fillongley, Warwickshire

but as the village church belonged to the nearby Priory of Maxstoke, there may well have been strong Catholic connections here. Fillongley was certainly a long way from the troubles of the north: 166 miles due south from Crathorne village. Having settled here it seems probable that Richard is the ancestor of some of the later Warwickshire Crathorne's. Quite how he links into our Crathorne family tree is currently unknown, but using estimates of generation dates, he could have been a great-great-great-great Grandson of the original Sir William de Crathorne.



Maxstoke Priory, Warwickshire.

The Descendants of John Crathorn, born about 1619

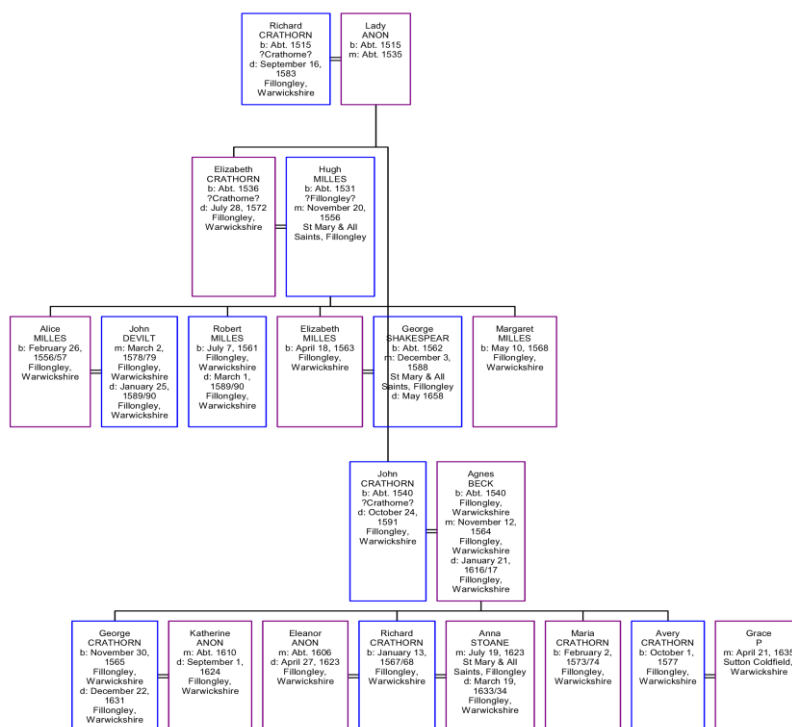


John Crathorn had three sons, George, Richard, and Avery, and by tracking their offspring using records from the IGI, and verified at Warwick Records Office, most of the Midlands Crathorne's can be linked into one great family. Not all of the pieces of the jigsaw are currently in place – but many are. And the lack of Crathorne's in other nearby counties makes our common ancestry all the more compelling.

George Crathorn, christened on 30 November 1561, married a Katherine in Fillongley, had two children including a son George, but apparently no other offspring or any grandchildren. Avery Crathorn, christened on 1 October 1577, married a Grace in Sutton Coldfield, but seems to have had no issue. Interestingly, his name was continued by others in later generations, maybe remembering a favourite uncle – or the family ties to the Avery family in times of hardship?

Richard, John's middle son, christened on 13 January 1568, married an Eleanor and they had 5 children before she died, on 27 April 1623. Surprisingly, Richard then married again on 19 July, less than 3 months after his first wife had died, but the new couple had no children. One of the 5 children is a supposition, as a John Crathorn, who was born about 1619 and had 10 children in the nearby villages of Coleshill and Kingsbury between 1641 and 1662 must be related somewhere. It seems highly likely that he was a son of Richard, but his birth was not recorded.

Descendants of Richard Crathorn 1515



Richard's assumed children Elizabeth and John, with their children with their spouses.

Richard's grandson Avery Crathorne was born in Fillongley in 1577. He was the first to have this unusual Christian name and was later used by several generations of Warwickshire Crathorne's. It is possible that Avery's grandmother - Richard's wife - was also an Avery, so Richard may have moved to Fillongley before 1536. Or maybe the Crathorne's were taken in by the Avery's when they first moved to the area.

The earliest reference to Midland Crathorne's with possible connections to our branch of the family is in the village of Kingsbury, Warwickshire. This was John Cratorner who was born c 1620, possibly in the hamlet of Hurley, and married his first wife Elizabeth in the parish church here in 1645. Elizabeth died within a few years of their marriage and John married again. His second wife was Katherine, and they were married at the parish church in Kingsbury in 1650. John and his two wives produced seven children. John had two children by his first wife Elizabeth and five by his second wife Katherine although she possibly lost one child, a daughter. The first child born to John and Katherine was a son John Crathorne and he was born about 1652. John the younger married Elizabeth Tylar who was born about 1655, on the 18th of April 1683 at Kingsbury. This marriage produced five children which possibly included a twin birth.

The couple's second child, also named John, was born in about 1686. His father, John senior died aged only 39 years after 8 years of marriage leaving his wife to raise their 5 children all under the age of 6 years alone. Elizabeth died 14 years later at the age of 50. It could have been around this time when John (1686) who would be about 17 years old at the time of his mother's death left Kingsbury to make a new life elsewhere, taking his 16-year-old younger brother Thomas with him. Where their initial journeys took them is not known but the brothers could have eventually settled in Handsworth, Staffordshire. It is possible that John (1686) is our earliest known ancestor.

John and his family are recorded in the parish records of Handsworth in Staffordshire in 1726, although it is unlikely that John had been born in Handsworth, as there is no record of his baptism at St Mary's church. John probably married Sarah (?) during the summer of 1725 in another parish; but their marriage was to be short. On Sunday the 19th of May 1726 John took his infant son, who was also named John, to be baptised at St Mary's church. Also, on that day John buried his young wife Sarah who had most likely died soon after the birth of their child. At the beginning of July, six weeks after his baptism Sarah's son also died. The infant was taken back to St Mary's church on Monday the 8th of July to be buried in the churchyard near to his mother.

King George I died in 1727 and his son George II ascended to the throne, and George II would reign over his people for over 33 years. By the spring of this year, ten months after the death of his first wife, John Crathorne was about to marry again. John's new wife to be Hannah Nail (Naile/Neal(e) and the couple were married on Wednesday the 9th of April 1727 at St Mary's church. Hannah would have been born about 1705 but there is no baptismal record for her at St Mary's church, in fact the Nail (Naile/Neal(e) family are not found in the parish records in Handsworth in any numbers until the mid 18th century. Although there were early

significant well-established Nail(e) family groups settled in the Worcestershire villages of Halesowen, Quinton and Harborne, and this branch of the Nail(e) family may well have migrated to Handsworth from one of these areas.

In the fullness of time Hannah gave birth to a daughter who they named Hannah, but the child did not survive, and she was buried at St Mary's on Friday the 9th April 1728, the first wedding anniversary of her parents. Over the next few years John and Hannah produced two more daughters who they named Hannah and Sarah. Hannah was baptised on Thursday the 6th of September 1736 at St Mary's church. There is an entry in the St Mary's baptism register for her sister Sarah on Tuesday the 24th of June 1738; the daughter of John and Hannah Crathorne of Handsworth, but the child probably died shortly after her birth. The following year another daughter of John and Hannah was baptised as Sarah on Sunday the 26th of April 1739. A little over two years later the couple had a son who they named Joseph. Joseph was probably their last child, and he was baptised at St. Mary's church on Tuesday the 26th of September 1741.

