This history of the Newhouse Estate has been compiled from various sources including the Internet. Not all sources are 100% reliable and subsequently this account may also perpetuate some of those errors. The information contained in this document is therefore for general information purposes only. Whilst I have tried to ensure that the information given is correct, I cannot guaranty the accuracy or reliability of the sources used or the information contained in this document.

Whilst the majority of the Newhouse estate lies within the parish of Redlynch, as a neighbouring estate and with its family connections it is relevant to include it in a History of Landford.
The following information on the history of the Newhouse estate is taken from mainly two sources, namely British History Online – Downton, and History of Redlynch.

The house of Newhouse

A 'court', presumably a manor-house, stood at Barford c.1300. A manor-house, possibly the same building, stood on the freehold estate in 1539. In 1568/1569 John Stockman of Barford was building a new house to replace it. His son William possibly built Newhouse and Hamptworth Lodge as its hunting lodges.

In 1619 Newhouse was said to be newly built. Its similarity in some respects to Longford Castle in Britford and the fact that Edward, Lord Gorges (d. c.1650), owned both houses have led to the suggestion that it was built as a hunting lodge for Lord Gorges. However, it appears to have been bought by Gorges and with Hamptworth Lodge was possibly one of a pair of hunting lodges built for William Stockman of Barford. Newhouse is notable for its unusual plan which is formed from a hexagon with sides of c. 18 ft. (5 m.) in the form of a Y with a square projection to each alternate side. The walls are of red brick and rise three storeys to triangular gables above each face. The trinitarian pattern suggests that the design was symbolic, as has been claimed for Longford, but nothing is known of Stockman's religious inclination. The original plan of the interior has not survived later alterations and only one upper room has a full range of early-17th century panelling. In 1742 the north wing was extended when a dining room of one lofty storey was added. There may already have been a small addition, since demolished, to the south wing when c. 1760 a drawing-room of comparable size to the dining-room was added to complete the symmetry of the west front. About the same time further alterations, including the insertion of a new central staircase, were made to the house. Extensive service quarters were added on the north-east side in the 19th century, and c. 1907 the drawing-room was redecorated in early Georgian style by Maple & Co. The 19th-century additions were demolished in 1975 and a restoration of the house begun.

Family history of the Newhouse estate

Newhouse was built in imparked land surrounded by woodland. It stands at the top of a steep rise with falling ground to the south where in the early 18th century some 70 acres of landscaped park was laid out. That was in decay in the early 19th century and in 1975 all that remained was a drive, flanked in part by canals, along part of the line of the western avenue.

In 1619 William Stockman sold an estate of freehold land in Whiteparish, on which Newhouse was built, and copyhold of inheritance land in East Downton tithing to Sir Edward Gorges, Bt. (later Baron Gorges). In 1633 Lord Gorges sold it to Giles Eyre (d. 1655) who settled it on his son Ambrose. In 1660 Ambrose's son William sold it to his cousin Sir Samuel Eyre (d. 1698) who already held copyhold of inheritance land in East Downton. Newhouse Estate, consisting of imparked freehold land in Whiteparish and copyhold of inheritance land and land held customarily of Winchester College in Downton parish, passed to Sir Samuel's son Sir Robert (d. 1735) and grandson Robert Eyre (d. 1752) whose widow Mary held it until her death in 1762. It passed to Robert's cousin Samuel Eyre and in 1795 to Samuel's son-in-law William Purvis Eyre. William's widow Susannah held it until her death in 1833 when it passed to her son-in-law George Matcham (d. 1877). At inclosure in 1822 allotments of 18 acres near Bohemia and 57 acres in the Franchise were added to the estate which in 1837 measured some 270 acres in Downton parish. Matcham was succeeded by his son William Eyre Eyre-Matcham (d. 1906), grandson George Henry Eyre Eyre-Matcham (d. 1939), and
great-grandson John St. Leger Eyre-Matcham (d. 1975). In 1975 the estate measured some 1,000 acres, of which a small proportion was in Whiteparish.

John St. Leger Eyre-Matcham died without issue and the estate passed to his youngest sister Constance Valentine Matcham who married Commander Edmund Valentine Jeffreys. They had two children, the eldest son being George William Eyre Valentine Jeffreys, born 20 Apr 1931 (current holder of Newhouse) and his sister Catherine Elizabeth Eyre Jeffreys born 25 May 1933. She married Anthony William Lane, son of Eric William Lane, on 22 Aug 1953.

The Newhouse website relates that in 1986 when George and June Jeffreys inherited Newhouse it was almost derelict and close to being condemned. However, since then they have restored the house and gardens to make a comfortable family home.

History of the Newhouse estate

From before the Norman Conquest, a large area of land around Downton belonged to the See of Winchester. Between 1066 and 1086 four free tenures in lands were created from it. Domesday Book does not tell where the lands lay, but from them emerged the manors and estates of Redlynch, Hamptworth, Woodfalls, and Charlton around Downton and several manors around Bishopstone. In 1086 the bishop was left with an estate assessed at 59½ hides\(^1\), probably more than half of it at Downton, which continued to pass with the See. Bishopstone was afterwards itself a manor.

Barford manor passed as part of Redlynch manor to Sir Thomas Lovel (d. 1567) who in 1566–7 sold both manors to John Stockman, who in turn sold Redlynch manor but retained and resided at Barford.

In the Middle Ages the bishops' manor included extensive lands east of Downton from which three substantial copyhold of inheritance estates emerged in the 16th and 17th centuries. By the late 1520s Richard Matthew (d. 1557) had accumulated a large holding. In 1566 his son Tristram conveyed a large part of it, including lands east of Barford down and land at Paccombe, to John Stockman. The Barford portion was merged with Barford farm. The Paccombe land, Paccombe farm, passed with Barford farm until the sale of 1806, when it was bought by Jacob, Earl of Radnor. In 1822 allotments totalling 55 acres in the Franchise were made in respect of Paccombe farm. In the later 19th century or early 20th the farm was sold to Jonathan Taunton. It passed to his son J. W. Taunton after whose death it was sold to J. G. S. Mitchell (d. 1964), whose executors owned it in 1975. The land in the Franchise, Radnor firs and other land, was part of Newhouse estate in 1975.

