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A Research Trip to England Part 1: It Pays to Overplan

When I dropped down into Street View at Google Maps to scout out a place to park at a remote country churchyard in Lincolnshire, I realized I just might be overplanning my spring 2010 trip to England with my husband, Harvey.

But I did it anyway. I had been dreaming of this research trip since the mid-1980s, when Aunt Jean gave me a few names, dates, and places for her and my mother's maternal ancestors. With three counties to cover, I wanted to make the most efficient use of our limited time there.

Over the years I had gradually built up this side of the family tree, starting with information from family Bibles. In the 1990s, I joined the Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library and became a fixture at the microfilm and microfiche machines. The International Genealogical Index (IGI) on fiche provided more detail as to family groups and parishes, but it was difficult to push the generations back with certainty.

Then came the explosion of information on the Internet, both free and by subscription. And it was through the Internet that the research trip of my dreams became a reality.

The families in question, my maternal grandmother's ancestors, were the Andrews/Dorward families in Scotland and in four counties in England and the Mountain/Maidens families in the English county of Lincolnshire. My primary research sites on the Internet were, and continue to be, FamilySearch, USGenWeb, and Ancestry.com. Through them I found census records in the United States, England, and Scotland; ship manifests; vital record indices with varying amounts of extracted information; and county histories. I also found a third cousin in California, a fourth cousin in Oregon, and a fifth cousin in England with whom to share information.

By the end of 2009, I had family groups established in my direct line back to the early 18th century for the Mountains, and the early 19th century for the Maidens, Dorward, and Andrews families [see pages

About the Author

Kathryn J. Lord is a writer living in Granby with her husband, Harvey, whom she describes as "an incredibly good sport." She was born and grew up on Whidbey Island in Washington State, and has lived in Connecticut since 1970. While she has been writing stories since she could form the letters, her first work for pay was as a stringer for the *Hartford Courant* in the late 1970s. Since then, she has had over forty articles, essays, and short stories published in, among other places, the *New York Times (Connecticut Weekly)*, *Northeast Magazine*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Hartford Woman*, *Connecticut Writer*, and *GreenPrints*, and has won two essay prizes.

Mrs. Lord's interest in genealogy and family history began while listening to stories told by parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and she has since become the keeper of the family archives on her mother's side. The Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library and later the Internet have provided many facts and clues in her pursuit of her elusive ancestors, some of whom lived in the Albany, New York, area where their son Joel now lives with his wife Amanda, bringing the family story for that branch full circle, geographically. Her current writing project is a genealogical memoir, *Living With Ghosts*, essays about how those ancestors' lives have entwined with hers as she researches them.

five through seven], plus dozens and dozens of cousins, aunts, and uncles. I knew that those on the Lincolnshire coast were farmers; the 1841 and 1851 England censuses for the village of Mumby placed my third great-grandfather Thomas Maidens in Manor House, farming 90 acres; his son-in-law, my second great-grandfather Thomas Mountain, farmed 35 acres in Chapel St. Leonards, three or four miles away. Thomas Mountain and his family emigrated from Chapel St. Leonards to Wisconsin in 1852. The same censuses for Hampshire County confirmed that another third great-grandfather, George Andrews, was a sailmaker in Portsea at the Royal Dockyards and lived on Landport Road. In 1841 his son-in-law, William Dorward, was about 20 miles to the east, on Mill Lane in Sidlesham (Sid'-ul-shum), Sussex, where he was a schoolteacher. By 1843, William was a dissenting minister [see *History of Monona County, Iowa*, Chicago: National Pub. Co., 1890, p. 476] and as such moved first to Yorkshire, then to Northumberland, before emigrating to Wisconsin in 1849.

These places and occupations, along with parish names and dates for baptisms, marriages, and deaths gleaned from both the IGI and my fifth cousin Patrick Mountain's research with his father, gave me concrete goals: find the original parish records, learn more about the dockyards and sailmaking, find records of dissenting ministers, find the churchyards in which ancestors are buried, walk the streets and roads on which they walked.

Tip #1: Have as many details as possible about your ancestors before you take a research trip. Put them into portable form by family group and include a list of what records you already have for each of them to avoid covering the same ground.

Tip #2: Identify specific research goals. This will focus your efforts and make it easier for archives and records staff to help you.

