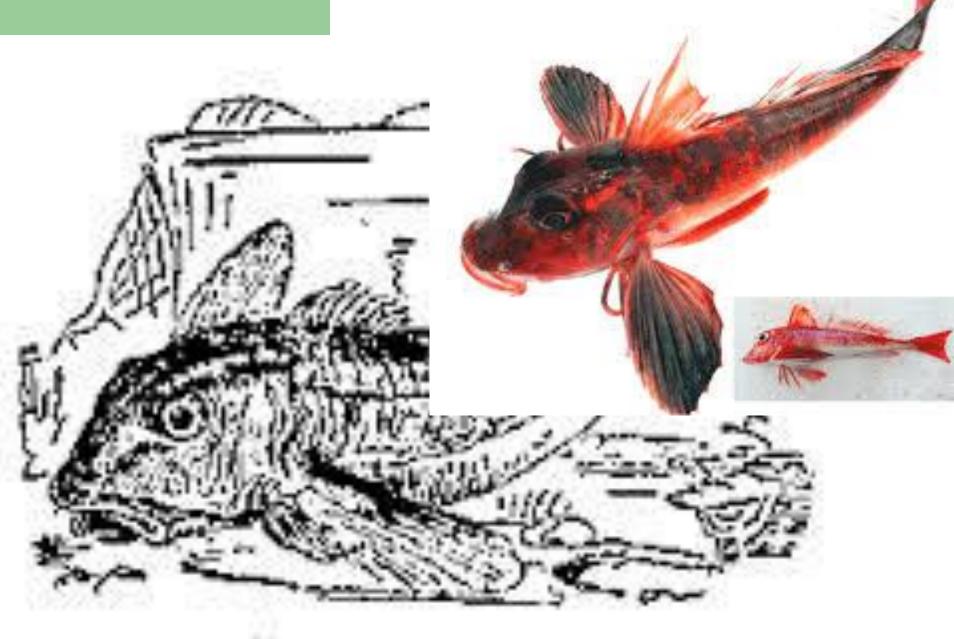
# GURNETT family of Swanbourne

Talk by Neil Rees 2014



THE GURNET.

#### **Gurnetts worldwide**

- There are approximately:
  - 445 people in the UK
  - 235 in the United States
  - 155 in Australia

### **Early Gurnetts**

- Richard Gernet of Essex in the Domesday Book in 1086
  - There is an Essex family of Gurnetts to this day
  - Possibly all the Gurnetts descend from this family

# Sir Thomas Gurnett pub Aveley, Essex

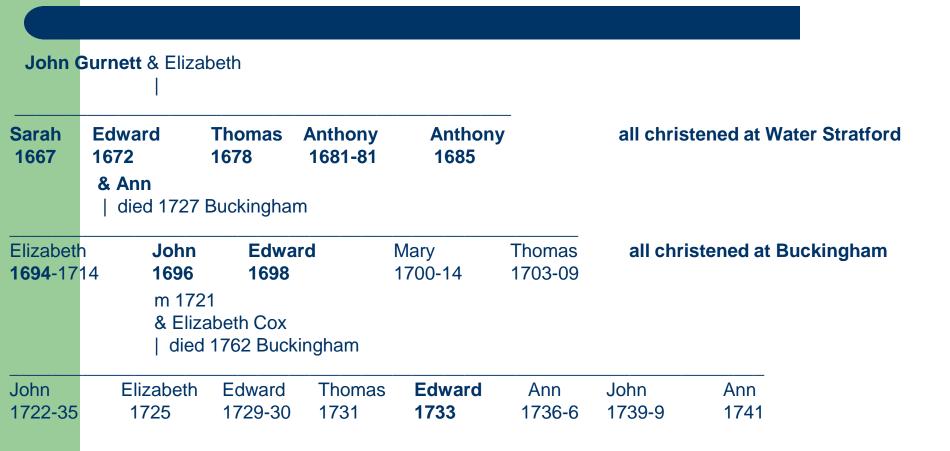


#### **Northern Gurnetts**

- Benedict Gernet in the pipe rolls of Nottingham in 1196
- Place called Gurnett near Macclesfield



### **Gurnetts in North Bucks since 1600s**



likely ancestors of Swanbourne Gurnetts?