The "Ancient Parish of Handsworth" had existed long before the Norman Conquest and was possibly settled as far back as Roman times. The church which later became St Mary's parish church was built in 1170. Handsworth in John's day was an area of scattered farmsteads. The villagers worked long hours and in all weathers. During harvest time these hours would increase and everyone including the children would have been involved in bringing in the harvest. If there had been a bad harvest or a succession of bad harvests there could be food shortages, which then caused high prices. Even in the relatively good times life was hard, living conditions poor and sickness and ill health were commonplace. Situations such as these would force people to seek financial help from the parish, and this responsibility would have fallen to the Overseers of the Poor.

The Overseers of the Poor were appointed by the vestry in Easter week and the Overseers were the only parish officers bound by civil law. Created by statute in 1601 they were appointed after election under the seal of two Justices of the Peace. Working closely with the Church Wardens they were responsible for setting and collecting the poor rate and distributing benefits to those requiring relief. They were also required by law to keep detailed account books of income against expenditure. The Overseers would also endorse settlement certificates and bastardy bonds, present settlement queries to the justices for examination and effect removal orders. Along with the churchwardens they would also arrange parish apprenticeships for deserving poor children.

On several occasions during the mid eighteenth century a member of the Nail(e) family was recorded in the Handsworth parish Overseers account books. The individual received parish relief in the July of 1754 and then again in the August of that year. The July records show 3s 3d was paid "For taking John Naile to Alesowen" and 4s 6d was paid for "A examination and a pair of orders for John Naile in August. John was probably underpaid as the September accounts show a further sum of 1s being paid to John Naile "as should have charged last month". It is likely that the John Naile mentioned in the parish accounts books was Hannah's father.....

In the March of 1756 John Crathorne applied for financial assistance to help maintain his family after he had become incapacitated and was unable to work. The Overseers of the Poor April accounts record John as receiving a payment of 2s during the March of that year, but John's condition continued to deteriorate and within a few weeks of his payment he died. The family must have been in dire need because the Overseers agreed that John's funeral charges of 14s 10d should be met by the parish. John Crathorne was laid to rest on Thursday the 25th of March 1756 at their parish church.

John's death had left behind his wife Hannah, two un-married daughters and a son. Hannah was 20 and Sarah was 18 and his youngest child Joseph was 14 years old. Joseph may have been in employment at the time of his father's death, as the majority of 14-year-old males at this time would have been employed. Joseph may not have remained in Handsworth after his father's death, because two years after her husband's death Hannah found it necessary to apply for financial assistance from the parish. The parish accounts of the Overseers of the Poor for April 1758 records 'Widow Crathorne' as receiving 4s on Tuesday the 28th of March 1758, and then the following week on Tuesday the 4th of April she received another 1s. What had befallen "Widow Crathorne", or how she used her 5s is not documented but this was the last time Hannah would apply for assistance from the Overseers. In 1760 King George II died and his grandson George III succeeded to the throne.

During the early 1770's the marriages of Hannah Crathorn and Sarah Crawthorne, the daughters of John and Hannah, took place at St Peters church in Harborne. The first marriage was Hannah Crathorn(e) when she married Richard Bentley on Monday the 12th of November 1770. Richard signed the register, but Hannah made her mark X. Just over two years later her sister Sarah (Crawthorne) married Charles Crumpton on Monday the 15th of February 1773. Charles signed the register, as did Sarah, but she signed her name as Sarah Crathorn, although the register shows her name as Crawthorne. Sarah's brother Joseph witnessed their marriage together with a woman named Ann Hartop.

Although the sisters were from Handsworth, they chose to marry in Harborne, which was possibly the parish of their future husbands. There is a strong possibility that both Charles Crumpton and Richard Bentley were Joseph's friends and Richard Bentley was one of the witnesses to Joseph's marriage the following year. Hannah and Sarah may have settled in Harborne after they married but their mother Hannah Crathorne remained in Handsworth. Hannah survived her husband by nearly sixteen years when she died during the May of 1772. Hannah was laid to rest on 24th of the month in St Mary's churchyard.

If Joseph had left Handsworth after his father's death, he had returned by the end of 1773, and he was planning to be married. The wedding was being arranged to take place in the early days of the New Year, and his bride to be Ann Cliff who was about 22 years old, she been born around 1752. Her parents and the place of her birth are not known, and although her marriage certificate stated that she was a 'spinster of this parish' she had not been baptised at St. Mary's church. (There is a baptism for a child named Ann Cliff baptised on the 18th of January/1751/52 at St Martin's church, Birmingham the daughter of Thomas Cox and Mary Chatwin, is

worth noting. Both Thomas Cox and Mary Chatwin were born about 1710, and Mary was born in Kingsbury in Warwickshire. The couple married on the 25th of April 1737 at St. Martin's church, Birmingham. (Ann Cliff's other siblings appear to be named Cox).

A few days before Christmas, and two weeks before Joseph and Ann's planned wedding day, the first of the two banns for their marriage were read after the Sunday service on the 19th of December 1773. The second reading of the banns took place two weeks later on Sunday the 2nd of January 1774. It is likely that Joseph and Ann would have been in the congregation on both occasions to witness, if any, objections to their marriage from the assembled parishioners. With seemingly no objections being raised the marriage between Joseph Crathorne and Ann Cliff took place on Tuesday the 4th of January 1774; just two days after the second reading of the banns. Their marriage was officiated by Thomas Lane, the Curate of St Mary's and their marriage was witnessed in the presence of Richard Bentley, his brother-in-law and John Homer. Joseph signed the marriage register with a clear signature and Ann signed with an X.

Banns of Marriage *between Joseph Crathorne & Ann Cliff both of the Par.*
of St. Mary's Church in the Par. of St. Martin's in the City of Birmingham
 No. *1* of *St. Mary's* Parish
 and *Ann Cliff* of *St. Mary's* Parish
 were
 Married in this *fourth* by *Thomas Lane*
 this *fourth* Day of *Janry* in the Year One Thousand Seven
 Hundred and *four* by me *Thos. Lane Curate*
 This Marriage was solemnized between Us *Joseph Crathorne*
Ann Cliff
 In the Presence of *Richard Bentley*
John Homer
 Banns of Marriage

Joseph and Ann remained in Handsworth after their marriage and it was here towards the end of 1774 that Ann gave birth to their first child, a son. Joseph and Ann named their child John, possibly after his paternal grandfather, and he was baptised at St Mary's church on Wednesday the 28th of December 1774. Not long after their son's baptism Joseph and Ann must have left Handsworth, as by the end 1776 the family are known to be living in Northfield in the county of Worcestershire, at a property known as Nobbs Mill. Northfield was a farming community and there were a number of mills situated on the banks of the river Rea where locally grown corn was ground. In the heart of the village stood the Norman church of St Laurence, and around the church there were a number of cottages and an inn, the Great Stone Inn, which was originally a medieval 'Hall' house. Close by there was a village pound where since ancient times stray animals were tethered until their owners claimed them.

