

The REAST FAMILY

By June Spendlove

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The Reast family history becomes relevant to the social history of Swineshead when **Mark Reast** (or Rest or Wrest), my 4x great grandfather had his first child, William (Rest or Wrest, both spellings are in the parish register), baptised in St Mary's Church on 10th Feb 1794. Mark himself appears to have come from Ruskington where an entry for his baptism appears at All Saints' Church, Ruskington on 6th May 1770 and where he married Mary Smith on 18 November 1792. He and Mary were both described as "of this parish" and were unable to write their names as they signed by making the mark "X".

Subsequent children were also baptised in **St Mary's** –

Jane: 29th January, 1796;

John: 21st February 1803 (my 3x great grandfather);

Thomas: 10th April 1806;

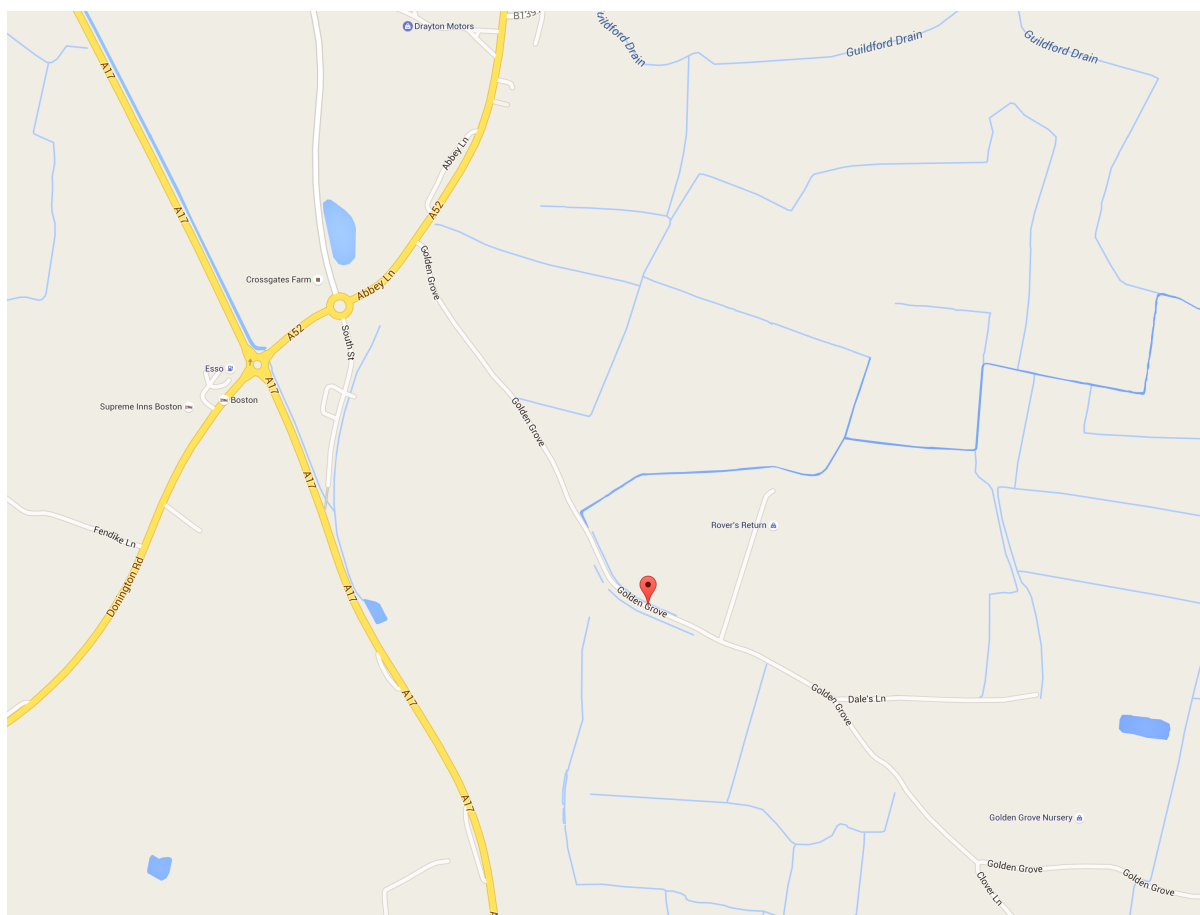
Francis: 17th February 1811;