From the later 15th century all the bishop of Winchester's customary land in Barford, Barford farm, was leased, and from 1564 to Stockman. In 1566 Stockman also acquired copyhold of inheritance land of Downton manor adjoining his Barford lands to the south and east. The leasehold and copyhold estates, both by then very favourable tenures, passed to his son William with his freehold estate as one manor. John died in 1605 but his lands had been held since c.1594 by William, who in 1598 and 1599 received royal grants of them, and who bought one of the Hamptworth manors. William was succeeded in 1635 by his son William who died in 1650 leaving as heir his brother Joseph (d. after 1670). Joseph had sons William, John, and Joseph and left a widow Constance but between 1673 and 1677 his lands at Barford were sold to Sir Francis Chaplin (d. 1680), an alderman of London. Sir Francis had sons John, to whom the freehold and leasehold

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\(^{1}\) The hide was not a fixed area of land. It was a measure of value, not of area.
passed, and Robert, to whom the copyhold passed. The whole estate was sold c. 1690 to the wealthy banker and politician Sir Charles Duncombe (d. 1711) who devised it to his nephew Anthony Duncombe, later Lord Feversham.

The events of the Reformation apparently had a far-reaching effect at Downton. In the 15th century, presumably to stabilize the income from the manor after a period of falling profits, bishops had granted leases of the demesne lands at fixed rents renewable apparently without fine, and rents for and fines for admission to copyholds became fixed. Having thus had a variable income compounded into a largely fixed income the manor was of progressively less value to the bishops. Even in the later 18th century and the 19th it was comparatively of much less value than it had been before the Reformation. On the other hand the leaseholds and copyholds, called copyholds of inheritance, held by tenures so favourable in the long term, gradually assumed the importance of freeholds and their descents are traced under the headings of the villages in which they lay. In the later 19th century the rents and fines were extinguished when the freeholds of the lordship and the demesne lands were sold to the leaseholders.

Woodlands on the downs on the east side of the Avon valley remained part of the bishops' manor until 1592 when they were disparked and allotted in strips to those with rights to repair their leasehold and copyhold tenements with the bishops' wood. At least from the early 17th century the bishops' woods at Loosehanger belonged to the farmers in fee of New Court farm. They were imparked, and the park passed with the farm until the 19th century when it became part of the Newhouse estate. Probably in the mid-17th century the woods at Loosehanger were inclosed by bank and ditch (still visible), and in the later 17th century when they were used for the production of barrel timber, Loosehanger was described as a park. It was leased as a farm only c.1740 when it consisted of 73 acres and the herbage of 137 acres of woodland. It measured 109 acres in 1837 and remained a separate farm until c.1969. The woods at Timber hill passed by copy with Newhouse. The woodland, Grove copse at Pensworth, had become part of Newhouse estate by 1900.

In 1521 all Winchester College's customary lands at Downton were leased together as a small farm with some 45 acres and a new tenement, in 1724 said to be on the corner of Barford Lane and High Street. By 1837 the farm had been broken up. In the mid-18th century the college's principal copyholder was Mary Eyre, relict of Robert Eyre of Newhouse. Her holding, Lower Pensworth farm, 165 acres in 1797, passed with the Newhouse estate. The farm was compact, adjoining Newhouse, and became the home farm of the estate. In 1975 it was a dairy farm of 132 acres. The farm at Timber hill was a dairy farm of 83 acres in 1975 when it was called Newhouse farm.

At inclosure in 1822 some 4 acres at Bohemia were added to the Hamptworth estate, called Timberleys farm, which measured some 49 acres in 1837. That farm was sold to George Matcham in 1858 and passed with the Newhouse estate. In 1837 it was primarily an arable farm of 35½ acres with a farmstead on the south side of Timberley Lane. By 1858 it had become a small dairy farm without arable land. It was a dairy farm of some 40 acres in 1975.

The commons in East Downton tithing were inclosed in 1822. Extensive areas of land, especially in the Franchise, were added to existing estates. Quar hill plantation, 70 acres, later became part of Newhouse estate.
A History of Landford in Wiltshire

Part 10 – Newhouse

Section 2 - Table of Owners of Newhouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1606</td>
<td>William Stockman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1619</td>
<td>Sir Edward Gorges, Bt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1633</td>
<td>Giles Eyre (d. 1655)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 1635</td>
<td>Ambrose Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1649</td>
<td>William Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1660</td>
<td>Sir Samuel Eyre (d. 1698), cousin of William Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1698</td>
<td>Sir Robert Eyre (d. 1735)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1735</td>
<td>Robert Eyre (d. 1752)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1752</td>
<td>Mary (d.1762), widow of Robert Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1762</td>
<td>Samuel Eyre, cousin of Robert Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>William Purvis Eyre, son-in-law of Samuel Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>Susannah, widow of William Purvis Eyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833</td>
<td>George Matcham (d. 1877), son-in-law of Susannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>William Eyre Eyre-Matcham (d. 1906)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>George Henry Eyre Eyre-Matcham (d. 1939)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>John St. Leger Eyre-Matcham (d. 1975)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>George William Eyre Valentine Jeffreys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3 – Family connections with Newhouse

William Stockman (1560-1635)

Taken mainly from The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1604-1629.

