

23 KINGSPARK COURT
SOUTH WOODFORD
LONDON E18 2DD

28th August 1992

Dear Colonel Grimshaw

We are trying to trace our family history and as there is a "Ringmore connection" I am taking the liberty of writing to you. During the course of a recent holiday in Devon I made a short visit to your village. Genealogy is a "science" new to me and I am not sure of the best way to go about seeking information, but the very helpful lady at the Post Office (unfortunately I omitted to ask her name) suggested that as Chairman of the Ringmore Historical Society you might be able to help us.

✓ My great grand-parents, Philip Lyndon and Jane Lane, were married in Ringmore Parish Church in 1839. Their marriage certificate is the only document of any age which we have in our possession, and I enclose a photocopy of it for you. We know nothing about the Lyndon or Lane families at this point in history and wonder if you have anything in your records about life in the area at that time and particularly about these two families, the businesses carried out by the fathers William Lyndon and William Lane as farmer and cordwainer respectively, the names of their wives and their other children.

My mother believes from hearsay that Philip Lyndon was rejected by his parents for "marrying beneath him" and that the newly married couple left the Ringmore area, possibly for Down Thomas, shortly after their marriage. However, we have nothing to substantiate this and the picture is confused by extracts from the 1861 and 1871 census records which one of our cousins has obtained. These records contain conflicting information particularly relating to the ages of their early children (Mary Jane, William, Elizabeth Ann, Edward Joseph and Philip Richard). Moreover, the 1861 record shows these children being born in Modbury whereas the 1871 record states they were born in Devonport.

What we do know for certain is that by the time their seventh or eighth child (Robert, my mother's father) was born in 1859, they had moved to Ruan Laniorne in Cornwall. They subsequently moved to other locations in Cornwall before finally settling in the area between the villages of Probus and Tregony. We do not know when Philip Lyndon died but one of the earliest recollections of my mother (now 83 and Robert's seventh and only still living child) is of the death of her grandmother, the former Jane Lane, at the age of about 93.

Another point which puzzles us is the fact that the marriage certificate of which I enclose a photocopy, is itself a certified copy dated 9th February 1854 relating to a marriage which took place on 25th December 1839. Can you suggest any reason why 15 years should elapse between a marriage ceremony and the issue of the marriage certificate? Of course there could be a simple answer like the fact that the original had been lost and for some reason proof was needed that Philip Lyndon and Jane Lane were in fact married, but we are intrigued! It also points to the fact that they were still in touch with the Ringmore area, or visited it, in 1854. In addition, do you know if it was a common occurrence in those days for weddings to take place on Christmas Day?

I realise I have asked you a lot of questions which may require a great deal of research, and I will understand if you cannot answer them all. Please let me know if there is a charge for your services. Alternatively, if there are sufficient records in existence to make a visit to Ringmore fruitful, please let me know and either myself, my sister or a cousin (a Lyndon living in Cornwall) could come to undertake research. As a further alternative, can you suggest any other sources of information please?

I look forward very much to your reply and thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Leadbetter

(Mrs) L.R. Leadbetter

No mention in 1861 Census

Somebody wanted a copy!!

*Family tree day -
Seeing everyone
else occupied.*

*Down Family
Hist. Soc.*

I have typed out a copy of the George Grimshaw reply lest the carbon copy deteriorates further
The material refers to the LYNDON/LANE FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITH RINGMORE
Dennis W. Collinson May 18 2010

Dear Mrs. Leadbetter,

Thank you for your letter with a photostat of a marriage certificate -

Tracing ones forebears is an exciting and demanding task but one never knows when some chink of light suddenly appears. I wish you luck -

Enclosed are the details from our Church Registers. They confirm the marriage and confirm the marriage of Mary Jane and William.

However apart from those references they disappear from Ringmore. I have searched a) :
the Censuses of 1841, 1851 and 1871 and the only connection is Mary Randle.
b) Land Tax Lists and Churchwardens Lists and there is no Lyndon in them.
c) Protestation Rolls and Hearth Tax and the names do not appear anywhere. Not even their parents. So where did they live ?

The Marriage Certificate is interesting. The writing of Philip Lyndon is formed and has an educated whereas Jane could only make her mark and yet they were both Servants - to whom ? The census of 1841 doesn't show them or their parents but the assumption that they made a quick getaway may be correct, But why ? As regards being married on Christmas Day, it is clearly unusual as there are only two instances in our Records and they were 1736 and 1774. There may have been others because only the year seems to have been recorded in many cases.