Elizabeth: 15th March 1813;

George Smith: 1st March 1816 (born on 29th February, Leap Day)

Joseph: 21st April 1818

When **Elizabeth** was christened in 1813 **Mark and Mary** were farmers, living at "**Golden Grove, near Swineshead**" and in the 1841 census **Mark**, age 70 was still a farmer and living at **Aspertons Fields**, also in the household were **Joseph and Martha Reast** both age 20, farmers. No relationships are given so Martha is likely to be Joseph's wife (to be verified), and Joseph may have been Mark's grandson. [see image – p8]



Golden Grove



Mary's burial took place in St Mary's on 10th September, 1840. She was 66. Mark's death took place in 1858 and he was buried in St Mary's on 14 May, age 88.

The only information I have been able to find for their son **William** so far is his burial in **St. Mary's** on 18 June 1823, age 28.

Jane is likely to have married **William Tookey** in Swineshead on 26 Sept 1816.

Thomas appears to have left Swineshead by 1871 and may have been living in Great Hale in 1871, working as a blacksmith; he was described as a widower, (his first wife likely to have been Ann Pell, the marriage having taken place in Great Hale on 26 January 1830) and living in the household of **Mary Wheatman** and her daughter Joanna, a school mistress. He subsequently married Mary Wheatman in the second quarter of 1874, and died 2 years later aged 66.

Francis married **Margaret Rouse** in Swineshead on 24 May 1835; they also left Swineshead and by 1851 they were living at Branston, near Lincoln, now with the name of Rest, with their 3 children. Francis was a carpenter, and Margaret a dressmaker. In 1881 they were living at **St Peters in Eastgate, Lincoln**, and Francis's occupation was then given as wheelwright. He may have moved even further from Swineshead, his possible death being recorded in the Doncaster district in 1895 age 85, which tallies with his year of birth.

Elizabeth is likely to have married **David Day** in Swineshead on 18 October 1832, David was not from Swineshead and in the 1841 census David and Elizabeth are living at Algakirk with their 4 children. Their son George was in Swineshead for the 1851 census living with his grandfather Mark in Golden Grove, Swineshead. At the age of 80, Mark is described by the enumerator as unmarried, rather than widowed, and his occupation is given as a labourer.

George Smith Reast was christened on 1 March 1816 and sadly died shortly afterwards, his burial taking place in St Mary's on 5th May 1816.

Joseph may have married **Mary Tindall** in Ruskington and was living there in 1841 but this has yet to be verified.

The next generation continues with **John Reast** at the age of 24 marrying **Lucy Nidd** on 9 January 1827 – the Lincolnshire Marriage Index transcription states that the marriage took place in Boston.

She was most probably the daughter of Richard Nidd of Fleet, near Spalding. Perhaps she had been in service in Swineshead and they met there, or perhaps John had himself been in service or working near Spalding, but there is no information on John's whereabouts until the 1841 census, when his occupation is Wheelwright, in Swineshead, living at Tarry Hill. With him are wife Lucy, and 7 children from the 14 years of marriage so far - Mary Ann b. 1827, Louisa b. 1829, John b. 1832, William b.1834, Joseph b.1836, **Clement Nidd** b.1838 and Mark b.1840. John and the children onwards had been born in Swineshead.

The population of neighbouring **North End** were mostly agricultural labourers in 1841, apart from **John Pinchbeck** who was a thatcher, and **Richard Hurley** who was a wheelwright, but Tarry Hill folk had more varied occupations, including carpenter, victualler and farmer, as well as John's occupation of wheelwright. Whether he worked for **Richard Hurley**, or vice versa, or there were two wheelwrights' close together, cannot be deduced from the census.

However, in **White's Directory of 1842**, (see elsewhere on the Swineshead History website) John is listed as a wheelwright, alongside Thomas Allen, Richd. Stutely and Wm. Weselby, so there was probably enough work from the surrounding area and village to keep 3 wheelwrights busy. John is also recorded in the census returns for 1851 – 1871 inclusive as a wheelwright, address variously given as Wheelwrights Shop, **Tarry Hill** or just Tarry Hill, and in the Electoral Register for 1872 we know he was entitled to vote in elections, his qualification to vote being "freehold house and land", Tarry Hill. How much land is not shown but the qualification was "in respect of Lands and Tenements, and of Occupiers or as Tenants, at a Rent of £50 and upwards".

