

# **The Shackel Family Story**

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## Preface

When researching your family history, eventually, if successful, you have many lines to follow. Some of these lines are of more interest than others, especially when your ancestors either did interesting things, or had a lifestyle that was maybe a little different from the many labourer branches you inevitably come across. Whatever the lines are, or their occupations, I believe it important to know a little of the life of your ancestors; not just have a dusty old list that gets back as far as you can, but something that tells a little of the way they lived, and where possible, the times they lived in. At some point in the future I hope to have time to include more social history, but for now I hope that this narrative will give an insight into this part of my family history.

Bill Read

## **Acknowledgements**

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# The Shackel Family Story

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# **THE SHACKEL FAMILY STORY**

## **Introduction**

William Shackel, born 1735 in Binfield, Berkshire , my 5x great grandfather, (referred to as William of Sonning), married Sarah Elliott (b 1742), in her home parish of Shinfield, Berkshire in 1769<sup>1</sup>. They had five children who survived infancy; William, Sarah, Thomas, John and George. When William died in 1798 his will<sup>2</sup> indicated that he was a wealthy man owning land, the tenancy of Earley Court Farm, a manorial property in Sonning, and business interests in Reading, including a malt house and shop. This is the story of his children and their descendents up to 1901.





## Chapter 1

### **WILLIAM SHACKEL (circa 1772 – 1850)**

(Referred to as William of Earley Court)

Brother of my 4x great grandfather Thomas Shackel (1777 – 1856)

William SHACKEL (1771 – 1850)	m	Ann STROUD (1779 – 1854)
	I	
	I	
	I	
William SHACKEL (1804 – 1880)		John SHACKEL (1808 – 1874)
	m	
Elizabeth SHERWOOD (1806 – 1860)		Catherine OLDFIELD (1829 – 1892)
	I	
	I	
Richard (1834 – 1912)		Charles (1862 – ?)
Edward (1836 – 1890)		
Elizabeth (1839 – 1884)		
Philip (1841 – ?)		
Jane (1842 – 1919)		
Margaret (1845 – 1864)		

There is no doubt about the existence of William born 1771, the eldest son of William of Sonning. He is a beneficiary in his father's will, he also held insurance policies for Earley Court<sup>26</sup>, and he is in the 1841 census<sup>10</sup>. But more importantly, he is the subject of a painting by A R Burt<sup>3</sup>, which was later commercially used by Huntley and Palmers on their biscuit tins. However, his baptism and his will have not yet been found.

What is known is that in 1798 he was left his father's business properties in Reading, as well as the tenancy of Earley Court Farm (270 acres), where he was already living. What became of the malt house and shop in Reading is not known, but William was to live at, and manage, Earley Court farm for about the next fifty years.

The farm was one of a collection of farms in the village of Earley and the names of the roads echo the names of the farmholders, so there was a Shackel Farm Road and other roads named Goddard and Chapman after the owners<sup>4</sup>.



In 1802 William Shackel married Ann STROUD<sup>5</sup> from Reading, Berks. It was a long association with Ann outliving her husband by a few years. They had two sons William born in 1804 and John born 1808.

It is reported in the Victoria County History Series<sup>6</sup> that in 1845 William Stone, a wealthy farmer and magistrate, died and bequeathed his property of 800 acre Basildon Farm (also known as Church Farm) to William Shackel's son William (b 1804). However, his will of 1845<sup>7</sup> shows that Mr Stone actually left all of his property to his wife Sarah. Documents about a case of arson at Early Court Farm<sup>8</sup> show that William Stone and William Shackel (b 1771) were acquainted. It is more likely that William Shackel the elder purchased the farm from William Stone or his widow, but that has not yet been proved. However, by some means this farm came to be owned by the Shackel family.

In the museum in Reading, along with the portrait of William, is a small explanation of the times in which he lived, and also mentions that he was likely to have been in the Yeomanry and opposed the Swing Rioters of the 1830s (which was a series of riots during a period of extreme poverty amongst the agricultural workers). As the aforementioned arson attack occurred in 1832 it is likely that it was part of this conflict, perhaps a revenge attack for his part in opposing the rioters.

William Shackel the elder died in 1850, his death being registered in Wokingham<sup>9</sup>, Berkshire. In 1851<sup>10</sup> his widow Ann, and son John, were living at Basildon Farm. His will has not been found.

## **Children of William Shackel and Ann Stroud**

### **William Shackel (1804 – 1880) (Referred to as William of Basildon)**

William married Elizabeth Sherwood of Purley, Berkshire in 1833<sup>5</sup> and in 1841<sup>10</sup> was living at Mile House in Sulhamstead, Berkshire with his wife, young family and three servants and was of independent means. It is not clear if he was farming at this time, but in 1851<sup>10</sup> he was at the same place and described as a farmer of 300 acres. He was obviously a wealthy man, both before and after his father's death, presumably from his father's businesses.