Shortly after the family had settled in Northfield Ann gave birth to their first daughter Elizabeth, who was baptised on Friday the 27th of December 1776 at St Laurence Church. The next child to be born to Joseph and Ann was also a daughter and the couple named her Nancy; but her family knew her as Ann. Nancy's birth date is not recorded and, but she was baptised at St Laurence Church on Saturday the 6th of March 1779. The family had most likely prospered as by 1781 Joseph and Ann together with their 3 young children, John, Elizabeth, and Nancy, had left the relatively poor parish of Northfield in Worcestershire and moved to Kings Norton in Worcestershire, which was a fairly affluent one.

The family initially moved to Headley Heath, Kings Norton, which was about two miles to the north of Northfield. At the time of their move their son John was about 6 or 7 years old; his sister Elizabeth was 5, and their youngest sibling, Nancy (Ann) was about 2 years old. Shortly after their arrival in Kings Norton Ann gave birth to their fourth child and her parents named her Hannah. Hannah was baptised at St Nicolas church on Sunday the 29th of April 1781, the first child of the family to be baptised in their new parish.



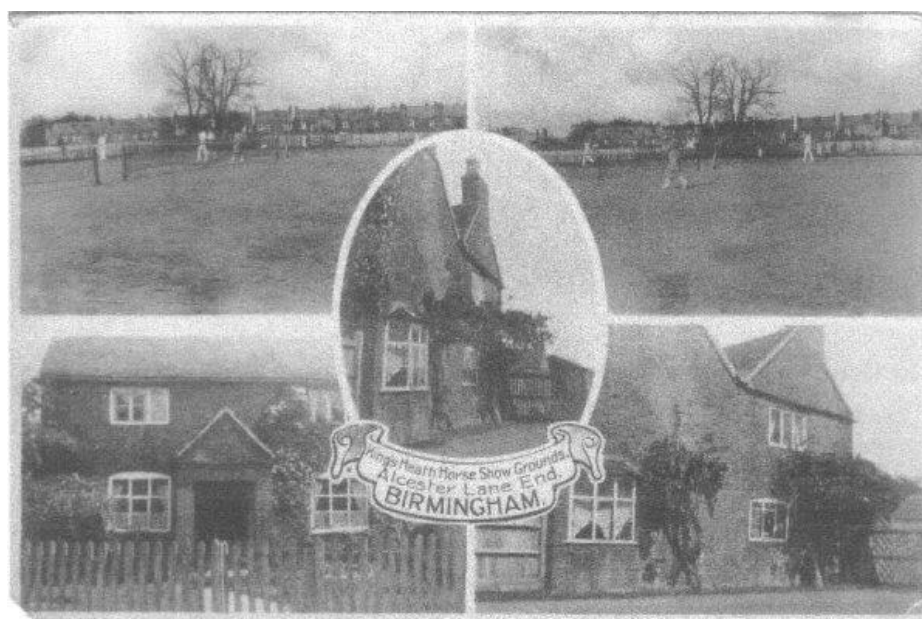
Headley Heath, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.

Kings Norton was a mainly rural farming community, but the process of change here had already begun. In 1780 an interconnected beam engine had been built and installed at Wychall Mill, and there was also the Lifford Mill, which were both using the river Rea as a source of power to grind the locally produced corn.



Lifford Mill, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.

Some time later the family moved to Alcester Lanes End, which was a short distance away from Headley Heath, and bordered on the village of Kings Heath. The property at Alcester Lanes End was probably built in the early 17th century and was of a brick construction with a slate roof. The house had a double roof and tall chimneys and may have originally been two cottages. Alcester Lanes End was situated on the road from Birmingham to Alcester, which had been made a turnpike road in 1767, and was the main stagecoach route which gave access to the north and the south of the country.



Alcester Lanes End, Kings Norton

The property at Alcester Lanes End had exchanged hands at various times and thirty years before Joseph and Ann lived there the property was known as Delions Tenement. In the November of 1751 the farm and land was to be “temporarily sold” and the following notice was placed in Aris’s Gazette:

DOLION’S TENEMENT OR ALCESTER LANES END FARM. Pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery before William Spicer, Esq.; one of the Master’s of this said Court. On Monday the 11th day of November next, between the hours of 5 and 6 in the afternoon. A freehold messuage with several lands and appurtenances there to belonging, called Dolton’s Tenement or Alcester lanes End Farm, situate in Lea Field in the parish of Kings Norton, in the County of Worcester; late the estate of Thomas Roper of Kings Norton aforesaid, dec’d, now let to Roger Crumpton at the yearly rent of £24. Particulars where of may be had at the said Master’s Chamber’s in Lincoln’s in Fields, London; or of Mr John Ingram Attorney at Law at Bewdley. The farm was put up for sale again in 1762 and 1763 and both sales were advertised in the Aris’s Gazette.

It may have been more than a co-incidence that Joseph chose to live in this location as the Crathorne's appear to have connections with relatives and friends both in London and the North of England, and later Crathorne marriages were between parties living in both of these locations. The Crathorne's became a well-known local family who had connections, both personally and in business, with people in the ever-expanding town of Birmingham, some 3 or 4 miles away. Joseph's decision to move to Alcester Lanes End may have been primarily to run the farm but other business opportunities were becoming available to him. Alcester Lanes End was within striking distance of the proposed Worcester & Birmingham canal and should this venture be accepted, there would be opportunities for local people to support this enterprise.



**St Nicolas church and the Saracens Head,
The Green in Kings Norton, Worcestershire.**

Village life in Kings Norton had always revolved around the Green and the parish church, which was situated in the heart of the village. The church was dedicated to St Nicolas and dated back to the 15th century. In 1616 the 'town' had received the grant of a market by James I to hold a market on Saturdays; two fairs which were to be held on the vigil of St Mark (and the two days following), and the other to be held on the 5th of August (and the two days following). This grant included a statute fair, also known as the Mop Fair, which took place on the first Monday in October and was held on the Green. The Mop Fare was for the hiring of agricultural labourers and domestic servants and the origin of the name is said to be that housemaids who attended the fair in the hope of being hired carried mops and pails. The hiring took place in conjunction with a country fair at which the roasting of an ox was a great feature of this event.

The Saracens Head was situated next to the church was also a popular meeting place but in earlier times it had been the home and retail outlet of a wealthy wool merchant. From the 17th century the Saracen's Head was the home of the royal bailiff, as Kings Norton used to be the property of the King, along with the

bordering village of Kings Heath. Traditionally the King gave the manor of Kings Norton to his Queen for life. James I gave it to Anne of Denmark and later Charles I gave it to Henrietta Maria. It is known that Henrietta Maria stayed in Kings Norton on the night of the 10th of July 1643 in the middle years of the Civil War on her way from Yorkshire to Oxford. She had 5,500 troops with her, and the vicar and schoolmaster; Thomas Hall was also forced to house some of the officers, and they had to spend the night elsewhere. It is thought the Queen stayed the night in the great chamber above the parlour.