By 1851 **Mary Ann** and **Louisa** had left home, Mary Ann most probably marrying **John Favill**, an agricultural labourer, the year before, in 1850 in St Mary's Church, and remaining in **Swineshead Fenhouses** until her death in 1867, and Louisa eventually married first **Henry Brackenbury**, and then eventually **William Sheriden Dobney**, variously schoolmaster, land surveyor, and land surveyor's clerk.

Another son had been born to **John and Lucy** named **Richard**, who had been christened in **St Mary's Church** in 1844. On the 1851 census Lucy has given her place of birth as Fleet and the other children and John all have Swineshead as their birthplace.

The household on the enumerators sheet next to **John and Lucy** were **Edward Francis** and his family; he is described a Miller and Baker, but his name does not feature on information elsewhere on this site relating to the mills in Swineshead; however, Pamela A. Southworth in her book "A History of Swineshead" pub. 1999 mentions **Edward Francis** and his wife keeping a mill in Tarry Hill.

If we knew where this mill was it would give an indication of the location of John's workshop. The same book refers to the workhouse being on Tarry Hill, and also the Gas Cole and Coke Company, established in 1857.

In 1851 there are no occupations for **John's** two eldest sons, **William** and **Joseph**, so perhaps they worked with their father (they were 17 and 14 years old respectively) though both of them appear to have left Swineshead to make their lives elsewhere.

William can eventually be traced to **Helpringham** in 1861 where he was a bricklayer with his wife Jane, and 3 children; he was still there, a widower, in 1871 now a Bricklayer (Master) with 6 children, 2 of which had Thorlby as their middle name, suggesting that his wife may have been Jane Thorlby before her marriage. By 1881 he had remarried, to **Charlotte** and was a bricklayer, still in Helpringham.

Joseph seems to have married **Asenath Machin** of **Quadring** in 1860; 2 of their children were born in Cambridgeshire according to the 1881 census by which time they and their 4 sons were living at Main Street, Pinchbeck where he was a groom/gardener, with no more apparent connections to Swineshead.

Richard was a farm servant in the 1861 census, still living in Swineshead at Rush House, in the employ of **George Cole**, a "farmer of 55 acres, employing man". He was still in Swineshead in 1871, now enumerated as **Richard Nidd Reast**, living "**East of Hale Drove**" with his wife Rebecca (nee Lunn), who he had married in 1866, and their two sons, **Joseph** age 4 and **William** age 8 months. He was an agricultural labourer. He died shortly after the census was taken and was buried in St Mary's Church on 16 June 1871.

Rebecca married again to **Thomas Dawson** in 1875, and in 1881 was living in **Cheese Hill, Swineshead** with son **William Reast Dawson** age 10 and another son **George** age 3. The eldest son of **Richard and Rebecca**, **Joseph**, is likely to be the **Joseph Reast**, in the same household as **John Reast** the wheelwright, his grandfather, and **Lucy** his grandmother in 1881, by which time he was employed as an agricultural labourer, age 14. He and his brother **William** were farm servants, in the household of **Samuel Nobbs**, a farm foreman of **Wigtoft Fen** in 1891, where the trail ends for the time being.

Mark Reast, John and Lucy's fifth child, born about 1840 was still living in Swineshead in 1861, with his parents at **Tarry Hill**, though his occupation was given as bricklayer. He cannot be found on the 1871 and 1881 census, but appears to have died in 1882 age about 40 and been buried at St Mary's on 19th May.

John was living with his daughter **Louisa** (widowed again in 1888) in the 1891 census still at Tarry Hill; the enumerator recorded his occupation as "receiving parochial relief" and **Louisa** is described as housekeeper (domestic). **John**, whose age in this census is given as 88, although his age was 88 when he died three years later, seems to have fallen on hard times.

There is no indication as to what happened to the wheelwright's shop as none of his children carried on the trade in Swineshead. **John** was buried in St Mary's Church on 29th May 1891.