By 1861<sup>10</sup> he was living in the inherited Basildon Farm. By now he was widowed and living there with his children and a nephew, John Henry May. The May family of Sulhamstead were a noted and land owning family of Sulhamstead<sup>11</sup>. John Henry May was not a member of the Shackel family, and therefore must have been connected with Elizabeth Sherwood – which might explain the early prosperity of this branch of the Shackel family, however, no definite connection was made. In 1871<sup>10</sup> William Shackel was still living in the Basildon property, but was now of landed gentry rather than a farmer. He died in 1880<sup>9</sup> and was buried in Sulhamstead.

William Shackel and Elizabeth had three sons and three daughters. None of the daughters married, the eldest, Elizabeth, lived with her father and died soon after he did. Jane, after her father's death, lived in London for a time and then in Maidenhead in a household complete with servants. The youngest daughter Margaret died when she was nineteen.

Of the three sons, only Richard the eldest is known to have married and had children. The second son Edward always lived at home and had no occupation (his father's will showed he had special needs).

Philip, the youngest son, was in the 1861 census, at the age of 20, as a commercial clerk in London, but was not found in any following census. A contact, Diane Bird, had information that he had gone to Natal, South Africa. This was confirmed by the discovery of his probate<sup>29</sup> in the England and Wales National Probate Calendar dated 1876. This showed that he was a farmer, and had died aged 29 in 1870 in Maritzburgh, Natal, leaving effects worth under £450. His father was his executor.

Richard Shackel (b 1834) as a young man was a captain in the Royal Berkshire Militia<sup>10</sup> and then went to Devon and Somerset to set up a small brewing business. There he married Eliza Gattey<sup>27</sup> and they had five sons. When his father died in 1880 he inherited Basildon Farm and lived there for less than ten years. He sold the property and retired, firstly to Mitcham in Surrey, then to Chertsey and finally to Daventry in Northamptonshire<sup>9/10</sup>.

His five sons were William Harry (b 1869) who became a clergyman, Philip Dennis (b 1872), Charles Edward (b 1874), Richard (b 1882) and Alfred (b 1886).

## **John Shackel (1808 – 1874)**

John was the second son of William Shackel (b 1771), and lived with his parents right up to the death of his father. At that time he was over 40 years old, and had managed the farm with his father. Shortly after the death of his father, in 1851<sup>10</sup>, he was living with his widowed mother at Basildon Farm. His mother died in 1854, and after that his brother William succeeded to Basildon Farm which may have prompted John to a decision to move to Yorkshire. There he became a farm manager and called himself a gentleman's son<sup>10</sup>.

In 1860 at the age of 52 (in York) he married a Yorkshire woman, twenty years his junior; Catherine Oldfield of Bawtry, Yorkshire<sup>9</sup>. In 1861<sup>10</sup> he was living with his wife in Bawtry and described himself as retired.

In 1862 his only child Charles was born<sup>9</sup> and by 1871<sup>10</sup> he was working again as a house steward at Rossington Hall in Yorkshire, overseeing a full complement of servants.

He died in 1874<sup>10</sup> and his wife outlived him by eighteen years. His son Charles became a draper and lived and traded in Bawtry. Charles married Clara Bailey in 1886<sup>9</sup> and in 1901<sup>10</sup> was in Bawtry with his wife and two daughters, Clara and Jessie.

## Chapter 2

### **SARAH SMITH nee SHACKEL (1773 – 1848)**

Sister of my 4x great grandfather Thomas Shackel (1777 – 1856)

Sarah SHACKEL (1773 – 1848)	m	Morgan SMITH ( – 1813)
	I	
	I	

Sarah Ann SHACKEL  
m  
John HEATHER

William Shackel (1735 – 1798) left his daughter Sarah a trust fund of one thousand pounds to provide her with an income<sup>2</sup>. Two years after the death of her father in 1800 she married Morgan Smith, a grocer from Reading<sup>27</sup>. In 1809 they had their only child Sarah Ann. In 1813 Morgan Smith died leaving a brief will<sup>13</sup> bequeathing all his property to his wife.

Nothing more is known about Sarah until 1841<sup>10</sup> when she is living on her own means in Reading, in a house with a teacher and pupils.

She died in Reading in 1848 leaving a long and tedious will<sup>14</sup> (written in 1845) about bequeathing her trust fund to her daughter, and who it was to go to if her daughter died. But the will was very useful in that it listed her brothers that were still alive, and showed she was closest to her brother William and his two sons, as she left them small legacies.

## **Child of Morgan Smith and Sarah Shackel**

### **Sarah Ann Smith (b abt 1809)**

Sarah's birth date is estimated from her age at death<sup>9</sup> as her baptism was not found. Although the marriage entry was not found it's believed she married John Heather, who was fifteen years her senior, and lived in Jersey where her first two daughters were born. The family then returned to London and lived in Brompton where a third daughter was born. In 1851<sup>10</sup> Sarah was living in Kensington with her daughters and a servant, but her husband was away. It is possible she also had sons, but they would have been at school. By 1861<sup>10</sup> John Heather had retired (so it is not known what his profession was) and was living in Kensington with his wife and two of his daughters. The couple remained in Kensington leading a comfortable life, aided by servants, until their death in the mid 1860s.