In 1769 a canal had been built between Wolverhampton and Birmingham and it was the intention of the promoters of the Worcester & Birmingham canal to construct navigation between Worcester and the rapidly growing mineral and manufacturing resources of Birmingham and the Black Country. This canal would be 30 miles shorter than the existing navigation by way of Autherley, Stourport and the River Severn. The Act authorising the construction of the canal was passed in 1791 although the canal was not opened to Worcester until 1815 it was to provide Worcester and Birmingham with a route to the south. The connection with the Stratford canal at Kings Norton came in 1796 and one of the most difficult parts of this project for the canal builders was the excavation of the tunnel through the Wast Hills. Engineers and labourers faced many problems during its construction but finally the two-mile long Wast Hills Tunnel, or Kings Norton Tunnel was completed in 1797.

During the construction of the canal system in Kings Norton there was a demand for local men to work as labourers. Also, many of the struggling local agricultural workers began to turn to various cottage industries to supplement their incomes in preference to seeking employment in Birmingham, and whole families had begun to work together in their homes making iron nails, etc., using iron wire. Joseph had probably set up his wire drawing business at Alcester Lanes End during the canal building period and would have helped to subsidise the families' income. There had been various processes used in making iron wire but around 1800 the method of reducing the metal billet was changed from the use of a tilt hammer to a rolling process. Prior to this the process had been powered by a horse walking round and round a rotating drum - reminiscent of age-old cider presses and clay mills and it was possibly the latter method that Joseph used on his farm site.

The location of Alcester Lanes End was ideal for manufacturing. Being situated a short distance from the turnpike road Joseph's raw materials and finished work could be transported relatively easily in and out of the farm-site and onto the turnpike road. This road would also have been well used by those who wished to travel around the country as this could only have been done so by road, but early travel was not for the weak or the faint hearted. The roads at this time were no better than muddy tracks with large holes and ruts. During the wintertime the road was thick with mud causing horses, coaches, and carts to be stuck fast in the mire after a period of heavy rain or snow. For those travelling in summer the going could still be difficult as the mud, which was soft and thick in winter, could become dried into hard deep ruts which could easily tear off a cart or coach wheel, or cause a horse to become lame. This situation was commonplace and no matter where you lived in the country you would have fared no better.

During the canal building period local hostelrys also saw an increase in trade as the large gangs of men undertaking this heavy work would spend their hard-earned money on food and drink in the local taverns and inns. Joseph would have most likely been a regular at the local taverns, as this was a popular and accepted way to do business, and to keep up with local news and events. Although inns and taverns were popular most people brewed their own beer for consumption at home and this had been done since early times. Beer had been proved to be a good deal safer and more palatable than the available drinking water, which was often drawn from polluted rivers. Various types of beers were produced in the home and the most common beer to be produced at home was known as short beer. This was very low in alcohol and was brewed in large quantities and consumed by the whole family, including the children. The Crathorne family also brewed quantities of beer at Alcester Lanes End.

Towards the end of 1782 Ann would have been aware that she was expecting another child and in the early spring of 1783 Ann gave birth to a son. The couple named him Joseph presumably after his father and he was baptised on Sunday the 30th of March 1783 at their parish church. A few months later there were volcanic eruptions in Iceland which probably accounted for the unusual rise in deaths in England at this time. A cloud of volcanic gases and particles swept south from the Laki Craters event of that year and may have killed more than 10,000 people in its path. There were two peaks in mortality in England during the Laki Craters event; the first occurred between August and September 1783 and the second between January and February 1784.

In both cases the worst affected region was the east of England, although in central England the temperature during the summer of 1783 was particularly hot and the first months of 1784 were amongst the coldest on record. Newspapers across the country during the summer of 1783 reported the presence of thick smog and a dull sun "coloured like it has been soaked in blood". The cloud first reached Britain on the 22 June 1783. In his *Naturalist's Journal*, Gilbert White reported: "The peculiar haze or smoky fog that prevailed in this island and even beyond its limits was a most extraordinary appearance, unlike anything known within the memory of man."

The killer cloud lasted weeks, if not months, and engulfed much of Western Europe - as thousands of miles away in Iceland, the volcano Laki continued to erupt, and millions of tonnes of toxic gas were carried by the prevailing winds across Scandinavia and eventually to Britain. The cloud contained sulphur dioxide and sulphuric acid, which attacked the lungs of its victims, choking and killing men and women, rich and poor alike. The Crathorne family would no doubt have felt the effects of this event.

The year following this event Ann realised that she was expecting another child and on New Year's Day 1785, almost two years since her last confinement Ann gave birth to another son at Alcester Lanes End. The child was named William and he was baptised three weeks later on Friday the 21st of January at St Nicolas Church. Joseph and Ann's seventh child, Charles was born the following year on Monday

the 11th of September 1786, and he was baptised at St Nicolas church on the last day of the month.



The landscape in England may have looked like this for about a year after the Laki volcano event of 1783.

Each year the Overseers of the Poor assessed the income of the local residents, this was then taxed, and the monies raised provided financial assistance to the poor of the parish. For the year of 1787 to 1788 Joseph's annual income from the Moseley Yield was taxed at 3d in the pound and his contribution to the parish chest for that period would be 5 shillings and two pence halfpenny. Joseph duly paid his dues which were recorded in the Poor Rate Book for that year. Joseph most likely accepted this tax with good grace when his thoughts may have returned to his youth in Handsworth, when his father became ill, and his own family were forced to seek help from the parish. Then finally when his father died his funeral expenses were paid out of parish funds.

In the spring of 1788 Ann gave birth to a daughter; the couple's last three children had been sons. Joseph and Ann named the child Sarah, and she was baptised on Monday the 24th of March 1788. When Sarah was about 5 months old, she died, and she was buried at St Nicolas church on Friday the 15th of August. About the time of Sarah's death Ann discovered she was expecting another child and at the end of May the following year Ann gave birth to another daughter. The child was born on Sunday 31st of May and she was baptised as Mary on Sunday the 21st of June 1789 at St Nicolas church. It was around the end of November that year that Joseph discovered his 'grey' horse was not in the enclosure. Had the horse escaped, or had it been stolen? Apart from any financial consideration the horse would have been vital to the function of the family and to the farm. Its main purposes would have been to pull their conveyance and for riding but at certain times the horse may have been used to pull their plough.

Money had recently been invested in the animal as the 'grey' had recently had spavins removed from its legs and its tail had been 'docked', as opposed to the more invasive procedure of 'nicking', which was painful for the horse. Tail docking was

to cut off the flowing tail, which was nature's intention to protect it from the irritation of flies, at the tailbone. This procedure was fashionable at the time and would have been done to create a good impression whilst pulling their owners conveyance. Were Joseph and Ann attempting to climb the social ladder in Kings Norton?