Following my ancestor's line, **Clement Nidd Reast**, **John** the wheelwright and **Lucy's** sixth child, lived in Swineshead until at least the 1861 census when he was living at Frampton, in the household of **John Houghton** and his family, the address being given as "**Middle of Great Fen.**" He was described as a lodger and a farm labourer; **John Houghton** was also a farm labourer so it does not tell us who was employing **Clement**.

Two years later, in 1863, **Clement** married **Emma Sivil** on 2nd June 1863 in St Mary's, Swineshead. **Emma** always gave her place of birth as Swineshead but so far no records have been found to support this. **Emma** was born in approximately 1837 according to the age she gave for the census.

Between 1866 and 1875 **Clement** and **Emma** appear to have produced seven children:

Mary Ann born about 1866;;

Katie or Kate born in Skirbeck in 1869;

Emma born 19 May 1868;

Louisa and Richard (twins) were born on 14 December 1870 and died the same day, being buried in St Mary's on 15 December 1870;

William born 22 May 1872

Lucy Ada born on 27 March 1875.

The family seems to have been back in **Swineshead** by 1871; the census between 1871 and 1911 shows them living first of all “*North of Sleaford and Boston Turnpike*” and then in **North End** or **North End Road**, until 1911 at least.

Clement's occupation is always given as agricultural or farm labourer but there is no indication for whom he worked, except in 1861, as already noted previously.

They had more than the seven children listed above according to the 1911 census, which recorded living and non-living children – they had apparently 10 children altogether, 6 of whom have died with 4 still living.

Mary Ann apparently married **Domanico Devoto** in 1884 and died in Boston district age 24 in 1889.

The research continues ☺

Parish of Swineston

City or Borough of Swineston
Parish or Township of Swineston Enumeration Schedule

PLACE	HOUSES Occupied or Unoccupied	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS	Where Born in this County or Abroad	
			Males	Females			
Wrayton		Thomas Verdes	55			✓	
		Thomas Verdes	15		✓	✓	
		1 Edward Blackburn	30		Farmer	✓	
		John Blackburn	75			✓	
	Riponfield		1 Mark Reast	70		Farmer	✓
			Joseph	20		✓	✓
			Elizabeth	30		✓	✓
			John Brown	30		✓	✓
			John Brown	20		✓	✓
			Mary Blackburn	30		✓	✓
			William Messers	10		✓	✓
			Henry Blackburn	9		✓	✓
			1 Mary Girdle	30		Farmer	✓
			Sarah	20		✓	✓
		Thomas	2		✓	✓	
	George	1		✓	✓		
	William Gumb	25		✓	✓		
	David Thaps	15		✓	✓		
	Harriet Mathews	14		✓	✓		
Riponfield		1 Francis Leeson	60		✓	✓	
		1 Mary Leeson	50		✓	✓	
		1 George Blackburn	60		✓	✓	
		Martha Blackburn	30		✓	✓	
		Charlotte	10		✓	✓	
	John	10		✓	✓		
TOTAL in	5		✓ 16	✓			

PLACE	HOUSES Occupied or Unoccupied	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS	Where Born in this County or Abroad	
			Males	Females			
Riponfield		1 Mary	4			✓	
		Emma	4			✓	
		John	2			✓	
		John	1			✓	
		1 Richard Blackburn	30		✓	✓	
		Elizabeth Blackburn	70		✓	✓	
		George	14		✓	✓	
		Andrew	6		✓	✓	
	Riponfield		1 Bridget Thaps	75		Farmer	✓
			Thos	30		✓	✓
		David	30		✓	✓	
		John	30		✓	✓	
		1 David Jackson	25		Farmer	✓	
		Harriet Jackson	20		✓	✓	
		John	5		✓	✓	
		Joseph	10		✓	✓	
		James	5		✓	✓	
		John	4		✓	✓	
	1 Thomas Mathews	30		✓	✓		
	Mathews	30		✓	✓		
	Thomas	2		✓	✓		
	1 James Girdle	25		Farmer	✓		
	John	20		✓	✓		
	Mary Ann	2		✓	✓		
	James	2		✓	✓		
TOTAL in	5		✓ 16	✓			

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1841 Census – Mark REAST