### **Children of Sarah Ann Smith (married name Heather):**

The middle daughter, Caroline Bunda Heather (b 1836), in 1859<sup>9</sup> married a dentist called Francis Harper from St Martins in London. They led a comfortable and prosperous life, firstly in Hillingdon, then Lambeth before retiring to Hailsham in Sussex. They had three daughters; Caroline, Victoria and Edith, and a son (Seth) who appeared almost 20 years after the others. It is likely he was an illegitimate son of one of the daughters. Daughter Caroline married a George Brown and went out to Ceylon, where her husband died. She returned with two daughters to live in Torquay, Devon<sup>10</sup>.

The eldest daughter, Victoria Commenda Heather (b 1831) first married in 1863, a man with the romantic name of William Fraser George Servantes<sup>9</sup>. In 1851 he was a lieutenant in the army who bought out his commission<sup>15</sup>. The marriage did not last long, no death was found of Mr Servantes, so either he died abroad or they were divorced. In 1871<sup>9</sup> she married a young dentist, Charles Skipp, who was fully twenty years her junior. It is possible he was her brother-in-law's assistant. He was from Bishops Stortford in Hertfordshire, and that is where they lived. By 1901<sup>10</sup> they were living apart, she in Bishop's Stortford and he in London. She had no children and died in 1903.

No information has been found on the third daughter, Augusta Susan Heather (b 1840).

## Chapter 3

### THOMAS SHACKEL (1777 – 1856) (*Direct Ancestor*)

Sarah GODDARD	m1	Thomas SHACKEL	m2	Frances STEVENS
	I		I	
	I		I	
	Sarah (b 1800)		Thomas (b 1802)	
			Edmund (b 1804)	
			Susannah (b 1806)	
			Mary Ann (b 1808)	
			William (b 1810)	
			Henry (b 1814)	
			James (b 1816)	
			Frederick (b 1818)	
			Jonathon (b 1820)	

Thomas Shackel was shown in the Baptism Records of Sonning to be the son of William and Mary Shackel. However, his baptism came in the middle of a run of others to William and Sarah. Subsequently many interactions between Thomas, his offspring, and the rest of the Shackel family have shown that this baptism named the wrong mother<sup>16</sup>.

In his father's will<sup>2</sup> he was left £100, a small messuage and a piece of land in Binfield. The legacy seemed smaller than his brothers', so perhaps his father had already provided something for him due to his upcoming marriage to Sarah Goddard. He never lived in Binfield and must have sold the land.

In Sonning there were several other farms surrounding Earley Court Farm. Two of these were Goddard's Farm run by Nathan Goddard, and Elliot's Farm run by his mother's brother, William Elliott. In 1798, just a couple of months after the death of his father, Thomas married Sarah Goddard<sup>1</sup>, who was a daughter of Nathan Goddard. A witness at the wedding was his uncle William Elliott. Thomas and Sarah set up home most probably at a farm at Loddon Bridge (their second son Edmond always gave his place of birth as Loddon Bridge) which was on the road between Earley and Hurst. The baptism of their daughter Sarah was recorded in December 1799 in Hurst<sup>1</sup>. Tragically, Thomas's wife died in July 1800<sup>1</sup> and was buried at Sonning. It is not known what became of their daughter.

In June 1801 Thomas remarried in Mapledurham, Oxfordshire to Frances Stevens, known as Fanny, who was seventeen at the time<sup>1</sup>. How they met is not known, it is possible she was a nurse to his daughter Sarah. Thomas and Fanny lived at Loddon Bridge until about 1808, and had three children there.

They then moved, presumably to a farm at Stratfield Mortimer, where at least six more children were born. Baptisms for Mary Ann and William have been obtained<sup>1</sup>. Baptisms for the others have not been found.

In 1841<sup>10</sup> Thomas and Fanny were at Marsh Farm in the marshes at High Wycombe, Bucks. From his will<sup>17</sup> it is clear that Thomas did not own the farm outright, but had a 'state term and interest' in it, which is probably a type of lease. By that time his eldest sons had left home, and they must have been well-educated, as evidenced by the professions they undertook. In 1851<sup>10</sup> only three children were left at home, his two daughters and his son James. Thomas was at that time employing fifteen men. When he died in 1856 he only left legacies to his children that were living at home. The whole tenure of the will was to make sure that the farm was to remain as a going concern until the death of his wife. When his son James was to sell up and share the proceeds with his two sisters. In 1861 Fanny was running the farm with help from James. She died in 1862<sup>1</sup>.