# Dinton parish register 30 Jan 1761



- Edward Gurnitt of the parish of Swanbourne,
   widower
   and Ann Hitchcock, spinster
   of Dinton was marryed in this Church by License,
   this thirteenth Day of January in the Year
   one thousand seven hundred and sixty one
- Ann Hitchcock christened 1737 Dinton, (married aged 24)
- Edward Gurnett christened 1733 Buckingham (?)

### Dinton estate records November 1761

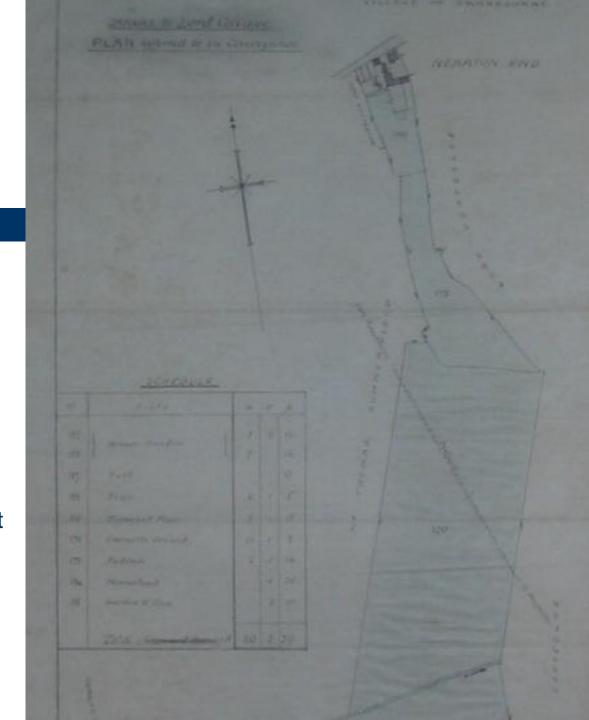
- Abraham Lee plaintiff.
- Edward Gurnett and Ann his wife, deforciants
- 2 messuages,
  2 barns, 2 stables, 2 gardens, 2 orchards,
  50a. land, 20a. meadow, 20a.pasture
  in Swanbourne and Ford, Dinton

# **Gurnett's Ground**

1762 Inclosure Award

Gurnett's Ground Nearton End behind Brook Farm

39 acres
awarded to Edward Gurnett
In lieu of lands he was
already farming



#### **Dinton land records**

1765 Ann Gurnett of Ford, Dinton, widow

Will of Edward Gurnett of Denham died
 1765 mentions his wife Ann

# Baptists at Ford, Dinton? 1640s, old chapel built 1712



# **Swanbourne Registers**



- First Gurnett mentioned in parish registers
- Benjamin Gurnett of Swanbourne
- 1787 married Rebecca Brome

- then 1839 buried aged 77
  - therefore born about 1762
  - most likely son of Edward Gurnett

# **Origin of Swanbourne Gurnetts**

#### Ann Hitchcock **Edward Gurnett** m. 1761 of Swanbourne of Ford, Dinton married at Dinton Church 1761 christened 21 Feb 1737 at Dinton awarded Gurnett's Ground 1762 died 1765 **Benjamin Gurnett** m. 1787 Rebecca Brome born about 1762 born about 1760 married at 5 Nov 1787 died 1839 aged 77 died 1823 aged 63 buried in Swanbourne buried in Swanbourne

ancestor of all Swanbourne Gurnetts

### **Children of Benjamin Gurnett**

6 children

1.	Benjamin Gurnett	christened	2 Dec 1788	buried	29 Jan 1789	aged 2 months
2.	Benjamin Gurnett	christened	20 Dec 1789	buried	16 Oct 1861	aged 84
3.	John Gurnett	christened	6 July 1794	buried	19 Jan 1865	aged 72
4.	Ann Gurnett	christened	6 Aug 1797	buried	26 Feb 1810	aged 12
5.	William Gurnett	christened	29 Oct 1800	buried	23 May 1837	aged 35
6.	Rebecca Gurnett	christened	25 Mar 1804	buried	3 Nov 1805	aged 1½