On January 1, 2010, I began looking on the Internet for archives and local history museums to visit in the counties of Hampshire, Sussex, and Lincolnshire. The mainstay genealogy link site, Cyndi's List, led me to GENUKI, which is the jumping-off place for online research in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

GENUKI, in turn, led me to a myriad of links in my three counties. Luckily, with our trip set for the last two weeks of April, I had plenty of time to sort through them.

Tip #3: Begin at least three months in advance to identify the research sources you want to use. You'll always find something you didn't know was there.

I winnowed my Internet site list down to the Hampshire Records Office, the Hampshire Genealogy Society, the Portsmouth Records Office located in the Portsmouth City Museum, the Portsmouth Historic Dockyards, the Portsmouth Library, the Sussex Family History Group, the West Sussex Records Office at the County Council in Chichester, and the Lincolnshire Archives at the County Council in Lincoln.

As I went through their holdings, I was able to prioritize. Since the Portsmouth Records Office had parish records, for instance, and all my Hampshire County parishes were within the city of Portsmouth, there was no need on this trip to go to the county archives in Winchester. The Hampshire Genealogical Society and Sussex Family History Group primarily offered only services through the mail to non-members, not actual research facilities, so they were dropped as well.

For the records offices, library, and archives, I copied and pasted information about their hours, location, rules of use, and holdings into a Word document, which I later printed out and put into a loose-leaf, three-prong folder for the trip.

The first thing I noticed was the requirement of a CARN ticket. England has a County Archives Research Network, and this free ticket allows you to use these facilities. Simply present your passport or driver's license at the first one you go to, fill out the form, and you will be issued a numbered card that is good for four years anywhere in the country.

Tip #4: Read the rules carefully, especially about what may or may not be brought into a study room. Digital cameras are generally allowed with a small fee for their use, which is still much cheaper than paying for staff-made copies of documents; there are also documents which cannot be photocopied by anyone due to fragility or how they are bound, but they can be photographed. Do not count on using your cell phone's camera, as "mobiles" are often banned from study rooms. We took mechanical pencils so we wouldn't have to sharpen them.

Tip #5: Invest in notebooks for everyone who will be doing research, plus folders in which to keep printouts of any information you're taking with you.

Paring down the list of places to visit also allowed me to plan the itinerary. We would combine family history with playing tourist, beginning with a few days in Somerset with our friends Jon and Elaine Ayres. We would then rent a car for eight days and drive first to Hampshire and West Sussex, then up to Lincolnshire, and back to Somerset. Our last day would be spent with cousin Patrick Mountain, who happily lives about ten miles from Jon and Elaine.

Armed with a tourist and motoring atlas of Great Britain in addition to online maps and driving directions, I had a bit of geography shock when I realized that the distance we would travel across the whole country was only about what it would be for me to drive from my home in Granby to other ancestral haunts in upstate New York. These were counties we were crossing, not states. Still, we had a lot of ground to cover. I gave us the first afternoon in Chichester and Sidlesham, the next day at the Portsmouth Records Office, and the third day in the library and at the dockyards. The fourth day we'd drive the 220 miles up to Lincoln with a break for lunch and sightseeing. We'd spend the fifth day at the Lincolnshire Archives, the sixth day exploring churchyards and doing laundry, and the seventh and eighth days sightseeing on the way back to Somerset, about another 250 miles. Jon and Elaine mailed us a National Trust book to help us find interesting houses and gardens, and we pored over a general guidebook as well.

Tip #6: Give yourself breaks from microfilm and fiche to learn about the history and geography of the areas in which your ancestors worked and lived. Share in their lives.

As plans solidified and I reserved rooms at B&Bs and inns, I started a driving folder which I filled with turn-by-turn directions and street maps for each day on the road. I downloaded UK driving regulations from the Internet; they are much like ours except for that drive-on-the-left thing and no turns allowed on red lights. The regulations got their own folder, primarily for the pictures and explanations of traffic signs and roundabouts.

Tip #7: If you're going to drive, learn the regulations and know where you're going. If possible, don't pick up your rental car in a city; some easy driving on an A road in the country or even on an M highway goes a long way toward acclimating the driver and calming nerves. You might be able to take the train out of London, for instance, and pick up a car at your research destination.

Tip #8: Don't forget to let your credit card company know when charges from a foreign country will be legitimate. This should be done before you reserve a car and rooms, or you might have an interesting e-mail flurry. And if you don't want to carry a lot of cash in a money belt, look into ATM use, but be aware that any non-cash transactions in another country will carry extra bank fees.