Joseph was determined to find his horse and he searched the area and made many enquiries, but it was to no avail. After all other options failed to find the horse the most practical solution would be for Joseph to place an advertisement in the popular and widely read Birmingham Aris's Gazette. In due course the following enquiry in the Aris's Gazette newspaper on Tuesday the 8th December 1789, which read as follows:

"Stolen or strayed from Mr Crathorns near Hoster (sic) Lane End, a grey horse, 6 years old, 13½ hands, has lately had two spavins took off, at the same time was docked but not nicked" Whoever will bring him to Mr Crathorns, or to Joseph Haynes, No 1 Lower Temple Street, Birmingham, shall be satisfied for their trouble. If stolen, shall, on conviction, receive 5 guineas from the said Joseph Haynes".

Was Joseph Haynes a friend of the family, or did he also have a financial interest in Joseph Crathorne's horse? Mr Haynes was offering such a generous reward that it was quite likely that he had a financial stake in the animal. The town of Birmingham was 3 or 4 miles from Kings Norton and would have been a fair distance to travel to return a lost horse to an address in Lower Temple Street, although the prospect of a generous reward could have made the effort more worthwhile. Whether the horse was safely returned to Joseph or Mr Haynes, or whether a conviction was brought, and a reward paid is open to speculation.

After the birth of Mary at the end of May 1799 the summer and autumn passed and by the December of that year Ann realised that she was expecting her 10th child, and that she would give birth during the summer of the following year. On Thursday the 17th of June 1790, a little over 6 months after the newspaper article for the lost 'grey' appeared in Aris's Birmingham Gazette, Ann gave birth to a daughter. She was named Henrietta, but she was always known as Etty to her family and friends. When Etty was three weeks old, she was taken to St Nicolas Church to be baptised. Etty was disabled in some way as she was later described by her father as a 'cripple'.

Within a few months of Etty's birth Ann realised that she was expecting another child but this time she would be expecting twins. Whether Ann would have been aware of this fact until the birth is open to speculation, but she was delivered of a boy and a girl on Monday the 25th of July 1791. These infants George and Sarah were the couple's 11th and 12th children, respectively. There is a strong possibility that George was born first, and Sarah was delivered shortly afterwards. By the winter of 1792 Ann would have known that she was expecting another child and in

the summer of the following year she gave birth to a boy who they named Francis. Francis was born on Thursday the 4th of July 1793, and he was baptised a little over three weeks later at their parish church.

During the 1790's there was much poverty and suffering in the countryside. Firstly, there had been a succession of poor harvests which had caused high cereal prices and secondly there were food shortages due to the French Wars, which had taken place between 1793 and 1802. This made it increasingly difficult to import foreign corn and at a time food was desperately short at home. Unfortunately, the situation did not improve after the end of the French Revolution as Napoleon I of France then began a series of European wars; his aim was the conquest of Europe. In 1803, following an appeal from the Maltese objecting to Napoleon's seizure of the island in 1798, Britain resumed the war against France.

People became very nervous and towns and villages all over the country began to set up their own militia in the hope of holding off the French should they invade the country. Kings Norton put in place the Kings Norton Volunteer Army under the command of Captain W.C. Russell and in May 1805 he mustered 45 local men in all ranks. Fortunately, there was no invasion as Napoleon was finally defeated at Waterloo by Wellington and his Prussian allies on 18th June 1815. By this time the numbers in the Kings Norton Volunteer Army had shrunk to 17 privates, 1 trumpeter and 1 quartermaster, but the army had been in place for 10 years and had given the local people some peace of mind during the long conflict with the French.

Despite the situation in Europe and the hardships being endured, the rhythm of life carried on within the Crathorne household. The marriage of Joseph and Ann's eldest daughter Elizabeth to Barnet Parkes, who was a farmer and had been brought up in Kings Norton, was being arranged to take place on Monday 25th of July 1796 at Martin's Church in the Bull Ring, Birmingham. After their marriage Elizabeth and Barnet returned to Kings Norton to raise their family.

Around the time of Elizabeth and Barnet's marriage Ann, who was about 45 years old had conceived another child and she would give birth to this her 14th child the following spring. Just before the birth was due Joseph and Ann's eldest child John was planning to marry Elizabeth Parkes, Barnet's sister on Monday the 28th of March 1797 at St Philips church in Birmingham, but due to Ann's advanced stage of pregnancy the journey to Birmingham to attend her son's wedding would have been out of the question. At the time of his marriage John was 22 years old and Elizabeth was 17 and although the couple had grown up together in Kings Norton they did not choose to marry in their own parish. This may have been due to Elizabeth being 6 months pregnant and could have been an attempt to save the families 'reputation'. Three weeks after her son's wedding on Tuesday the 18th of April 1797 Ann gave birth to a son Edward, and this was to be their last child. Edward was baptised a month later on Sunday the 14th of May at St Nicolas church. As was his seven-year-old sister Etty, Edward was also physically disabled. By this time in her life, it is hard to believe that Ann would not have become weary. She was now turned 40 and during her marriage she had given birth to at least fourteen children, including one disabled child and a set of twins. It was about this

time that a handwritten note was left at St Nicolas church, possibly written by Joseph, setting out the birth dates of eight of Joseph and Ann's fourteen children from William in 1785 to Edward in 1797, possibly in order for the registers to be complete.

A few years later in 1801 the first General Enclosure Act had been passed and this legislation would have impacted on the Crathorne's, but enclosing land was not new as it has been in practice to some degree since the medieval period. Generally, before 1740 most villages enclosed land by private agreement. This would have been agreed between the main owners who wished to join their strips of land together to make larger more compact units, which were then fenced or hedged. This system was popular as it bought greater independence for farmers who could grow more food to feed the domestic population and give farmers the potential to make larger profits. It was also from 1801 that work began to straighten the turnpike road.

Hannah, the fourth daughter of Joseph and Ann went to live in London - but when she left Kings Norton and the reason why is lost in time. Her family may have had family or friends in London, or she could have been employed as a companion, a governess or a teacher. Choice was limited as only a handful of occupations were acceptable for respectable ladies at this time. Hannah possibly met her future husband William Todd who was a tailor from Hampstead in North London, during her time in London, although there had been Todd's living close by the family in Kings Norton for many years so the Todd's and the Crathorne's may have already been acquainted. However they had been introduced Hannah and William were married on Valentines Day Tuesday the 14th of February 1804 at St Martins-in-the Fields in Westminster. The witnesses to their marriage were Martha Townsend and James Greening. It is not known what the relationship was with the witnesses but a James Greening of independent means and who had been born in Middlesex, died during the September ¼ of 1844 aged 60.

Following the marriage of Hannah and William Todd in 1804 the next marriage to take place was on Friday the 23rd of February 1807 when her sister Nancy (Ann) who was 28 years old married John Kendrick, who was a widower, at St Martin's church in the Bull Ring in Birmingham. The following year, 1808 saw another of Joseph and Ann's children preparing to be married. This time it was to be their 5th child Joseph who married Ann Sanders on Saturday the 5th of November at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Aston.

On Sunday the 23rd of June 1811, at the age of 25 their brother Charles married Mary Headey at St Peter's church, Harborne. Charles and Mary had no children during their 14-year marriage and in 1826 Mary died at their home in the Ashted area of Birmingham. She was buried at the church of St James the Less on Wednesday the 13th of December. Within a very short time after Mary's death Charles married Ann Hawker and they went on to have several children.