## **Children of Thomas Shackel and Fanny Stevens**

### **Thomas Shackel (b 1802)**

Brother of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

Thomas has not been found in any records in England, but recently, information from family trees posted on Ancestry show he had emigrated to Tasmania and brought up a family there.

### **Edmund Shackel (b 1804)**

Brother of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

Four of Thomas's sons went to London when they left home. The reason is not known. Edmund married Mary Tucker from Ealing at St George Hanover Square in 1832.

By 1841<sup>10</sup> Edmund was living with his family in High Street, Ealing, working as a butcher in his own business. In 1851<sup>10</sup> business was good enough to employ three household servants.

The 1861 Census of Brentford is not available on Ancestry, however his wife was living in Chiswick, married, but apart from her husband. When Edmund is found in 1871<sup>10</sup> he is still in Ealing, but living alone, separated from his wife. So the marriage seems not to have been a success. He died in 1879<sup>9</sup> and his wife in 1884<sup>9</sup>.



### **Children of Edmund Shackel:**

Edmund and Mary had three children who survived childhood, a son and two daughters.

#### **Edmund**

The son, also named Edmund (b 1837), always lived at home and had no employment; so most likely had problems.

#### **Fanny**

The eldest daughter (b 1834) was named Fanny after her mother. In 1857 she married a civil engineer from Newcastle named Edward James Leonard<sup>9</sup>. They lived briefly in Elswick, Northumberland. In about 1863 Edward Leonard got a job as a civil engineer in West India Dock and they moved to Poplar, Middlesex. This put Fanny at the same time and place as her uncle William Shackel, who was also in Poplar (see later). Edward died in 1877<sup>9</sup> and Fanny then lived on her own means as head of house in Hackney until she died in 1911<sup>9</sup>.

Edward and Fanny had seven children, Ernest William (b 1860) a clerk to a stockbroker, Edith Fanny (b 1862) who married a solicitor's bookkeeper, John Leaford (b 1863) who became a draper, Stanley Augustus (b 1867), Harry Louch (b 1869) an insurance clerk, Oswald (b 1872) and Ivor (b 1876), also insurance clerks<sup>10</sup>.

#### **Mary Caroline**

The youngest daughter, Mary Caroline (b 1835) married Henry Willey Williams in 1867<sup>9</sup>, a Railway Traffic Manager. She spent all her married life in Boston Road, Ealing; for many years living next door to her mother and her brother Edward. The Williams were a two servant family.

They had five children, Maude (b 1872) who married Guy Leonard T Hawley, a provision merchant and lived in Twickenham, Harry Scott (b 1871) a mechanical engineer, Alice Margaret (b 1874), Ruth (b 1876) (Alice and Ruth were still at home in 1901) and Ronald Martin (b 1878) who was a Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment<sup>10</sup>.

### **Susannah Shackel (b 1806)**

Sister of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

Susannah lived at home with her parents all her life. She was one of the chief beneficiaries in her father's will (17). After her mother's death, no census, marriage or death records can be found for Susan or Susannah Shackel, or any other spelling of her surname. However, in 1871<sup>10</sup> there is a Susannah Staines born 1805 in Hurst, visiting a fisherman, George Emery and family in Leigh, Essex. She claims to be a widow living on a legacy left by her husband. What makes this unlikely entry interesting is that searches of the 1851 and 1861 census<sup>10</sup> show no other Susan or Susannah born around this time in Hurst except Susannah Shackel. If this was her, she then died later on in the same year.

So was this Susannah Shackel? No marriage to a Mr Staines was found. She certainly did have a legacy, but it was from her father's estate. Did a Mr Staines leave her a legacy? Or was she living in a world of her own making?

### **Mary Ann Shackel (1808 – 1885)**

Sister of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

Like her sister Susannah, Mary Ann never married. However she lived a more social life than her sister. In 1851<sup>10</sup> she was visiting her cousin John Shackel (son of William of Earley) at Basildon Farm, Berkshire. In 1861<sup>10</sup> she was found visiting Ann Elliott of Sonning, a ladies companion in Upton Berkshire. Ann Elliott was her father's cousin. She was not found in 1871 but was with her brother James in Dorset in 1881<sup>10</sup>. She died in Windsor in 1885<sup>9</sup>.

Mary Ann died aged 77 in 1885 at 22 Adelaide Villas, Windsor Berkshire. Her estate was worth £2,263 and her executor was Richard Shackel, the son of her cousin William Shackel of Basildon estate. She left many legacies to family members including her brother James, Richard Shackel and his wife, and Fanny Shackel, daughter of her uncle Henry Shackel.