Born about 1560, the eldest son of John Stockman of Downton and his 2nd wife Dorothy, the daughter of (?) John Good of East Tytherley, Hants. William was educated at Thavie’s Inn, Lincolns Inn, 1579. He married firstly Jane (bur 15 Jan 1614) with whom he had six sons, of which four predeceased him. On 9 Nov 1619 he then married Anne (bur 22 Apr 1645), the daughter of Thomas Ernley of Brembridge, Westbury, Wilts, the widow of Henry Dove (d.1616) of Salisbury, Wilts. They had one son, Joseph (bap 23 Sep 1621, bur 1 Nov 1675). William succeeded his father in 1606. He was buried on 2 Nov 1635.

The Stockman family had been settled at Downton, Wiltshire since the early sixteenth century. In the 1560s his father, John, purchased a 61-year lease of the bishop of Winchester’s local estates, including Barford, where he built a mansion house in 1569. He subsequently leased several other Wiltshire properties from the Crown, as well as the keepership of East Meon Park, Hampshire. By 1575 John belonged to the 2nd earl of Pembroke’s household, perhaps as surveyor of his estates. William Stockman himself took out a lease of five parsonages in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire in 1586, and later purchased a manor in Hampshire. His father settled Barford and another manor on him in 1598, and he inherited the remainder of the family estates in 1606. This made him a landowner of substance: his holding in Whiteparish alone, four miles east of Downton, was worth £500 p.a.

William Stockman’s election for Downton in 1604 can be explained by his links to the bishop of Winchester and with William Herbert, 3rd earl of Pembroke. The returning officer at Downton was the bailiff of the bishop’s liberty, an office held by the Stockman family by right of their lease of Barford manor. If this interest was not sufficient of itself, Stockman’s links to the Pembroke interest doubtless secured him a nomination, as the earl leased Downton manor from the bishop. Stockman made no recorded contribution to the work of the Commons, and though he became receiver of Pembroke’s Wiltshire estates by 1610, he was not returned to Parliament again.

By 1619 Stockman had built extensive hunting lodges close to Downton at Hamptworth and Newhouse. The latter was constructed in hexagonal form, and was probably modelled upon nearby Longford Castle, recently rebuilt by Sir Thomas Gorges. However, these undertakings may have contributed to his financial embarrassment, for he began selling numerous farms to honour mounting debts. He also encountered difficulties with the bishop, who sued him in 1613 for allegedly mismanaging certain woodland. However, Stockman’s lease of the bailiff’s office at Downton was renewed in 1628. Stockman immediately leased the office to Thomas Pinchon, but when the bishop withheld the latter’s fees for three years for failing to collect revenues, Pinchon sued Stockman for the recovery of his £100 purchase price.

Stockman made his will on 7 June 1635. Asking to be buried in the chancel at Downton by the side of his father, wife and four sons who had predeceased him, he left a total of £340 to various relatives and £55 to the poor of Downton and neighbouring Whiteparish. His farm stock and chattels were left to his wife, while two manors in Hampshire and land in Whiteparish were to be settled on two of his surviving sons. Stockman died on 2nd November following and was buried at Downton on the same day. No further member of the family served in Parliament. Stockman himself was remembered in Downton by a charity established in 1626, which continued until at least 1823.
The parish online records available for Downton do not contain births prior to 1600. Consequently the following family construction is based on burial dates only and is only supposition on my part.

John Stockman  
bur 3 Jul 1606  
In the 1560s purchased Barford estate and built mansion house in 1569. By 1575, he belonged to Earl of Pembroke’s household.  
m. ?

m. Dorothy, dau (John?) Good of East Tytherley, Hants  
s. William  
See below

William Stockman (c1560-1635)  
b. c1560  
Educated Lincoln’s Inn in 1579  
bur 2 Nov 1635  
In 1586 took out lease on 5 parsonages; Barford settled on him in 1598, inherited rest in 1606.  
Elected MP for Downton in 1604, receiver of Pembroke’s estates by 1610. In 1619 built hunting lodges at Hamptworth and Newhouse.

m. Jane or Joyce  
bur 5 Jan 1614  
s. John  
bur 13 Oct 1616  
m. Ann  
d. Dorothy  
bur 21 Jun 1669  
s. William  
b. c1589  
s. John  
bur 21 Apr 1625  
s. Samuel  
bur 27 Mar 1626  
s. Walter  
bur 5 Jul 1626  
s. Thomas  
bur 21 Feb 1634  
s. Edward  
bur 29 Dec 1641

m. 9 Nov 1619, Anne (bur 12 Apr 1645), wid Henry Dove (d. 1616), dau Thomas Ernley of Bembridge, Westbury  
s. Joseph  
bap 23 Sep 1621  
bur 1 Nov 1675  
m. Ann, dau Thomas Leigh (b. c1589)  
d. 22 Feb 1674, bur 26 Feb 1674  
d. Elizabeth  
bur 6 Oct 1671  
s. John  
b. c1640  
d. 1686

Sir Thomas Gorges (1536 – 1610)  
Of Wraxall in Somerset and Knighton in Hants.

Sir Thomas Gorges was an Elizabethan courtier and Groom of the Privy Chamber to Queen Elizabeth I. By his great-grandmother, Lady Anne Howard, daughter of John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, he was a second cousin of queen consorts Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard.  

By c1570 he was a groom of the privy chamber, a gentleman usher and gentleman of the Queen’s robes and also keeper of Hurst Castle in reversion by September of that year and made keeper in 1589. A JP of Wiltshire from 1579, ambassador to Sweden in 1582, keeper for Guildford park 1592-1607 and of Richmond House in 1597. He was DL for Wiltshire in 1608.

In 1573, Thomas Gorges acquired the manor of Langford, now Longford, in Wiltshire. In 1576 he married Helena Snakenborg (1549-1638), a Swedish noblewoman, the dowager Marchioness of Northampton and
Lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth I. Thomas was knighted at Beddington in 1586. They had seven children and their fourth child was Edward Gorges, 1st Baron Gorges of Dundalk. (See below)

At his wife’s instigation, he pulled down the ancient mansion of the Carvington’s where they built a triangular Swedish pattern castle - Longford Castle - on the banks of the River Avon. This was based on the plan of the castle of Wrainberg, built by Tycho Brayhe. The castle had a round tower in each corner, and a park, fruit garden and kitchen garden. So much was spent on the building, that it would not have been completed but for the fortunate windfall of the hull of a Spanish galleon wrecked near Hurst Castle during the Spanish Armada (1588). Sir Thomas just happened to be Governor of Hurst Castle and Lady Gorges asked the Queen if she could have the wreck, and the request was granted and found to be laden with bars of silver and other treasure of great value.