About a month before the trip, I contacted the records offices and the Lincolnshire Archives to let them know my plans and research interests. I kept the e-mails short and to the point, with specific questions, as in this example:

Subject line: Question about holdings

I live in the United States and will be in the UK in April. I hope to visit the West Sussex Record Office for family research, focusing on parish records and county directories from

1835-1845, which I understand are on microfilm and microfiche. I will phone ahead to be certain you are open when I am in your area.

My gr-gr-grandfather William Dorward was a schoolteacher in Sidlesham when he became a dissenting clergyman in the early 1840s; I don't know what denomination. Might the nonconformist registers in your holdings have information about him?

*Thank you.,
Kathryn J. Lord*

This garnered a reply from Susie, a Searchroom Assistant, which clarified the holdings, with the Nonconformist and school records unfortunately not in my time period. She said to call before coming as they were undergoing renovations. I thanked her, and she replied with two document references that might be of interest about Nonconformists in the area, so I could ask for them when we came.

Tip #9: Let the records and archives staff know you're coming, when you expect to be there, what records you'll be using, and the name of your ancestor. Even if you don't have to reserve a table or a fiche machine (as we did in Lincoln), this allows them to prepare for your visit and in some instances to pull documents for you before you get there.

As I went through the online holdings catalog of the Lincolnshire Archives, I ran into the unexpected (see Tip #3). I did a general search on the surnames Mountain and Maidens. After eliminating diary references to mountain-climbing expeditions and any number of legal references to "so-and-so, maiden," I was left with a surprisingly long list of legal documents. I zeroed in on wills and something called "admons," which were in the probate index. Two of the "admons" were for Thomas and Rebecca Mountain of Saleby in the 18th century, my fifth great-grandparents. Another was for their grandson, David Mountain of Chapel St. Leonards, my third great-grandfather. There was a will for a John Maidens of Mumby dated 1821, and one for Thomas Maidens, also of Mumby, the third great-grandfather who lived in Manor House. That made five. I copied and pasted the catalog information for the appropriate folder. Then I did the same for another five Mountains in the early 19th century whose dates and villages lined up with collateral relations in cousin Patrick's family tree, including some of David's brothers.

The e-mail exchange with Joan, the Cultural Services Advisor in Lincoln, was fraught with anxiety on my part about having sufficient time after getting our CARN tickets in Sussex to reserve table space and fiche readers. She was reassuring, booked me in online, and after I e-mailed my list of ten wills and "admons," confirmed that they would be ready for us when we arrived.

This was about when I started exploring the byways of Lincolnshire through Street View. The trip was planned; it was time to overplan.

By Kathryn J. Lord

In the next installment of her article about her search for records and sites pertaining to her English ancestors, Kathryn Lord will explain the interesting discoveries awaiting her when she got to England. She will continue to share research and travel tips. Look for the continuation of her article in the Winter 2012 issue. The genealogies that she compiled of her ancestors are featured on the following pages.



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MY MOUNTAIN ANCESTORS IN ENGLAND

My information about the first three generations originally came from research by Patrick Mountain, which I verified during my trip through parish records. When children's names are duplicated, only the last survived infancy.

1. Thomas Mountain

- b. abt 1690, Lincolnshire, England
- d. bef. 05 Dec 1748, Saleby, Lincs, Eng
- m. 1723, Saleby or Skirbeck, Lincs, Eng
- Rebecca Ward
- b 1702, Saleby, Lincs, Eng
- d bef 19 May 1751, Saleby, Lincs, Eng

Children:

- Ann Mountain
- Thomas Mountain
- John Mountain
- Elizabeth Mountain
- William Mountain
- John Mountain
- 2. John Mountain
- Samuel Mountain
- Joseph Mountain

2. John Mountain

- b. bef 17 Jul 1737, Lincs, Eng
- d. Dec 1796, Saleby, Lincs, Eng
- m. 31 May 1756, Cumberworth, Lincs, Eng
- Ann Balderstone
- b. 1735, Saleby, Lincs, Eng
- d. Aft 1782

Children:

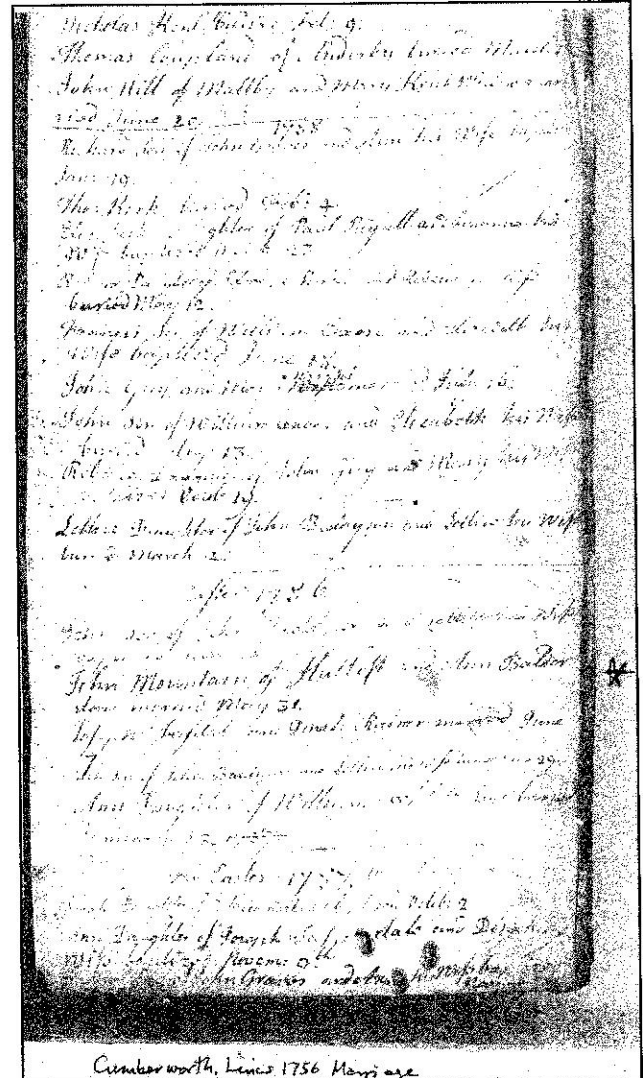
- Thomas Mountain
- 3. David Mountain
- Thomas Mountain
- Susannah Mountain
- Rebecca Mountain
- William Mountain
- Mildred Mountain
- John Mountain
- Joseph Mountain
- Mary Mountain

3. David Mountain

- b. bef 27 Jul 1760, Huttoft, Lincs, Eng
- d. Aug 1815, Mumby Chapel, Lincs, Eng
- m. 16 Jun 1802, Farlesthorne, Lincs, Eng
- Elizabeth Burnett
- b. abt 1778, possibly Farlesthorne
- d. bef 1861

Children:

- John Mountain
- Ann Mountain



Cumberworth, Lincs 1756 Marriage

With the permission of Lincolnshire Archives

Marriage of John Mountain of Huttoft and Ann Balderstone, 31 May 1756, mixed in with baptisms and burials, written in slightly diluted ink; St. Helen's, Cumberworth, Lincolnshire; Fiche #08 15 004 01A.

Mary Mountain
 Joseph Mountain
 4. Thomas Mountain
 Hannah Mountain

4. Thomas Mountain

b. 15 Oct 1810, Lincs, Eng
 d. 16 Aug 1893, Jerauld Co, South Dakota, USA
 m. 01 Oct 1834, Mumby, Lincs, Eng
 Charlotte Maidens
 b. bef 29 Jul 1815
 d. 1895, Jerauld Co., South Dakota, USA

Children:

John Maidens Mountain
 John M. Mountain
 Thomas Mountain
 David Mountain
 Joseph Mountain

Ellen Mountain b 10 Dec 1850, Chapel St.
 Leonards, Lincs, Eng, m George Andrews Dorward
 28 Jul 1877, Belvidere, Monona Co, Iowa, USA



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Lord

George Andrews Dorward and Ellen
 (Mountain) Dorward shown about 1907 in
 Oregon.

MY MAIDENS ANCESTORS IN ENGLAND

John and Mildred's information I learned during and after the trip to England.