### **William Shackel (1810 – 1870) (*Direct Ancestor*)**

Nothing is known about William's early life. In the 1841 census<sup>10</sup> there are two William Shackels of the correct age, both living in London. One owned a cheesemonger's shop, although this William Shackel was still shown to be in London when our William Shackel is in Wolverton (see below), the other was a male servant, which seems unlikely, but may be our William. A year later in 1842<sup>1</sup> our William married Jane Knight of the Knight family from Tring, who owned several businesses. On the marriage certificate he is described as a grocer. It is not known how William and Jane met. After they married they moved to Wolverton in Buckinghamshire, about 20 miles from Tring, where William had a grocery business and where their two sons and two daughters were born. It is possible that the Knight family had a hand in setting them up in Wolverton as they had an interest in the grocery business themselves. Between 1848 and 1851 something caused a change, either the grocery business failed, or William wanted something different, because the family headed back to London.

In 1851<sup>10</sup> William, with his wife and children, were living in Hawley Street in Kentish Town, an area that came under Pancras. The families in Hawley Street were mostly middle class, one-servant families, but William's profession was given as 'servant', although he was head of the family. The same occupation was attributed to his wife. They were living in the same area as his brother Henry, a commercial clerk, and his family.

By 1861 William too was a commercial clerk, a carrier's clerk, working for Pickfords & Co. the removals firm in Poplar. This job showed his connection with Henry, his brother, who was at around this time living at Pickfords & Co.'s wharf in City Road. William and his family were living in Church Street, Poplar, which was certainly a step down from their previous address.

William died in 1870<sup>19</sup>, in Poplar, of chronic bronchitis at the age of 60. His occupation on his death certificate was railway clerk. He left a will with personal effects less than £200, his wife being sole executrix<sup>20</sup>. His wife Jane was not found in the 1871 census, but by 1881<sup>10</sup> she was an annuitant living with her married daughter, Jane Sophia Marks, in South London. They then moved to West Ham where Jane's death was recorded in 1884 in Forest Gate, West Ham<sup>19</sup>. She left a will with personal effects just under £500. Her son-in-law, Alfred Marks, was executor<sup>20</sup>.

### **Children of William Shackel:**

William had four children, two daughters and two sons.

#### **Emma Jane Shackel (b 1844)**

Sister of my 2x great grandfather Harry Knight Shackel (1847 – 1878)

Emma did not marry and mostly associated with her mother's family, the Knight family of Tring. In 1851<sup>10</sup> she was living with her grandmother at Tring, and in 1861<sup>10</sup> with her parents. In 1871<sup>10</sup> she was working as a servant for a magistrate in Wargrave, Berkshire. From 1881 to 1901<sup>10</sup> she was to be found in Tring, living on her own means, which suggests that at sometime she was left a legacy.

Emma died in 1924 at Uketein Road, Tring. Her estate was worth £1,820 which she left to her nephew and niece, Alfred Craddock Marks and Fanny Appleby, the eldest two children of her sister Jane. Her house was called 'Basildon' which is the name of the Berkshire estate of her father's wealthy cousin William Shackel, showing that she knew about her families' history.

#### **William Thomas Shackel (b 1845)**

Brother of my 2x great grandfather Harry Knight Shackel (1847 – 1878)

William was with his parents in the 1861<sup>10</sup> census and no records were found for him after this time, although he was known to be living as he was left legacies in family wills.

### **Harry Knight Shackel (1847 – 1878) (*Direct Ancestor*)**

In 1868<sup>19</sup> Harry married a young widow, Margaret Leary of Irish parentage. Margaret was born Margaret Finn in Poplar and had married Thomas Leary in 1865<sup>19</sup>. They had a son James born in 1866, which was the year of his father's death. In 1871<sup>9</sup> Harry and Margaret were living in Wade Street, Poplar with their daughter Jane Margaret (b 1869)<sup>19</sup>. Harry was working as a blacksmith (his choice of career might have been influenced by the Knight family whose family businesses included a smithy). Little James Leary was living with his Finn grandparents. As well as Jane, Harry and Margaret had three sons and a daughter born between 1870–1877; but the three sons all died as babies<sup>9</sup>. The last child Mary (b 1877) survived.

In 1878 Harry died as result of injuries caused by a road accident involving a horse-drawn vehicle in Whitechapel. His death certificate<sup>19</sup> states that there was a Coroner's report. His widow Margaret was not found in the 1881 or 1891 census<sup>10</sup>, but she did not remarry, but must have fallen upon hard times for by 1901<sup>10</sup> she was in the Poplar workhouse where she died in 1915<sup>19</sup>.

What happened to Harry Knight Shackel's two daughters immediately after his death is not known, but Jane, my great grandmother, grew up seemingly knowing nothing of her Shackel roots and believing she was entirely of Irish extraction<sup>21</sup>. Jane began an association with David Henry Read (known as Harry), a dock labourer, about 1896 and they had four children before she eventually married him in West Ham in 1905<sup>19</sup>. The younger daughter Mary also had an illegitimate child before marrying Henry Hall, a dock labourer, in Poplar in 1899<sup>19</sup>.