In the reign of James I, Sir Thomas Gorges and his wife were granted the offices of Keeper of the palace of West Sheen or Richmond, keeper of the wardrobe, vessels and provisions there, and keeper of the gardens and of Richmond Park; and Letters of Privy Seal granting her an allowance of £245-5s-0d per annum.

Sir Thomas died on 30 Mar 1610 and was buried in Salisbury Cathedral, Wiltshire, where he and his wife Helena have a remarkable monument. His will showed that he held extensive estates in Wiltshire, Hampshire, Huntingdonshire, Devon and Somerset. Also properties in Salisbury and London.

Sir Edward Gorges (c.1582-c.1650)

Edward Gorges received the honour of knighthood from King James 1 on 9 Apr 1603 and created Baronet of Longford in the County of Wiltshire, in the Baronetage of England, on 25 Nov 1611. On 13 July 1620 he was made Baron Gorges of Dundalk in the county of Louth, a title in the Peerage of Ireland. Lord Gorges of Dundalk was the eldest surviving son of Thomas Gorges of Longford Castle, Wiltshire, and Helena, Marchioness of Northampton.

Sir Edward first married Katherine Osborne (c. 3 Jul 1605), daughter of Sir Robert Osborne with whom he had ten children, including a son Richard, 2nd Baron Gorges of Dundalk, who died in September 1712. Richard had a son Thomas who predeceased his father. Consequently his honours and the Baronetcy expired in 1712.

Sir Edward was married for a second time to Jane Throxton and they had one son.

Details of the Gorges family are given in Appendix 1 – Families associated with Landford and their ancestors.
The Eyre family.

A detailed family ancestry is given in Appendix 2 – The Eyres of Newhouse, Brickworth, Landford and Bramshaw

Thomas Eyre of New Sarum (1535-1628)

Thomas Eyre of New Sarum (son of Robert Eyre, a lineal descendant of Humphrey Le Heyr, of Bromham, Wilts and M.P. for New Sarum in 1557 and Mayor of New Sarum 1559), was baptised in 1535 at Chilhampton, New Sarum, Wilts. About 1567 he married Susan Elizabeth, daughter of John Rogers of Poole, descended from the family of Rogers of Brianston, Dorset. (She was the sister of Robert Poole, Citizen of London, who founded the Cripplegate Almshouses).

He became Mayor of Salisbury in 1587. He was MP for New Sarum in 1597. He held lands in Wimborne, Dorset, in 1597 and also purchased the Manor of Chilhampton in 1610 and also South Newton, Wiltshire. He died on 1 Nov 1628 and was buried in St. Thomas's Church, the father of fifteen children. (His monument is in St. Thomas's Church, Salisbury).

Giles Eyre of Brickworth (1572-1655)

Giles Eyre was the second son of Thomas Eyre (see above), and was the founder of the Brickworth and Irish branches of the family. He was baptized on 27 Feb 1572. On 26 Sep 1603 he married Jane the daughter and heiress of Ambrose Snelgrove, of Redlynch, Wilts.

In 1567 Redlynch manor was divided and the then owner John Stockman sold the larger part, later called Redlynch farm, to the lessee Robert Snelgrove (d.1593). Snelgrove was succeeded by his son Ambrose, whose heir was his daughter Jane, wife of Giles Eyre. The farm, which was held with a copyhold of inheritance estate in East Downton tithing, thereafter passed from father to son in the Eyre family of Brickworth. In 1604 the executors of John Stockman sold to Giles Eyre then of Redlynch, copyhold of inheritance land in East Downton tithing with the land in Whiteparish on which he built Brickworth House. It was afterwards merged with Redlynch manor with which its later history is recorded.

Giles Eyre suffered much for his opposition to the government measures during the time of James I and Charles I. He was a very strong supporter of the Parliamentarian Party, and suffered on account of his opinions. He himself and three of his sons were members of the council of Oliver Cromwell, and two of them, John and Edward Eyre, accompanied the Cromwellian, General Ludlow, to Ireland, where they founded the family of the Eyres in Ireland.

Giles Eyre built the Mansion House of Brickworth in the parish of Whiteparish c.1605, including the folly at Pepperbox Hill. [In 1860 Brickworth House was destroyed by fire and rebuilt]. He was Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1640. He died and was buried at Whiteparish on 16 Jan 1655. Close by the west door of Whiteparish Church is a tablet to his memory, from which we gather the following information.

A man much oppressed by public power for his laudable opposition to the measures taken in the reigns of James and Charles I. In the year 1640 (for then well-known Court reasons), Brickworth was plundered by the King's soldiers to the value of £2,000, and he was imprisoned for refusing to pay the sum of £400,
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illegally demanded of him by two instruments under the Privy Seal, bearing the date at Oxford, 14 Feb 1643. He had seven sons (three of whom were likewise members of Parliament), and four daughters.

The times in which Giles Eyre lived were very troublesome ones, and split up families into opposing parties. We find that the senior branch of the family, the Eyres of Chalfield, were strong loyalists, and fought for the King. The opinions of Giles made him very obnoxious to many of his neighbours, amongst who were the ancient and courtly family of St. Barbe, of Cowsfield Loveries, in Whiteparish. Edward St. Barbe left his property to his son Edward on condition that he would not intermarry with the daughter of Giles Eyre of Brickworth. This condition was observed by Edward St. Barbe, but the Fates in the course of time had their revenge, as in the 19th century Charles St. Barbe married Mary Foster, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Foster, of Ryhall, Rutland, who was descended through the Eyres of Ashley from Thomas Eyre, the father of Giles Eyre. His first son Giles succeeded to the Brickworth estate.