- All the Gurnetts of Swanbourne descend from:
  - Benjamin Gurnett (1st family group)
  - John Gurnett (2<sup>nd</sup> family group)

#### sons of John Gurnett

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John Gurnett
1821 m Elizabeth Anstee
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Charles John 1829 1833

2 brothers married 2 sisters:

m Elizabeth Wilmore m Mary Ann Wilmore

went to Australia 1855 stayed in Swanbourne

### **Family of John Gurnett**

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John Gurnett 1794-1865
1821 m Elizabeth Anstee
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        Benjamin
        Mary
        Charles
        John
        Ann

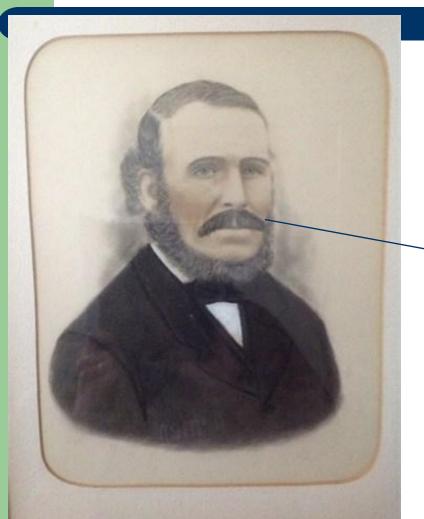
        1821
        1826
        1829
        1833
        1838
```

m Jane Prior

l V

son Thomas emigrated to Queensland 1877 ancestors of 2<sup>nd</sup> Swanbourne Gurnett family group

#### **Charles Gurnett 1829-99**



Emigrated to Australia 1855

Descendants live around Sydney to this day New South Wales Gurnetts





# family of Benjamin Gurnett members of Baptist Chapel

Benjamin Gurnett 1789-1861 son of Benjamin & Rebecca Gurnett married thrice:

- 1. Arabella died 1815 (probably in childbirth)
  - son John Gurnett 1815
- Sarah Claridge married 1818
   son William Gurnett 1826
   ancestors of 1<sup>st</sup> Swanbourne Gurnett family
- 3. Sarah Pitkin married 1833 adopted her son **Thomas Pitkin**

MARRIAGES folemnized in the Parish of Sandonne in the Year 18	18)
Binjamin Gurnett of This	Parifh
and Sarah Claradge of This I	
were married in this Small by Band with Confe	ent of
By me _ Continue Charles farm	7
This Marriage was folemnized between us \ Sirah Clearinge	
In the Presence of Sangh Figure	17 111
William Pantlem of this I	David.

#### **Gurnett half-brothers**

- John and William Gurnett in Royal Marines
- 1844 William joined Royal Marines
- 1854 Battle of Inkerman, Crimea 1854

I told the story in Kiev



#### **Gurnett half-brothers**

- John Gurnett 1815-1880
  - 1856 married Ann Maria Davis in Woolwich
  - descendants live in the Woolwich/Plumstead area
- William Gurnett 1826-1887
  - 1862 married Charlotte Alderman in Woolwich
  - they lived at Woolwich
  - 1865 discharged and moved back to Swanbourne
  - 8 children, joined the Primitive Methodists
  - descendants live in Swanbourne area to this day

# **Granny Gurnett with daughters Annie (b 1863) and Edie (b 1877)**



#### **Children of William Gurnett**

- 1. Hannah Rebecca GURNETT, born 1863 born at Woolwich
  - 1. 1897 married her cousin Edward ALDERMAN at Swanbourne
- John William GURNETT, born 1865 at Woolwich, died 1943
   1892 married Annie PARKER of Cublington, Bucks at Swanbourne, Bucks
- Charlotte Ellen GURNETT, born 1867 at Swanbourne, died 1852 married Sidney GADBURY