### **Jane Sophia Shackel (1848 – 1819)**

Sister of my 2x great grandfather Harry Knight Shackel (1847 – 1878)

Jane married Alfred Sidney Marks, a sail maker, in Poplar in 1870<sup>19</sup> and in 1871 they were living in Grant Street, Poplar with their first son. In 1881, with their growing family, they were living in Battersea, South London. Jane Sophia's mother, Jane Shackel, was living with them.

In 1890<sup>19</sup> Alfred died in Orsett, Essex of epilepsy, he was at that time a licensed victualler. A year later, Jane Sophia married Percy Croft Woollett. He was an ordnance storekeeper, in Orsett<sup>19</sup>. In 1901<sup>10</sup> the Woolletts were living in Charlton, South London. Jane died in 1919<sup>9</sup>.

Jane and Alfred Marks had seven children, Alfred Craddock (b 1870), Fanny May (b 1872), Jinny Esther (b 1875), Florence Emma (b 1878), Walter W (b 1884), Charles Herbert (b 1886) and Albert Edward (b 1889).

### **Henry Shackel (1815 – 1868)**

Brother of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

Henry is not found in the 1841 census, but he married in 1849 in Pancras, London to Frances Haycock<sup>19</sup>. The marriage certificate confirmed his father was Thomas Shackel, farmer. The 1851 and 1861<sup>10</sup> census shows him to be a commercial clerk living in Camden Town with his wife, children and a servant. Henry died in 1868 in Hackney and left a will<sup>20</sup>. In 1871<sup>10</sup> his widow was with her children in Hackney, and by 1881<sup>10</sup> living a middle class life in Hampstead. She died in Hampstead in 1898<sup>9</sup>.

#### **Children of Henry Shackel:**

Henry and Frances had four sons and two daughters. Although Henry had six children he only had one grandchild.

#### **Charles Frederick (b 1850)**

Charles was a clerk and then a secretary in a Public Company. He married Rose Mast in Hackney in 1874<sup>9</sup> and they lived there all their married life, always with a servant. They had no children. Charles died in Hackney in 1916<sup>9</sup>.

#### **Henry Thomas (b 1852)**

Henry was also a clerk. He was with his mother until 1881<sup>9</sup> but not found in the 1891 census. He married in Maldon, Essex in 1887 and died there in 1897<sup>9</sup>.

#### **Walter (b 1854)**

Walter was with his mother until 1881. He was initially a clerk (as were his brothers), but became a distilling brewer and by 1901<sup>10</sup> was a superintendent of the Brewery. He married Annie Buckland in Wandsworth, Surrey in 1889<sup>9</sup> and in 1901<sup>10</sup> was living in Wandsworth with his wife and only daughter Annie aged 7. They employed a servant and a governess for the daughter.

#### **Frank (b 1858)**

Frank was a commercial clerk. He lived with his mother until he was 36 and then married Emily Ware. They did not have any children and lived in Hampstead.

#### **Fanny (b 1860)**

Fanny lived at home with her mother in Hampstead. She worked as a clerk and bookkeeper. She never married, and when her mother died she lived with her sister Lilian in Hampstead.

#### **Lilian (b 1864)**

Lillian was a teacher at a school in Wanstead, Essex for a time but she moved back to live with her mother, and then with her sister Fanny.

### **James Shackel (1816 – 1886)**

Brother of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

James was the bachelor son who remained at Marsh Farm and ran it with his father. He was charged by his father's will<sup>17</sup> to carry on at Marsh farm until the death of his mother, and then to sell up and share the proceeds between himself and his two unmarried sisters. This he seems to have done, and in 1871<sup>10</sup> he is at a loose end boarding in Chipping Wycombe. Shortly after this James' life changed and he became the proprietor of a Hotel in Wareham in Dorset. In 1875 he married Elizabeth Frampton of Dorset<sup>9</sup> who was 33 years his junior. In 1881 James was with his wife at the Hotel and visiting them was his sister Mary Ann. He died in Dorchester in 1886 aged 70<sup>9</sup>, leaving a will<sup>20</sup>. Shortly afterwards his wife remarried and carried on in the Hotel trade. James had no children.

### **Frederick Shackel (1818 – abt 1858)**

Brother of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

In 1842 Frederick married Caroline Ann Brown (but always known as Ann C) at St George Hanover Square<sup>19</sup>. His marriage certificate showed his father to be Thomas Shackel, farmer. Frederick was then a Chemist with an address in Oxford Street. His first child was born in 1846 in New Windsor, Berkshire and in 1851 he was living in Peascod Road, New Windsor, described as a chemist and druggist, with his wife, children and a servant<sup>10</sup>.

Sometime between 1854 (the birth of his last child) and 1861 Frederick died while still a young man, but his death is not registered in Windsor. His wife remained a widow and lived a long life in Berkshire and Hertfordshire, finally dying at the age of 91 in Brentford, Middlesex<sup>9</sup>.