Ambrose Eyre of Newhouse (1609-1649)

There is currently little known about Ambrose Eyre. He attended Magdalen Hall, Oxford University and matriculated on 3 Jul 1629, B.A., aged 19. This suggests he was born in c.1610 and probably the second son of Giles Eyre above, and named after his maternal grandfather.

It seems reasonable to conclude that his father Giles settled Newhouse on Ambrose when he married Frances (b. 1615) the widow of William Tooker in 1635. According to family research, they had four children, namely Frances (b. 19 Apr 1636 at Newhouse), Ambrose (chr. Aug 1637), Jane (chr. 21 Aug 1637) and William (chr. 16 Jan 1638). [This latter date seems incorrect allowing for a 9 month pregnancy.]

His son William Eyre married Jane Harris on 11 Jul 1667. They had one daughter, Jane b. 1673. This William may have been MP for Downton in 1658. In 1660, William sold the Newhouse estate to Sir Samuel Eyre (see below) whom records state were cousins. In reality, they were both great-grandsons of Thomas Eyre (see above).

Sir Samuel Eyre (1633 –1698)

Thomas Eyre (1535-1628) had a large family. His second son was Giles Eyre of Brickworth (see above) and his first son was Robert Eyre (1569-1638) of Chilhampton, a bencher of Lincoln’s Inn and barrister at law. Robert married Anne Still the daughter of the Right Rev. John Still, Bishop of Bath and Wells. They had four daughters and a son and successor, namely Robert Eyre (1610-1654) of Salisbury and Chilhampton, who married (18 Mar 1630) Anne, daughter of Samuel Aldersey of Aldersey in Cheshire. This Robert was also a barrister at law and was succeeded by his son Samuel Eyre.

Samuel was christened on 26 Dec 1633 in St Thomas' Church, Salisbury. He was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, matriculating on 9 Dec 1653. In June 1654 he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn. He inherited the estate of Bonhams from his great-uncle, William Eyre. In 1660 he bought Newhouse in Downton from his cousin William Eyre. After studying for seven years, he was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in June 1661, becoming a qualified barrister.
He married (18 Oct 1661) Martha, daughter of Francis, fifth son of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote, Warwickshire, by whom he had four sons (the eldest, Sir Robert Eyre, see below) and two daughters. His wife brought him considerable property, including the estate of Brightwalton, Berks.

Under the patronage of the Earl of Shaftesbury, whose adviser he was, he attained some professional eminence. He was made a Sergeant-at-Law on 21 Apr 1692, and succeeded Justice Dolben on the King’s Bench on 6 Feb 1694, although was not sworn in until 22 February. Eyre was knighted as a result of being promoted to the Bench. When Charles Knollys's claim to the earldom of Banbury came before the House of Lords in 1698, Eyre was called on, along with Chief Justice Holt, to state to the house the grounds upon which he had given judgment in favour of Knollys, who being tried in the king's bench in 1694 for murder had pleaded his privilege as a peer. This the two judges refused to do, the matter not coming before the house on writ of error from the King's Bench. They were threatened with committal to the Tower, but the matter dropped. Sir Samuel died on circuit at Lancaster of an attack of colic on 12 Sep 1698 and was buried in Lancaster Parish Church. A monument was erected to him at Lancaster. On 2 July 1699 his remains were removed to the Eyre vault, which at that time stood in the choir of St Thomas' Church, Salisbury, which was the family burial-place.

Right Hon. Sir Robert Eyre (1666-1735) Knight, Privy Councillor and Lord Chief Justice

Robert Eyre was born in 1666, the eldest son of Sir Samuel Eyre and Martha Lucy. (see above) With such family connections he was naturally destined for the legal profession in which they became eminent. He entered upon his legal studies at Lincoln's Inn in April 1683, and was admitted to the Bar in February 1689.

He married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Rudge of Warly Place, Essex, and Abbey Manor, Evesham, and they had three sons and a daughter.

In 1696 he succeeded his cousin Sir Giles Eyre as Recorder of Salisbury and became the M.P. for Salisbury from 1698 to 1710. He was sworn Queen's Counsel in May 1707, and in October the following year he was made Solicitor-General, an office he held from 1708 to 1710. In March 1710 he was one of the active managers in the unwise impeachment of Dr. Sacheverell, and was afterwards engaged in the trials of the parties connected with the Sacheverell Riots. The Whig Ministry by which he was appointed, fell as a result of this prosecution, but fortunately for him and before their dismissal, the death of Mr. Justice Gould occasioned a vacancy in the Court of Queen's Bench, to which he was then appointed. Having first received the Degree of the Coif (Serjeants-at-Law) he was sworn in on March 13th, and sat in that Court during the remainder of the reign of Queen Anne.

On the arrival of George I (1 Aug 1714), he was appointed Chancellor to the Prince of Wales, his patent containing a dispensation for him to give counsel and advice to, and to receive fees, etc., from His Royal Highness, notwithstanding his judicial character. As in duty bound, on the great question as to the King's prerogative in regard to the education and marriage of the Royal Family, Sir Robert gave an opinion.
differing from the majority of his brethren in favour of the Prince, who was his client. As a result, he was therefore passed over for promotion to be Lord Chief Justice of King's Bench. So satisfactory was his performance of his judicial functions, and so high his legal reputation, that notwithstanding this opposition to the royal claim, the King on 16 Nov 1723 promoted him to the head of the Court of Exchequer as Lord Chief Baron, and eighteen months later on 27 May 1725 raised him to the still higher dignity of Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He maintained the reputation he had earned for the ten years he continued to preside in that Court.