The Rev. Butland was Rector from 1828 to 1860. It is quite usual for people researching the family to ask for copies of both deaths and marriages from the parish concerned although these (?) days all Parish Records of the past have to by law have to be deposited in the Local Record Office. In our case it is Exeter.

If you are going to take your search seriously, I would advise you to contact the Federation of Family Societies. They have published a very useful little pamphlet : How to Tackle Your Family History, ISBN 0 - 907099-24-6 (1985). The address at the end is : Mrs. Pauline Saul (Administrator) The Federation of Family History Societies, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2BZ
There is also a Devon Family history, Secretary : Mr. John Parsons, 12, Whitehall Close, South Molton, Devon, EX36 4EQ

If you joined that Society or your sister or cousin you could then get 'questions' published in their quarterly magazine and then someone might respond.

Working out your Family Tree is hard work and involves a lot of work in different places. The Mormon Church (Church of Latter Day Saints) have computerised nearly every name in the world and if you get in touch with their London H.Q. they could deluge you with Lyndons and Lanes and Leadbetters and you would then have to discover which ones were relevant. I should get the pamphlet I have mentioned above and start from there.

I am sorry not to be able to give you any more information but you have certainly got me worried as to why the young couple and their parents seem to have had no recorded home in Ringmore. You will probably have to follow up in Kingston, Bigbury and Modbury our neighbouring churches all of which have local History Societies.

We have no set charges but are glad to have a contribution towards our Society's funds. It takes some hours to put this information together. I am glad to do it for you if it encourages you in your search !!

Best wishes and good luck

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) George Grimshaw

Write again if you have specific questions but we don't research individual family trees - We are mainly concerned with the history of the Manor and the Parish.

0-0

ATTACHED ARE TWO SHEETS GIVING INFORMATION ON THE FAMILIES TAKEN FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

William Lyndon -Farmer
William Lane - Cordwainer

Philip Lyndon (24) married Jane Lane (19)...December 25, 1839

Copy of entry in marriage Register made by Rev. Gilbert Butland : 9Feb 1854

Both Servants.....Bachelor and Spinster. Married after Banns which would indicate residence in village (Parish) of Jane Lane

Witnesses : John Lane and Mary Rendle (in Census of 1841there is a Mary Rendle aged 45 female servant in the family of Benjamin Crimp who farmed part of Middle Farm.)

Marriage Registers : Name	Lane, Jane	Lyndon, Philip	1839
	Lane, John	Kerswell, Sarah	?9. 1779
	Lane, William	Lavers, Agnes	25.9.1770

Lyndon - as above

Later Lyndon, George Frederick (21) 1883
Wheelwright - Sojourner (I take it this means 'lodger'-Dennis Collinson)
Son of Albert - (Labourer)
Married Louis(e?) Grace Wilson Pengelly (18)
Of Langston in Ringmore (George Grimshaw puts 'Labourer' in brackets here which doesn't seem to make sense)

Baptisms Lyndon, Mary Jane 11.4.1841 Philip Jane Husbandman Ringmore
(I assume that Philip was the 'husbandman')

Lyndon, William 22.1.1843 " "

Lyndon, Florence Murial(?) Louisa 21.9.1894 George Frederick (Wheelwright, Modbury)
Louisa Grace Wilson (Pengelly)

Lane, Elizabeth 17.4.1630 William and Mildred

Lane, Henere (surely not-D.W.C.) 4.12.1639 William and Milder at (again, surely not)

(These must be 'Henry' and 'Mildred'. George Grimshaw suggests that this is the William Lane who signed the Protestation of 1641 and was deposed by Parliamentarians from Plymouth. His subsequent history in Ringmore etc. is in several of the Society's publications.)

Burials Lane, Mary 1791

No Lyndon Burials

(I have altered the shape of the letter in order to have it on two sides. The Leadbetter family were very grateful for the research.D.W.C.)

23 KINGSPARK COURT
SOUTH WOODFORD
LONDON E18 2DD

£10 received
by cheque

8th September 1992

Dear Colonel Grimshaw

Thank you very much for replying to my letter so fully and so quickly. It was good of you to go to so much trouble and all the information you have supplied is much appreciated. It makes me wish I had far more free time at my disposal - how right you are that tracing one's ancestors is difficult and time-consuming! It is quite frustrating to be tied to a desk in London when there is so much detective work to be done in the West Country!