#### **Children of Frederick Shackel:**

Frederick and Ann had five children, a son Frederick (b 1848) died as a baby and a daughter Marianne (b 1849) was not found after 1861.

#### **Elizabeth Ann Shackel (b 1846)**

Elizabeth married Charles Lewis, a chemist and wine merchant, and lived a middle class life in Eton, Bucks. They had two children Frank (b 1875) and Mary (b 1878).

#### **Caroline Arabella (b 1851)**

Caroline married in Watford, Herts in 1877, but no information could be found after this.

#### **Robert Frederick (b 1854)**

Robert is always described as a farmer, although he was not living on a farm in any census. In 1881<sup>10</sup> he was in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire and in 1901<sup>10</sup> in a boarding house in Matlock Derbyshire. He never married and died in Lewisham in 1903 aged 49<sup>9</sup>.

## **Jonathan Shackel (1820 – 1875)**

Brother of my 3x great grandfather William Shackel (1810 – 1870)

Jonathan was the youngest child and lived all his life in Wycombe. As a young man he lived at home working on the farm. In 1841 when he was 21 he married Catherine Plaistowe in London<sup>9</sup>.

In 1851<sup>10</sup> he was living in Marsh in Wycombe with his young family, but still working on his father's farm, as he called himself a farmer's son.

In 1861<sup>10</sup>, after the death of his father, he was living with his family in Wycombe Street, Chipping Wycombe and was employed as a gardener, and in 1871<sup>10</sup> was still in Chipping Wycombe and was an agricultural labourer.

He died in 1875 in Wycombe aged 55<sup>9</sup>. His wife remained a widow and lived in Wycombe until she died in 1895<sup>9</sup>.

### **Children of Jonathan Shackel:**

Jonathan and Catherine had four sons and a daughter. None of their children married.

#### **Thomas (b 1844) and George Henry (b 1858)**

The eldest son Thomas and the youngest George Henry did various labouring jobs around Wycombe and lived firstly with their parents and then with their mother. After her death they lodged together in Wycombe<sup>10</sup>.

#### **John (b 1851)<sup>9</sup>**

The second son John died aged 14.

#### **Charles (b 1855)**

Charles lived at home and died in 1886<sup>9</sup>.

#### **Ellen**

Their only daughter Ellen also lived at home and died in 1883 aged 35<sup>9</sup>.





## Chapter 4

### **JOHN SHACKEL (1780 – circa 1850)**

Brother of my 4x great grandfather Thomas Shackel (1777 – 1856)

John SHACKEL

m

Mary SPENCER

John (1810 – 1829)  
Frederick (1812 - ? )  
Mary Sophia (1818 –1890)

John was left several leasehold cottages in Earley (jointly with his brother George) by his father<sup>2</sup>. He married Mary Spencer in Reading in 1808<sup>18</sup> and had three children in Reading between 1810 and 1818. Little more is known of him. It is known he was still alive in 1845 as he was mentioned in his sister's will.

There is a will of a John Shackel who died in Reading in 1853 who was a licensed victualler. He had a wife named Nancy and was formerly a shopman working for a draper. It is possible that this is the John Shackel in question with a second wife, but somehow it does not feel right. The GRO death index doesn't show a John Shackel who died in Reading in 1853 but does show one in 1850. So it is all a puzzle!

### **Children of John Shackel and Mary Spencer**

John and Mary had three children.

#### **John (b 1810)**

John died in London in 1829 and is buried in the family plot in Sonning<sup>5</sup>.

#### **Frederick (b 1812)**

Frederick is not found in any census. So he either died young or went abroad.

#### **Mary Sophia (b 1818)**

Mary is also not found in any census, except there is a Mary of about the same age in an institution in Reading in 1861. But the name Mary Sophia Shackel with the correct dates appears in the GRO death index for 1890 in Reading. It is possible she was in an institution in Reading for most of her life.



## Chapter 5

### GEORGE SHACKEL (1782 – 1839)

Brother of my 4x great grandfather Thomas Shackel (1777 – 1856)

George SHACKEL (1782 – 1839)	m	Mary Jane MORGAN (1785 - 1862)
	I	
Maria Elizabeth (1807 – 1819)	Maria Anne (1809 – ?)	George (1813 – 1872)
	m	m
	Maria MORGAN	Fanny LONGMAN
	I	I
	I	I
	George Fanny John John Morgan Frederick Sarah Maria Albert Ellen Marianne Matilda William	Fanny Alice John Emma Frederick Rose Florence Alfred Dora Jessie Ada

George married in London when he was 24 to Maria Jane Morgan<sup>27</sup>, who was from a large family living in the Bishopgate area of the City of London. How they were introduced is not known, but it was possibly through his uncle William Elliott, who had strong connections with London (both his wives being from there).

George had been left several leasehold cottages in Earley in his father's will<sup>2</sup>, but he does not appear to have lived there, but worked and lived in St Mary, Reading. He and his wife had three surviving children, George, his only son, and daughters Fanny and Ellen. All three were to marry partners who were from, or resided in, London.