His whole career on the three benches lasted over twenty-one years. That Sir Robert was somewhat haughty in his demeanour may be inferred from the Duke of Wharton's satire. He vows constancy to his mistress till the time 'When Tracy's generous soul shall swell with pride, and Eyre his haughtiness lay aside.' Against this there is evidence of the general estimation of his character in the intimacy which existed between him and Godolphin, the Duke of Marlborough, and Sir Robert Walpole. Also his kind and generous disposition, a testimony to which is afforded by the legacy of £400 bequeathed to his daughter by an old servant, in grateful acknowledgement that he owed all his good fortune in life to his deceased master.

Sir Robert died on 28 Dec 1735 and was buried at St Thomas’s, Salisbury. He was succeeded by his eldest son Robert. (See below)

Robert Eyre (1687-1752)

Robert Eyre was born in 1687, the first son of Sir Robert Eyre (see above). In 1710 he followed the family legal tradition and attended Lincoln’s Inn and was called to the Bar in 1723. On 2 Mar 1724 he married Mary (c.1700-1762) the daughter of Edward Fellowes, esq. of Shotesham, Norfolk. They had an only son, Robert, who died in his ninth year on 7 Feb 1734.

Robert Eyre was Recorder of Southampton 1723-1742 and M.P. for Southampton 1727 to May 1729 when he vacated his seat on being appointed a Commissioner of Excise. He was elected one of the trustees of the Georgia Society on 21 Mar 1734 and a common councillor of it on 17 Mar 1737.

He died 14 Dec 1752, bequeathing his estates, after the decease of his widow to whom he left a life interest, to his cousin Samuel, son of his uncle Kingsmill Eyre. His wife Mary died 24 Oct 1762, whence Samuel Eyre inherited the Newhouse estate.

Samuel Eyre (c.1733-1794)

His father was Kingsmill Eyre (1682-1743), the son of Sir Samuel Eyre (1633 –1698) (see above) and the younger brother of Sir Robert Eyre (1666-1735) (see above). Kingsmill was Secretary of the Chelsea Hospital, a garden designer and patentee of a process for making iron using coal. He first married Mary Anne Lefever on 26 Jul 1721 and subsequently married Susannah Atkinson c.1727, widow of Samuel Keylway, esq. and they had three children, of which Samuel was the eldest son.

On 15 Jun 1751 Samuel Eyre married Stewart (d.1769), daughter of John Russell, esq. Consul-General of Lisbon, and Envoy to the Barbary Powers, and had two daughters, namely Susannah Harriet (1755-1833) and Charlotte Louisa (b.1757). Susannah married William Purvis (See below), who was M.P. for Aldborough.
In 939 King Athelstan made a grant of lands that following the Norman Conquest, passed to the abbey of Abingdon and eventually became the manor of Brightwalton in Berkshire. (Sir Samuel Eyre (1633 –1698) above) It changed ownership several times before being purchased in 1653 by Francis Lucy, the sixth son of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote in Warwickshire. Francis died about 1686 and it is probable that the deed of settlement of 1660 was in favour of his son Richard, who died before his father. By 1690 the manor had passed to the daughters of Francis Lucy and this manor placed in trust for Sir Samuel Eyre and Martha his wife. Sir Samuel died suddenly in 1698 and in 1700 the manor passed to his widow Martha. Dame Martha died soon after and Brightwalton passed via Sir Robert Eyre to his son Robert and his wife Mary, who then left the manor and advowson to his sister Elizabeth Lee, and her issue remainder to his uncle Henry Samuel Eyre and to Samuel Eyre the eldest son of his late uncle Kingsmill Eyre, deceased. When Mary died about 1762 the manor passed to Samuel Eyre. By 1776 the manor was held by his daughter and heir Susannah Eyre and in 1789 it was conveyed to William Purvis, having taken the name Eyre.

Samuel Eyre was MP for Salisbury in 1777. He died in Dec 1794 and was buried 2 Jan 1795 at Exmouth, Devon, whence his estates passed to his eldest daughter.

William Purvis Eyre (1757-1810)

Towards the end of the 17th century the Purvis family first settled in Darsham, Suffolk. They were descended from William Purvis of Abbey Hill near Edinburgh. A George Purvis became a Captain of the Royal Navy. He died in 1715 and was succeeded by his son George Purvis who was M.P. for Aldeburgh in 1732 and Comptroller of the Navy in 1735. He died in 1740 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles Wager Purvis who became a Rear-Admiral of the Royal Navy.

Admiral Purvis (1715-1772) had a distinguished naval career, being promoted to Lieutenant in 1735, Captain in 1740, taking part in the Battle of Toulon in 1744 and retiring in 1756 holding the rank of Rear-Admiral. In 1741 he married Amy Godfrey, the niece of Dr. Mawson, Bishop of Ely, and by her had Charles, his heir; Thomas who took holy orders and was Rector of Melton; and William. They also had four daughters. He died in 1772 and was buried at Darsham, and his wife died at Yoxford in 1777.

William Purvis was the third son of Admiral Charles Wager Purvis (1715-1772) of Darsham, Suffolk, and Amy Godfrey. He was baptised on 1 Oct 1757 at Darsham. On 13 Apr 1789 he married Susannah Harriet Eyre (1755-1833) and assumed by Royal License the name and arms of Eyre. They had four daughters, the eldest and his heir being Harriet Eyre (1792-1873), who married George Matcham (1789-1877). (See below)

In 1796, William and his wife Susannah mortgaged the manor of Brightwalton to James Harbert and then in 1800 sold it to the Rev Philip Wroughton of Woolley Park, Chaddleworth, Berkshire.