1. John Maidens

b. abt 1749, Eng
 d. 22 Jan 1821, Mumby, Lincs, Eng
 m. 16 May 1780, South Thoresby, Lincs, Eng
 Mildred Plumpton
 b. bef 12 Jul 1757, Laceby, Lincs, Eng
 d. May 1794, Mumby, Lincs

Children:

John Maidens

2. Thomas Maidens

William Plumpton Maidens
 Mildred Maidens

2. Thomas Maidens

b. bef 21 Apr 1783, Mumby, Lincs, Eng
 d. Jan 1858 Mumby, Spilsby district, Lincs, Eng
 m. 24 May 1813, Mumby, Lincs, Eng
 Eleanor Garrett
 b. bet 1788-1789
 d. Apr 1837, Mumby, Lincs, Eng

Children:

Charlotte Maidens (see above, m Thomas Mountain)
 Mary Maidens
 John Maidens

MY ANDREWS/DORWARD ANCESTORS IN ENGLAND

1. George Andrews

b. abt Oct 1777, Portsea, Hampshire, Eng, son of Richard & Mary

d. bet 05 Jun 1851 – 18 Apr 1853, probably Hampshire, Eng

m. 25 May 1804, St Marys, Portsea, Hampshire, Eng

Ann Hammond

b. bef 15 May 1782, Portsea, Hampshire, Eng, daughter of Jonathan & Mary Ann

d. Jan 1848, Landport Road, Portsea, Hampshire, Eng

Children:

George Charles Andrews

2. Eliza Sophia Andrews

James Hammond Andrews

Emma Ann Andrews

Jane Andrews

2. Eliza Sophia Andrews

b. 20 Aug 1808, Portsea, Hampshire, Eng

d. 20 Jul 1888, probably Monona Co, Iowa, USA

m. 27 Apr 1835, St Mary's, Littlehampton, Sussex, Eng

William Anderson Dorward

b. 03 Feb 1813, Montrose, Angus, Scotland, son of William Dorward & Ann Thomson

d. 14 Jul 1888, Belvidere, Monona Co, Iowa

Children:

Eliza A. Dorward

Emma Jean Dorward

William Hammond Dorward

Isaac Thomson Dorward

Samuel Stephens Dorward

Mary Dorward

Anne Hammond Dorward

Walter George Dorward

George Andrews Dorward, b. 20 Feb 1848, Hartburn, Northumberland, Eng, m. Ellen Mountain in Iowa.

Genealogies compiled by Kathryn J. Lord

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of St. Thomas
in the County of Lincoln in the Year 1835.

Thomas Maidens of St. Thomas Parish
and Ellen Garratt of St. Thomas Parish
were married in this Church by James with Consent of
this Parish on the 24th Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirty five
By me John Chapman
This Marriage was solemnized between us John Chapman
In the Presence of John Chapman
No. 1.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of St. Thomas
in the County of Lincoln in the Year 1834.

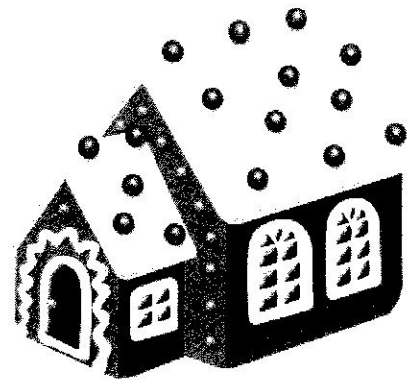
Thomas Mountain of St. Thomas Parish
and Charlotte Maidens of St. Thomas Parish
were married in this Church by James with Consent of
this Parish on the 1st Day of
October in the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirty four
By me John Chapman
This Marriage was solemnized between us John Chapman
In the Presence of John Chapman
No. 88.

With the permission of Lincolnshire Archives

Left: Marriage by banns of Thomas Maidens, bachelor, and Ellen Garratt, spinster, 24 May 1813: his sister Mary Maidens a witness; St. Thomas, Mumby, Lincolnshire (Both records on Fiche #08 28 006 01A)

Right: Marriage of Thomas Mountain, bachelor, and Charlotte Maidens, spinster, 1 October 1834; they were children of David and Elizabeth Mountain and Thomas and Eleanor Maidens; St. Thomas, Mumby, Lincolnshire

Simsbury Celebrates! Gingerbread House Display returns to the Simsbury Free Library



The library will host the popular gingerbread houses created for the yearly Simsbury Celebrates! competition. This event is free and open to all.

Come to see all the entries and winners:

Monday, November 19, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 20, 11a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (regular library hours)
Wednesday, November 21, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 24, 4:00 to 7:15 p.m. (during Simsbury Celebrates!)

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Mary Jane Springman, Editor, SFL Quarterly