When George died in 1839 his will<sup>22</sup> showed him to be a wealthy business man, who left his considerable wealth to his family. His occupation stated in his will was simply a 'gentleman'. In fact little is known about George's business career. His executors were his son and Charles Simonds, who was a banker and a farmer.

His widow lived 23 years after George, residing in Reading. Both were buried at Sonning<sup>28</sup>.

## **Children of George Shackel and Maria Jane Morgan**

Of eleven children, George and Maria had one surviving son and two daughters.

### **George Shackel (1813 – 1872)**

George married at the age of 21 to Maria Morgan, who was a niece of his mother and his first cousin, again she was from the Bishopgate area of London. In his father's will<sup>22</sup> it was mentioned that George had taken an 'advancement' against his future inheritance of £2,276. This was undoubtedly in order to purchase a farm in Mapledurham in Oxfordshire where he began his married life with Maria.

There may have been some scandal about the association of Maria and George as according to the birth date given on the memorial inscription of their first child George, he arrived only four weeks after the marriage ceremony in St Giles, Reading in 1834. Nevertheless George and Maria settled down to a life on the farm and lived there for 12 years, during which a further ten children were born.

His uncle William Shackel, whilst living at Earley Court Farm, inherited Basildon Farm, and with Earley Court now in need of a new owner, around the time of 1847 George took over the farm and went back to the Reading area with his large family and moved into the farmhouse. Over the next couple of years two more children were born, and George set to with modernising the farm. Exhibits in the Rural Life Museum in Reading<sup>18</sup> have several items from Earley Court Farm; such as steam ploughs that showed George to be a progressive farmer of his time. In 1850 an article in the local paper<sup>23</sup> described him as a 'gentleman farmer' and reported on a talk he gave at a dinner for the opening of a new cattle market in Reading.

As his children grew older he was joined in the management of the farm by his second son John, who remained a bachelor. In 1863 he had an entry in the local Trade Directory as a Farmer and Brickmaker<sup>24</sup>, so he was obviously diversifying. George died in 1872<sup>9</sup>, his death was registered at Wokingham, and he was buried in the family plot in Sonning. His widow lived until 1893<sup>9</sup>, first residing at Selbourne House Earley and then Reading.

Seven of George's many children survived to adulthood. The eldest, also George (b 1834), was the heir to Earley Court. He was not a farmer, but a land agent and surveyor and he shut down or leased the farm and changed the name of the house to Erleigh Court. He married Laura Culverwell from Bristol and raised their five children at Erleigh. He retired to Bath and died there in 1899, but both he and his wife were buried in the family plot at Sonning<sup>28</sup>. His son, also named George, went into medicine and his second son Frederick into law.

There is no evidence that the other three sons of George Shackel (b 1813) ever married. John (b 1838), who had been his father's right-hand man at the farm, tried life as a steam plough salesman after the death of his father, but after that lived on his inheritance and died in Dartford Kent in 1919<sup>9</sup>. Albert (b 1843) was a commercial clerk in Deptford, Surrey and his sibling William never seemed to have a job, and was not found after 1871. Of the daughters, Marianne (b 1845) married an auctioneer and surveyor named Henry Hayward and lived in Dover, Kent (they had five children) and Matilda (b 1847) married William Draper Strange, a farmer and brewer of Aldermaston, Berkshire (they had one son named Christopher).

### **Fanny Shackel (1815 – 1892)**

Fanny married at the age of 34 to John Thomas Longman, an engineer of London<sup>18</sup>. They settled in Kensington and had three children Fanny, Alice and John. John Thomas Longman died in 1869 and Fanny continued living in Kensington, with three servants, for some years until she retired to Broadwater in Sussex. She died there in 1892<sup>9</sup>. It is not known what became of her children.

### **Ellen Shackel (1817 – 1904)**

Ellen married at the age of 21 to Frederick Chinnock, a wealthy solicitor and land surveyor originally from Frome, Somerset<sup>18</sup>. He was fifteen years her senior. They lived an opulent life, first in Hendon and then in Marylebone in a five servant household. Over the years they had two sons and six daughters. Frederick died in 1869 in Marylebone<sup>9</sup> and Ellen in Kensington in 1904<sup>9</sup>. Their children were brought up in Marylebone, London and must have cut a dash on the social scene, as the daughters all made good marriages – one even becoming a Baroness. The eldest daughter married Alexander Barret, an American merchant from Kentucky. They lived in Paddington for a time in a household complete with a butler. After this they were not found and probably went to the USA.

Daughter Florence married a wool merchant, Frances Willey of Yorkshire, whose successful career led to him being created Baron Barnby of Blyth in 1922, with Florence becoming a Baroness<sup>25</sup>.

The eldest son Frederick Chinnock was a land agent, and by 1901<sup>10</sup> living in Hampshire with his family and a household of nine servants.



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