The next marriage to take place was on the 12th of March 1812 when Mary Crathorne married Joseph Bywater who was a baker at the church of St Martin's in Birmingham's Bull Ring. Mary's elder brother William was one of their witnesses

to their marriage, together with an individual named Henry Crathorne who was probably a nephew, or a cousin.

In 1816, four years after the marriage of Mary and Joseph Bywater there was to be a near global catastrophe which later came to be known as 'the year without a summer'. This event would have undoubtedly affected Joseph and Ann and their family, as there were severe summer climate abnormalities, which ultimately destroyed crops in Canada, North America, and Northern Europe. These aberrations occurred because of the volcanic eruptions of Mount Tambora on the island of Sumbawa in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). The eruptions lasted for a ten-day period in the April of 1815, during which time immense amounts of volcanic dust were ejected into the upper atmosphere. There was already a build up of atmospheric dust due to two previous major eruptions one of which had occurred in the Caribbean in 1812 and the other occurred in the Philippines in 1814.

Following the Mount Tambora eruptions temperatures fell worldwide owing to less sunlight passing through the atmosphere. During the summer of 1816 England experienced huge storms, heavy summer frosts, abnormal rainfall, and flooding. There were unusually spectacular sunsets due to the high levels of ash in the atmosphere, and in Europe, temperatures were 3° C lower than average. The cooling lasted for three years and led to virtual crop failure, with failed harvests, bread riots, famine and disease stalking Europe and North America, and the British government were forced to abolish income tax this year because of the severe food shortages.

To further compound the problem Europe was still recuperating from the Napoleonic Wars and food was already short and expensive. Such was the scale of the problem food riots began to break out in Britain and grain warehouses were looted both here and in Europe. Due to the moist conditions during 1816 to 1819 there was rampant spread of disease throughout Europe which ultimately claimed the lives of 200,000. No one knew why this catastrophic event was happening and many people thought it was the wrath of God sent to punish them for their immoral ways.

By 1819 the economy after the Napoleonic wars was recovering and food shortages due to the war and the Mount Tambora eruptions were becoming less severe. This year Francis, Joseph & Ann's 13th child, who was a carpenter by trade was planning to marry Jane Maria White and the date of their wedding was arranged for Sunday the 7th of March 1819 at St Peters church in the parish of Harborne. After their marriage Francis and Jane spent the most of their lives in Birmingham but in the 1850's, when in their middle age and for reasons unclear, they decided to emigrate to America to start a new life on the Iowan prairies with their three adult children.

At the beginning of 1820 George III died and he was succeeded by the Regent as George IV. It would have been about this time that Sarah the 29 year-old daughter of Joseph and Ann who was employed as a servant would have been aware that she was expecting a child. During this era, it was considered by many that a woman expecting a child out of wedlock had bought disgrace upon herself and her family.

In some circumstances these unfortunate women were banished from their homes, or they were sent into the workhouse where some would remain for the rest of their lives. Sarah, it seems was more fortunate than most and her son was born at the home of her parents at Alcester Lanes End. Sarah had been baptised as an infant in 1791 at St Nicolas church, but on Sunday the 3rd of September 1820 both Sarah and her child were baptised together at St Nicolas church. The child was baptised Charles Carpenters, which was most likely the name of his father.

In 1822 Joseph Crathorne was in his 80th year. He was growing frail and it now time for him to make his last will and testament. Joseph would have given this a good deal of thought as apart from his executors settling his immediate debts the majority of his will would not be implemented until after his wife's death. At this time many wives did not make a will in their own right, one reason being that most rural women were illiterate so to protect their wife's interests after their own death many husbands set out their wills in this way. A date for the writing of the will was arranged to be held at Alcester Lanes End on Monday the 18th of March and his lawyer and those chosen to witness his Will were required to be in attendance on that day.

Firstly, Joseph would have been required by his lawyer to announce in the presence of his witnesses that he was 'revoking all former wills by me made', and this declaration was written down in their presence. Joseph then went on to bequeath all of his estate to his wife and then he gave further instructions on how the estate should be disposed of after his wife's demise. He requested that his estate, including his 'rowing and wire drawing business' was to be left to 'his Dear Wife Ann' until her death, when everything should be sold and any money arising from the sale was to be divided amongst his children. Joseph wanted to ensure that Etty and Edward were adequately taken care and he instructed his lawyer to include the following instruction '..... my will and desire is that my foresaid daughter, Etty Crathorne, and my foresaid son, Edward Crathorne shall have doughble (sic) share to any of the rest of my children they boath (sic) being cripples.....'. Joseph then goes on to single out another two of his other children, Charles and Ann (Nancy) Kendrick and requests that only three pounds each should be paid to them 'after the decease of my wife, Ann Crathorne, as soon as the goods are sold' Why this should Charles and Nancy (Ann) receive a lesser share of the inheritance? Had Joseph previously lent them money? or had there been a 'falling out'?

Ann was appointed the executrix of her husbands will and Francis Cocks, snr, of Bradford Street, Aston, was appointed as the executor. William Cocks was the landlord of the Kings Arms, which was situated almost opposite to Joseph and Ann's farm at Alcester Lanes End. William and his wife and daughter, who were both named Elizabeth, were the witness to Joseph's Will. The Crathorne's would have known William and his family well as William had been the landlord of the King's Arms since 1805. William was the landlord of the Kings Arms until 1823 when a local newspaper announced that "an Inn by the name of the King's Arms so called for some years past" was bought by Moss Todd and his wife, Diana and their family on the 23rd of September that year.

Publicans were very well respected, and they were seen as important men in their communities. Local public houses and inns were often involved in the 'law and order' process, and some publicans were often described as a 'sort of constable' in the legal process of the time. Magistrate's courts were commonly held in pubs, and this included the Kings Arms. If a crime was committed in the Alcester Lanes End area and the culprit was apprehended the accused would be taken to the Kings Arms public house. It was a common sight for those stopping at the Kings Arms for a drink to see a criminal or a petty thief chained to the fire grates – well secured until a magistrate could be found to deal with them. Other wrongdoers, mainly drunkards, were incarcerated in the village stocks and were often pelted with rotten eggs and vegetables.

Joseph and Ann's son, William came late to marriage. He was 37 years old when he married Catherine Dudley on the 9th of May 1822 at St Philips church in Birmingham. William signed the marriage register with an X and both parties gave their residence as the parish of St Philips. At some point after their marriage William and Catherine returned to live in Kings Norton. Catherine was about 42 when she married, and the couple did not have any children. Back at Alcester Lanes End Joseph's condition was continuing to deteriorate and he died there on Sunday the 18th of May 1822, just 9 days after his son's marriage. Joseph's burial took place 4 days later on Friday the 22nd of May at St Nicolas church. Joseph was 82 years old when he died. At the time of his death Joseph had been married to Ann for nearly 48 years; he had fathered 14 children and was a grandfather many times over. Shortly after Joseph's death the executors set about implementing his will.

