

Miss V. Lavis - Jones,  
 Millstone Cottage,  
 Whitchurch Road,  
 Bangor-on-Dee,  
 Clwyd.  
 LL13 OBS

3 Nov 94.  
 Answered with lists from  
 Church Registers - Extracts  
 from Poor Warden's etc -  
 Suggestions.  
 Names - Addresses from  
 J.F.H.S. Members interests.  
 2 Copies Ringmore.

28th October 1994

Dear Col Grimshaw,

I paid a visit to Ringmore on the Friday of August bank Holiday to see the village where my ancestors were living in the 1700's and your name was given me by a lady who was tidying the church as being Chairman of the Ringmore Historical Society. I would normally have approached the vicar of All Hallows Church but that was the weekend when the new minister was being inducted.

I am researching the Lavers family who moved to Ringmore from Modbury on the marriage of Alexander Lavers to Anne Wakeham in 1726. They had three children and I am descended from their youngest son also Alexander b 1738. He married Elizabeth Beer in Ringmore in 1767, had two children and then moved to Plymouth where he was with HM Customs and the surname became Lavis. I am interested in whether the church in Ringmore has anything of interest in the parish chest, such as settlement records, church wardens accounts etc and whether the parish registers for 1814 onwards are still in the church. I want to know anything that will add to my knowledge of the family and the village at that time and why they moved to Plymouth.

August 1767 for half a century

On my visit to Devon last month I purchased the Ringmore guide and I had a wonderful few hours following the route described and I would like to congratulate the Ringmore Historical Society on an excellent little booklet which is deceptively simple in layout but very informative. So much so that it has inspired me to suggest that our local history society try to produce one for my village of Bangor-on-Dee on similar lines although we haven't your lovely thatched cottages which make Ringmore so attractive. I would like to purchase two more copies for my cousins in Australia who are also keen on family history research if I could trade on your good nature to obtain them for me. I am enclosing £3.00 to cover the cost and a stamped addressed envelope and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Vivien Lavis Jones

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LAVERS.

Millstone Cottage,  
Whitchurch Road,  
Bangor-on-Dee,  
Clwyd.  
LL13 OBS

20th January 1995

Dear Col Grimshaw,

Thank you very much indeed for your reply of 3rd Nov 94 to my letter. I am ashamed that I have taken so long in thanking you for the information you so kindly sent about the Lavers family. I really didn't mean to put you to so much trouble.

I was particularly interested in the extracts from the Poor Accounts that you mentioned as I was unaware of their existence. So much so that I made another trip to Exeter at the end of November to have a look at them. They give a fascinating insight into life in a small village and the hardships of the times. Although I have no proof as yet I think it almost certain that Alexander Lavers (b1738) was an ag.lab. and would have been on a subsistence wage. The Lavers boy mentioned in the accounts would have been his brother John's son whose mother, Margaret, had died at his birth in 1769. It comes as no surprise to find that Alexander's son, also Alexander, moved to Plymouth about 1770 to better provide for his growing family. I have corresponded with a Wakeham descendant through my advert in the Family Tree magazine whose family also moved to Plymouth at about the identical time. It would be fascinating if we found that both families left Ringmore together. Your comments about one of the Wakehams being a benefactor of the family was most interesting as my cousin in Australia had suggested something similiar so I must see if I can obtain any confirmation of this theory.

Thank you also for the list of members interested in the Lavers/Lavis family and I shall be writing to them as soon as I finish this letter. I have also since joined the D.F.H.S. - something I have been meaning to do for sometime. My youngest nephew, Mark, is hoping to obtain a commision in the Royal Navy and go to Plymouth University and has had two interviews so far for the RN and an offer of a place at the university. He would be ideally placed to do some family research so I'm keeping my fingers crossed! Thank you once again for all your trouble. If you ever have a request for any Lavers/ Wakeham information I will be only too glad to help if I can. I haven't sent a copy of my 'family tree' as I know that it can be boring to other people but I will do so if it is of any interest.

Yours very gratefully  
Verian Lavers