William died on 16 Oct 1810 and is buried at St Thomas’s, Salisbury.
The Matcham Family

East Boscombe manor passed through several families from 1086 onwards until in 1773 a John Kent sold it to Robert Eyre (d.1752), whence it passed via his wife Mary (d.1762) to Samuel Eyre (d.1794) and his daughter Susannah (d.1833) who married William Purvis (d.1810), and who was succeeded by their daughter Harriet who married George Matcham (1789-1877). The manor then passed to their son William Eyre-Matcham (d.1906) and in turn to his son George Eyre-Matcham. In 1919 the War Department occupied some 764 acres of the downland of East Boscombe and purchased it in 1925. The remainder of the land forming East Farm was sold between 1919 and 1922.

George Matcham (1753-1833)

George Matcham’s father was Simon Matcham (1711-1776), a Superintendent of the Marine of the East India Company, and senior member of the Council of Bombay, who had died in India in 1776 leaving a good fortune to his family. His widow Elizabeth, a daughter of Hugh Bidwell who was also a merchant of Bombay, thereupon returned to England about 1777 and initially made her home at Charlton Place, near Canterbury, moving to Enfield near Bath in about 1786.

According to the "Dictionary of National Biography " their son George is described as "a Traveller," who was born in 1753. Elsewhere his date of birth is given as 30 Nov 1754. His travels had begun in early childhood when he was sent away from Bombay to Charterhouse School in London. He was the only surviving child, an elder brother having been killed by some accident in boyish play and two other younger brothers who died in infancy.

George's guardian was Mr. Henry Savage, a director of the East India Company (E.I.C.). At the end of his schooldays young George Matcham entered the civil service of the E.I.C. and became their resident at Baroche. His journals written during adventurous expeditions tell of the misery of the people, the waste of fine agricultural land and the ambitious plans for both country and Company. In 1777, his widowed mother having sailed for England, he took the overland route to join her, not without danger, for he was ill at the time. Two of his friends consulted a doctor as to the wisdom of such a rough expedition. The doctor thought so badly of his state, as to be no matter if he went or not. After many hardships he arrived safely in Europe and at last, on reaching England he joined his mother in her country home. Many of his holidays were spent in exploring England and Ireland.

Among the many letters he wrote to old friends in India during this time is one in which there occurs the following passage: "If the bulk of our fortune should come home safe, I mean to buy an estate jointly with my mother. I shall then marry and have three principal sources of amusement; my wife, farming and hunting. If our fortune should not be happily remitted, I must again betake myself to Bombay," and this he was for a time forced to do, a letter to his mother being dated from Brussels in September 1780 on his way back to India. Again he enjoyed a leisurely route through Europe, spending some weeks at Venice before joining the large party with which he once more crossed the desert. He retired from Baroche when that station was ceded to the Maharattas about 1783. A later journal tells of a final and more risky return journey to Europe in 1785. His ideas of an ample fortune now quite satisfied, no offers of further employment or prospects of greater wealth could tempt him out again.

The winter of 1786-7 found George settled with his mother at Enfield, near Bath, and here among the social festivities of that gay neighbourhood, he met Catherine Nelson. Family tradition says that he was desired by mutual friends to attend a ball in Bath in order to meet a Miss Scrivener. He went accordingly; only to fall in
love at first sight with her cousin and visitor, Catherine Nelson. Catherine (known as Kitty) proved equally susceptible, and two months later they were married on 26 Feb 1787 in St James’s church, Walcot, Bath, Somerset by her father the Rev. Edmund Nelson. Catherine (b. 19 Mar 1767, d. 28 Mar 1842) was the second daughter of the Revd. Edmund Nelson (1722-1802) M.A., Rector of Hilborough, and of Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, and was the sister of Horatio Nelson, later Admiral Lord Nelson. George and Catherine had 8 sons and 6 daughters, losing three boys in infancy and two boys in their teens.

m. 26 Feb 1787, Catherine (b. 19 Mar 1767, d. 28 Mar 1842) second daughter of the Revd. Edmund Nelson (1722-1802)

s. George Nelson Matcham b. 7 Nov 1789, Norwich d. 15 Jan 1877
m. Harriet Eyre (c1792-1873) Heiress to the Newhouse estate
s. Henry Savage b. 4 Feb 1791 d. 1792
d. Catherine Ann b. Jul 1792 d. 3 Nov 1831
m. 10 Aug 1820, John Bendyshe (1791-1855) Had 4 boys and 3 girls
s. Edmund Nelson b. 28 Nov 1793 d. in infancy
d. Elizabeth b. 6 May 1795 d. Nov 1851
m. 6 May 1821, Arthur Davies (1786-1853)
s. Francis Griffith b. 15 Jul 1796 d. 1808, aged 12
d. Mary Anne b. 20 Sep 1797 1801, Emigrated to Australia
m. William Pitt

m. Harriet b. 1799 d. Aug 1838, Plymouth
m. Capt Edward Blancley, RN
d. Horatia b. 1801, Bath d. 31 Dec 1869, Somerset
m. 6 Jul 1826, Henry William Mason, Lt RN, (c1793-1859), at Whiteparish Had 1 boy and 6 girls
s. Horatio Nelson b. 1803 d. 11 Oct 1821, Slougham, Sussex Also emigrated to Australia, dsp
d. Susannah b. 1805 d. 1885
m. 24 Apr 1832, Alexander James Montgomery Moore (1786-1836) s. General Sir Alexander George Montgomery Moore, KCB (6 Apr 1833 – 17 Jan 1919)
s. Acheson (d. young)
s. William Alexander b. 1805 d. Aug 1805 of dysentery
s. Charles Horatio Nelson b. Jul 1806 bur 12 Mar 1844 in Australia

Their first home in 1787 was Barton Hall, near Norwich, rented from the Prestons of Beeston St. Lawrence and Barton Hall, Norfolk. George Matcham devoted himself to the pursuits of a country gentleman. Having travelled widely throughout Greece, Egypt and the countries of the Middle East, he was also an adept landscape gardener. The journals of his wife describe the works carried out at her father’s house at Burnham. In 1790 they decided to leave Barton Hall.