Almost three months after Joseph's death Francis Cocks, one of the nominated executors of Joseph's will was required under the law to appear on Thursday the 14th of August before Thomas Clarke, lawyer, to 'prove' Joseph's will. Francis Cocks "was then sworn in common form of law that the personal estate of Joseph Crathorne did not amount in value to more than the sum of one hundred pounds". Francis Cocks declared this to be true and Thomas Clarke duly recorded this on Joseph's will. The family later erected a headstone to mark Joseph's grave. The upper part of the headstone was inscribed with Joseph's name and the date of his death, but the lower section of the headstone was left blank for Ann's inscription to be included when the time came.

In 1824 two years after Joseph's death a wedding was being planned for the summer for Ann's thirty-three-year-old son, George who was set to Mary Willmore, a thirty-two-year-old local woman. Like George Mary Willmore had been born in Kings Norton so it is likely the couple had known each other since childhood. Their marriage took place in Birmingham at the church of St Peter and St Paul in Aston on the 14th of July 1824. George and Mary returned to Kings Norton shortly after their marriage where they remained for the rest of their lives.

By 1831 Ann was in her late 70's and she had been a widow for nearly ten years. For most of her adult life she had been the wife of a farmer and during the first 23 years of her marriage she had been expecting a child on average every two years. She had 14 children, including twins and she lost one child in infancy.

In addition to caring for the home and family she would also have worked on the farm. There was a dairy at Alcester Lanes End and Ann would have produced butter and possibly cheese for family consumption and any surplus may have been sold or exchanged with neighbours. The farmer's wife generally took care of the 'fat pig' which needed to be 'fattened'. For months the animal would be well fed with scraps from the kitchen and with windfall apples when in season. The animal was slaughtered in the autumn time and this task usually fell to the farmer and a strong assistant. The pig was then jointed and handed to the farmer's wife who placed the large hams and various joints in large vats of salt water, which were boiled for many hours to preserve the meat for the coming winter.

In June 1830 King George IV died and he was succeeded by his brother William IV. By this time Ann's children were adults and in the main most were married and raising their families and they would appear to be decent and hardworking. Her eldest son John and his wife Elizabeth were renting a property and land at May House situated at the bottom of the hill a short distance from his mother's property at Alcester Lanes End. Ann also rented two tithes of land adjacent to May House in her name, but this was most likely to have been tended by John. John's brother George ran a farm, which was situated close to the centre of the village, and his brother William rented a farm at Slade Pool, where with his wife Catherine they ran their farm with the help of two male lodgers. Other members of Ann's family also lived locally but others had moved away to make a new life for themselves in the fast-developing town of Birmingham. One of her children, Charles who was living in Birmingham fell foul of the law in 1830, and he served a two-month prison term for larceny.

By 1836 and Ann was in her eighties and this year the second General Enclosure Act was passed and under the new regulations tithe maps were required to be drawn up throughout the country. To this end a meeting was to be held on the 11th of October 1837 at the Kings Arms public house for the "commutation of tithes" for Kings Norton, which was just a few months after the young Queen Victoria had come to the throne. Public houses were generally used for such meetings and Moss Todd, who had been landlord of the Kings Arms for the last 14 years, would probably have welcomed the increased trade such a meeting would bring.

A notice was placed in the Aris's Gazette, requesting all local landowners, or their representatives, be present at the meeting to provide evidence of which pieces of land they owned and place them before the mapmakers. It would have been a daunting task for the mapmakers as this was the first map to be produced of Kings Norton. Initially the map workers would have had to survey the whole village so work on the map did not finally get under way in 1838. On the 8th of November this year the marriage of Etty (Henrietta) to Emmanuel Tustin took place at St Phillips Church, Birmingham.

Sometime during 1839, news would have reached Ann and the family in Kings Norton that her 8-year-old great grandson John had been killed in an accident on the 13th of April this year. John was the fourth child of her thirty-four-year-old grandson William Crathorne who lived in Alcester Street, Birmingham and he was employed locally as a brewer.

An inquest was held two days later at the Warwick Coroner's office, and John was buried on Friday the 19th of April 1839 at Bordesley. Also in 1839, Francis, Ann's 15-year-old grandson who had been working as a servant in Birmingham was found guilty of stealing from his employer, and he was sentenced to serve one month in prison. On his release his father Francis had most likely taken him 'in hand' as later he became qualified as a master carpenter and went on to lead a successful life in America.

Although the production of a tithe map for Kings Norton had begun in 1838 it was not finally completed until 1840. The new map now detailed all of the properties, open fields, and strips of land in Kings Norton. A corresponding list was drawn up giving the owners, the tenants and a brief description of each property. Each tithe was given a reference number and the name of landowners and of the tenants to whom the tithes and properties were rented. Alcester Lanes End was shown as being owned by James Taylor and Ann Crathorne as the tenant; the property was described as "the land and house, which included farm buildings, yard, and garden.

Looking towards Alcester Lanes End farm from the main road there were two tithes to the left of the 'farm buildings, yard and garden', and between the farm buildings and the road were allotments, and this small area of land was most likely used for growing vegetables. On the opposite side of the road was a small tithe known as 'back field'. The majority of the land was divided into twelve tithes on land that sloped gently away down the hillside from the farmhouse eventually reaching Chinn Brook, which ran through the fields towards the bottom of the hill near to May House. John and Ann's landlord was James Taylor as he was the grandson of John Taylor of Bordesley Park. He was generally known as the 'Squire' and in addition to being a local landowner he was a very successful button and snuffbox manufacturer.

In the 1841 census for Kings Norton, which was taken about 6 months before Ann died, she was listed as being 85 years old and a farmer at Alcester Lanes End. Her 35-year-old son Edward is also listed with a child named Charles Crathorne who was 11 years old, and both were listed as agricultural labourers with Ann as the head of the household. Also living at this address was her daughter Etty who was aged 40 and her husband Emanuel Tustin aged 35. Emmanuel is listed as an agricultural labourer and presumably he was helping Ann to run the farm. Keeping track of the years was difficult for the majority of people at that time, but at the time of the census Ann was about 89 years old and her son, Edward was about 45, as he had been born in 1797. Emanuel gave his age as 35 when he was closer to being 40 and his wife Etty gave her age as 40, when in fact she was nearly 50 years old.

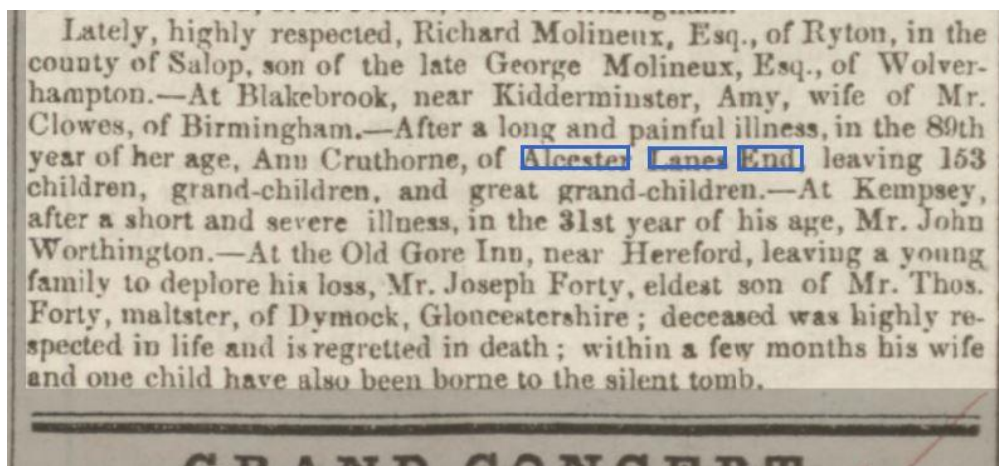
A few months after the census was taken Ann passed away at her home on Sunday the 26th of September 1841, exactly one hundred years to the day of her husband Joseph's baptism at St Mary's church in Handsworth on the 26th of September 1741, which that year fell on a Tuesday. Ann's death certificate stated that she was 89 years old, and that 'Decay of Nature' was the cause of her death. Her son-in-

law, Emmanuel Tustin was the informant, so it is likely that Etty and Emmanuel were with her when she died.