- Mary Alice GURNETT, born 1869, Swanbourne died 1948
   1897 married John Harris SPITTLES of Gt Missenden
- 5. Charles Edwin GURNETT, born 1871 Swanbourne, died 1897
- Amy Florence GURNETT, born 1873, died 1952
   1898, 26 September married William Edward HERMON
- Edith Minnie GURNETT, born 1877, Swanbourne, died 1960 married FRED JAPES
- Alderman Ernest GURNETT, born 1885, died 1967
   1907,married Amy CUTLER of Cublington, Bucks



# John William 1865-1943 & Annie Gurnett



Bill Gurnett

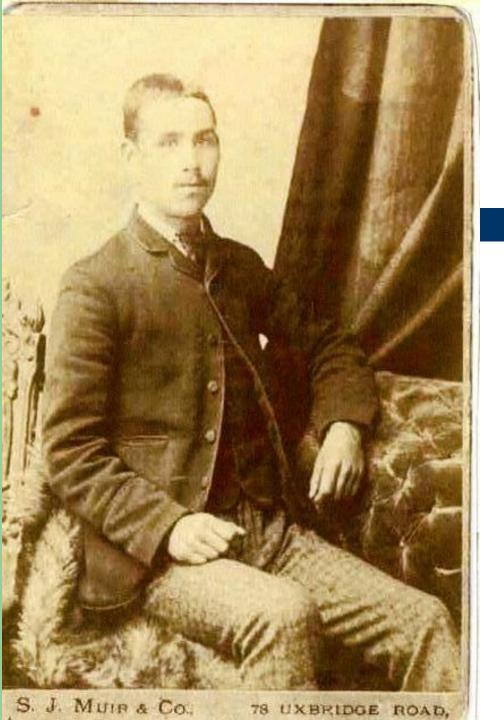


Madge Gurnett



Floss Gurnett





- Charles Edwin Gurnett
- gardener

- June 1897 was due to marry his fiancee Elizabeth Massey
- she cancelled the wedding
- He committed suicide in depression

#### DISTRIBSING SUICIDE AT BWANBOURNE

WAS TO HAVE BEEN MARRIED.

An inquest was held on Saturday on the body of Charles Gurnett, a man of twenty-five, employed as under gardener at Swanbourne

House, Bucks. From the evidence of deceased's

brother; Wm. Gurnett, and another man named Willis, it appeared that deceased was missed on Thursday morning, and after calling for him repeatedly, search was made in the shrubbery,

where he was found kneeling, but not dead ; and where he told his brother it was of no use sending

for a doctor as he had poisoned himself. and should, soon be dead. Dr. Vaisey, of Winslow, was at once sent for, but on his arrival the poor fellow was dead. Deceased's mother's evidence

was to the effect that the deceased was quite unlikely to have poisoned himself, and that he had suffered from heart disease.... The young

woman to whom deceared was to have been married in a few days also gave evidence, and said she had received a bright and cheerful letter from him that morning. The jury, after hear-

ing this evidence, decided to adjourn the inquest till the afternoon for a post mortem examination, which Dr. Vaiscy was requested to make. At the adjourned inquest Dr. Vaisey stated that

the inside of the stomach was very much inflamed, and, denuded of mucous membrane, it presented all the signs of irritant poisoning, but

what the nature of the poison was he could not say. The heart was sound. It was stated by the witness Willis that deceased had been using some poisonous weed killer. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from taking irritant poison

SOTTOW.

during a state of temporary insanity.". Deceased and his friends are highly respected in the village, and the occurrence has caused much 



# **Alderman Ernest & Amy Gurnett**



# Alderman Ernest "Jim" Gurnett









Swanbourne School 1913

May Tofield (Gurnett)

**Ernest William Frank Gurnett** 

Bill Gurnett

# **Sept 1948 Cricket Team**

Joe Gurnett

**Bill Gurnett** 



Fred Japes

# 2014 Gurnett family at Ruth's 80<sup>th</sup> all descendants of William Gurnett