The Lyndons and Lanes are certainly presenting us with problems but I am hoping that there may be more clues in the Modbury and/or Bigbury records as you suggest. I omitted to make it clear in my first letter, but my mother thinks that Jane Lane was originally a servant within the Lyndon household - hence the Lyndon parents' displeasure when son Philip wanted to marry her! I suppose that Philip had had to leave the family home and seek work elsewhere by the time they were married, which explains why he is described as a servant on the marriage certificate - but this is only conjecture on my part.

Like you, I am very puzzled that the Lyndons are not mentioned on the Ringmore census records of 1841, particularly in view of the marriage in Ringmore church in 1839 and the baptism of two children there in 1841 and 1843. Maybe they were employed on a farm (I note that on the 1841 baptism certificate Philip is described as a husbandman) in one of the other parishes in the area but for some reason it was more convenient for them to attend Ringmore rather than one of the other churches?

My mother's memory is still excellent and she has told us all she can remember about what she heard from her parents about her grandparents but I suspect it was already rather muddled and apocryphal by the time she heard it! What we can be sure of is that they moved address fairly frequently, first in the South Devon area where, as I mentioned before, Down Thomas also features in the story somewhere, and subsequently in Cornwall. We will just have to persevere, when time allows, with our research.

Thank you once again for all the information you supplied. I will certainly contact you again if any specific points arise in the future and in the meantime enclose a contribution toward your Society's funds in recognition of your help.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Lorna Leadbeter

Dear Mrs Leadbetter,

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However, apart from those references, they disappear from Ringmore. I have searched ^(at) Census 1841, 1851 and 1871 and the only connection is Mary Ruddle.

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The Marriage Certificate is interesting. The witness of Philip Lynden is formal & has an educated look whereas ~~Mary~~ Jane could only make her mark, yet they were both Servants - to whom? The census of 1841 doesn't show them or their parents, so the assumption that they made a quick get away may be correct. But why?

As regards being married on Christmas Day, it is clearly unusual as there are only two instances in our records and they were 1736 and 1774. There may have been others because the year only seems to have been recorded in many cases.

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How to tackle your family history

ISBN 0-907099-24-6 1985.

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Ms Pauline Sans (Administrator)

The Federation of Family History Societies

31 Seven Star Road

Solihull, West Midlands B91 2JZ.

There is also a Devon Family History Society.

Secretary Mr John Parsons

12 Whitehall Close

South Molton, Devon, EX36 4EJ.

Tel. S Molton 07695 3546.

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Best wishes & good luck

Yours sincerely,

Ernest Bromhead

Write again if you have specific questions but do not request individual family trees - we are mainly concerned with the history of the Names & Place -

WILLIAM LYNDON Farmer & MASHAM LEAD BETTER.
 WILLIAM LANE COBURNER 23 Kingspark Court.
 South Woodford.

PHILIP LYNDON (26) V London E18 2JJ. 28 Aug 1992

married Jane Lane - (19) V
 @ December 25. 1839.

Copy of entry in marriage register made by
 Rev. GILBERT BURKARD. 9 Feb 1954

Both Servants - Batchelor and Spuister.

Married after banns which would indicate
 residence in village (Parish) of Jane Lane.

Witnesses - John Lane (?)

Mary Rendle - In Census of 1841 there
 is a Mary Rendle aged 45. Former
 Servant in the family of Ameyson
 (Crimp who farmed part of
 Middle Farm.

Marriage Register Lane, Jane Lyndon Philip. @ 1839
 " John Kearswell Sarah ?-?-1779
 " Witham. Lavers. Agnes. 25-9-1770

Lyndon - as above.

later Lyndon George Frederick 1883.
 (21) Wheelwright - Sojourner
 S.O. Albert (Labourer)
 married Louisa Grace Wilson Penally (18)
 of Langston in ~~Ameyson~~.
 (Labourer)

BAPTISMS.

LYNDON. Mary Jane 11.4.1841 Philip Jane Hochstadtman
~~Milchman~~ Ringman
~~Ringsman~~

LYNDON. William 22.1.43¹⁸ " " "

LYNDON. FRANCES MURKIN 21.9.1894 GEORGE FREDERICK
 HOUSEH LOUISA GRACE WILSON (Rogally)
 Wheelwright. Newbury

LANE Elizabeth 17.4.1630 * William - Mildred.
 " Hester 4.12.1639 William - Mildred.
 " Agnes 30.11.1770 2.12.1770 William & Agnes.
 born. married 25.9.1770

BURIALS. LANE, Mary. died 1791.

No LYNDON Burials.

* Could have been the Rector William Lane, who signed Protection notice of 1641. He was forced out by Parliamentarians in Civil War & died later