Ann was laid to rest with her husband Joseph on Wednesday the 29th of September 1841, at St Nicolas Church. Sometime later Ann's inscription was placed on their headstone; Joseph and Ann were now re-united after 19 years.



The grave of Joseph & Ann Crathorn



Worcester Chronicle November 1841

Ann was most likely to have been very well respected in Kings Norton. Ann had spent a total of 60 years of her life in Kings Norton and about 50 years at Alcester Lanes End. Ann gave birth to 14 children and 13 survived to adulthood, but as was common during this era she may have had more pregnancies. Ann had at least 50 grandchildren and also a great, and a great, great grandmother during her lifetime, although a few of her grandchildren and great grandchildren did die in childhood.

Ann's estate, as required under the terms of her husband Joseph's will of 1822, should be sold as soon as 'conveyment after the decease of my wife, and the money

to be distributed amongst my children'. Ann left behind a well stocked working farm and the contents of her house, which contained amongst many other items "an assortment of useful furniture and a capital 8-day clock". A short time after their mother's death the family contacted local auctioneer John Fellows to arrange for the disposal of the farm stock, farm and dairy implements, and the contents of her house and a date for the sale was arranged for Wednesday the 13th of October at 10.30 at Alcester Lanes End. The auctioneer placed an advert in Aris's Gazette on Monday the 4th of October advertising the auction.

In the meantime, an inventory was made, and a catalogue was produced, copies of which were made available at the Kings Arms Inn, Alcester Lanes End, for those who wished to attend the auction. The sale went ahead as planned and under the terms of Joseph's any outstanding debts were settled, and balance of the money was distributed between the family members, which included Edward and Etty receiving a "doughable share they both being cripples". Although Joseph had been concerned for Etty she would marry twice; firstly in 1838, and then again in 1860.

Aris's Gazette of October 4th 1841 records the following:

"Sale near the King's Arms, Alcester Lanes End. To be sold by auction by John Fallows on Wednesday the 13th day of October inst. On the premises occupied by the late Mrs. Craythorne, as above - the whole of the valuable live and dead farming stock; comprising 8 capital in-calf and milking cows, rearing calf, 4 powerful wagon horses, grey carriage horse, useful hackney, prime fat pig, broad wheel wagon, 3 six inch and one narrow wheel carts, horse tackle, implements of husbandry, about 30 tons of well-ended hay, rick of oats, about 70 sheaves of wheat, excellent chaff cutting machine, dairy utensils etc., also an assortment of useful household furniture, capital 8 day clock, brewing vessels and barrels, together with a quantity of blacksmith's tools, and other effects. Particulars of which appear in catalogues to be had at the King's Arms Inn, Alcester Lanes End. The sale to commence at 10.30."

After Ann's death her landlord needed to secure a new tenant for Alcester Lanes End, which meant Etty, Emanuel and her disabled brother Edward, would now have to make alternative living arrangements. It is not known where Etty and Emanuel lived immediately after Ann's death but by the time of 1851 census the couple were living at Truman's Heath and Emanuel was working as a shoemaker.

Ann's death bought the end of an era. Over the years the majority of her descendants remained in the United Kingdom although some decided to emigrate to Canada, and to various states in America to form new branches to the family. Some of the younger males enlisted in the US army during the American Civil War, taking up arms to fight for the Union. The older members bought land, ran farms, and also became actively involved in politics.

The religious wars of the time provide a strong reason for a move from the Crathorne estate in the 16th century to more remote southerly areas, a move which would eventually establish the Crathorne tribes of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Birmingham. By the 18th and 19th centuries the Cra(y)thorn(e)s had settled in the Worcestershire villages of Northfield and Kings Norton, and in the Staffordshire villages of Harborne and Handsworth. Due to their relatively close proximity Crathorne family members travelled between these areas to find marriage partners, as there are many births, marriages and deaths recorded in the parish records of St Mary's church in Handsworth, St Lawrence, Northfield, and St Peter's, Harborne during this period. Latterly, Birmingham saw the growth in Crathorne's wishing to become a part of the Industrial Revolution when farming become uneconomic. Many Crathorne families were to spend their lives in the major parishes of Birmingham with their family events recorded in the parish registers of St Philips and St Martin's churches.....

JOSEPH CRATHORN(E)	<u>MARRIED</u>	ANN CLIFF
Bapt 26 th September 1741 at St Mary's church, Handsworth, Staffordshire. Died 22 nd . May 1822 and buried at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.	4th January 1774 at St. Mary's church, Handsworth, Staffordshire.	Born c 1752 died 26 th September 1841 and buried 29 th September 1841 at St. Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.

JOHN CRATHORN(E)	ELIZABETH CRATHORN(E)	NANCY (ANN) CRATHORN(E)	HANNAH CRATHORN(E)	JOSEPH CRATHORN(E)
Bapt. 28th December 1774 at St Mary's church, Handsworth, Staffordshire. Died 26th October 1858. Buried 31 st October 1858 at Warstone Lane Cemetery.	Born at Nobbs Mill Northfield. Bapt. 27 th December 1776 at St Lawrence church, Northfield, Worcestershire.	Born at Northfield Bapt. 6 th March 1779 at St. Lawrence church, Northfield, Worcestershire.	Bapt. 29 April 1781 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.	Bapt. 30th March 1783 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.
WILLIAM CRATHORN(E)	CHARLES CRATHORN(E)	SARAH CRATHORN(E)	MARY CRATHORN(E)	HENRIETTA CRATHORN(E)
Born 1st January 1785. Bapt. 21 st January 1785 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.	Born 11th September 1786. Bapt. 30th September 1786 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.	Bapt 24th March 1788. Buried 15th August 1788 both at St Nicolas church Kings Norton, Worcestershire.	Born 31st May 1789. Bapt 21st June 1789 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.	Born 17th June 1790. Bapt 9th July 1790 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.
	GEORGE CRATHORN(E)	SARAH CRATHORN(E)	FRANCIS CRATHORN(E)	EDWARD CRATHORN(E)
	Born 25th July 1791 Bapt. 21st August 1791 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire. TW	Born 25th July 1791 Bapt. 21st August 1791 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire. INS	Born 4th July 1793. Bapt. 28th July 1793 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.	Born 18th April 1797. Bapt 14th May 1797 at St Nicolas church, Kings Norton, Worcestershire.

Story by Patricia Simpson