The summer tour of the Matchams in 1790 covered a wide stretch of country looking for a suitable property. Delayed by the breaking down of their chaise they journeyed to Worcester, past the Malvern Hills and on through Hereford to Brecon where the good roads failed. Exploring the show places on the way; they passed by Bath, Stonehenge and Salisbury with the object of seeing a property near Ringwood in Hampshire. The
country near Ringwood satisfied them, but there was no house; but what could please them better than building one and planting the grounds with woods still called by their name.

However, before any of this could take place, changed conditions cut short their stay in Hampshire sooner than was anticipated. At the end of September they returned to Norfolk to discuss their plans with Catherine’s father, the Rev Nelson. The building of their new home called "Shepherd's Spring" near Ringwood started in 1791 and was completed the following year and at last was ready for habitation in 1793.

First discussed in the early days of 1797, the abandonment of Ringwood for a house at Bath was regrettfully decided upon. The near prospect of the children's education was the cause, for in such a situation the home at Shepherd's Spring did not offer many advantages, yet the first mention of departure was made long before they finally reconciled themselves to parting with their pretty property. The deaths of two of their babies had, however, given a sad impression which lessened their regret.

The precepts of an Anglo-Indian of that day might amuse, but in many ways George Matcham was ahead of his times. He saw no difference in the education of boys and girls except their being taught Latin and Greek. His journals contain much comment on contemporary society and social mores of the time, on which he had strong views.

In Feb 1798 the family were preparing to leave Shepherd's Spring and by October of that year, they were living at Kensington Place, Bath where they heard of Nelson’s victory at the Battle of the River Nile. There was much national and family rejoicing at the news. After a delay, in 1800 Lord Nelson returned to England accompanied by the Hamiltons. His relationship with Emma Hamilton led to separation from his wife and this in turn led to family tensions.

In Dec 1800 George joined the party in London to attend a dinner given to Lord Nelson by the East India Directors at the London Tavern. (Catherine was left at home as she was expecting their next child). A keen believer in the future of our colonies, George was then helping some emigrants to Australia, for whom government grants of land were procured, and through the Admiral's interest, an introduction was also obtained to Mr. King, the Governor of New South Wales. Thanks to this introduction, free passage was obtained for the emigrants to Botany Bay.

George Matcham devoted himself to the pursuits of a country gentleman. In 1802 he patented an apparatus for preserving vessels in danger of shipwreck and made several communications to the government on various public improvements.

On 3rd April 1803, George’s mother Mrs Elizabeth Matcham passed away aged 75. The outbreak of war in 1803 meant that there was no prospect of a migration to France, and the family remained at Bath. They had no wish to move to a proposed establishment near the home of the Hamilton’s at Merton, which Lord Nelson had proposed. George still cherished visions of a foreign education for the children, which led to the purchase of a considerable estate in Schleswig. This was an unfortunate speculation, for in the end they decided against such exile; meanwhile continental wars so depreciated its value that much money was lost over its re-sale a few years later.

In August 1805, Catherine lost a baby boy named William Alexander. She was pressed to join her brother Lord Nelson at Merton and their son George Nelson Matcham was summoned to join his parents early September. Young George started his journals in 1805 and gives an amusing account of his journey and stay
at Merton, where he met other members of the family and was introduced to influential members of their society.

Following the death of Lord Nelson, the family were devastated. Under the terms of Nelson’s Will, George was one of the residuary legatees and Catherine received the ceremonial sword given to Nelson by the City of London. George and his son George attended the funeral on 9th January 1806.

In 1806 the family were still living in Bath. On 6th of August that year after spending time in London on business, they went to see a small estate near Horsham, Sussex, being about 17 miles from Brighton. They concluded the purchase the following morning and returned to London, stopping off at Merton. The early part of 1807 was spent in various entertainments and farewell visits before the whole family left Bath in June to take up residence in their new home at Ashfold Lodge in the village of Slaughan near Horsham. In August they received a party from Merton, including Lady Hamilton and Miss Horatia Nelson.

Another son, the last of George and Catherine's family, was born in February 1811. Their friend Dr Lawrence from whom they bought Ashfold Lodge, died in 1812. It was this friend that urged George Matcham to claim recognition for the design of the Plymouth breakwater, which was based on work when he was in India. However the credit went elsewhere and he would not have known about it other than through Dr Lawrence. George wrote to the Rt Hon George Rose on the matter, but nothing came of it. However, a garden design for the pleasure grounds of St James’ Park was officially recognised.

During 1815 a new inmate joined them at Ashfold. It was Horatia Nelson following the death of her mother Lady Hamilton in Calais. George Matcham made the 14 year old Horatia his ward. She came to live at Slaugham for two years until moving to Norfolk to live with another aunt, Susannah, Catherine’s sister.

The establishment at Trafalgar for William, Lord Nelson (Catherine’s brother) brought further connections with that part of the country; for it was there that their son George met and married early in 1817 a near neighbour of his uncle’s, Miss Harriet Eyre of Newhouse, Wilts. So pleased was Lord Nelson at the success of his matchmaking that the young couple spent their first year of married life in his house.

Meanwhile George and Catherine’s country life was once more and finally broken up. The death of their son Frank had cast a gloom over their home, and having now seen her son George fairly settled and Ashfold Lodge let, the rest of the family betook themselves to Paris, from whence they travelled further south in the summer of 1818. In May 1819 Catherine wrote from Marseilles to congratulate her son George on the birth of a son. In 1820 they were still in Paris. Alternate plans of letting and selling Ashfold Lodge ended finally in its sale, for son George had no need of other property than his wife's Wiltshire home, and her younger children had to be provided for. "Never did I leave England with a heavier heart," George tells his son in the summer of 1822, "but it is necessary we should go. My French and Spanish concerns call for my attention . . . perhaps we may return in the autumn." Their son George was very sore at this desertion of Ashfold and England, and chose to lay all the blame on the women of his family. Paris suited them. Here they had a happy lively time, the daughters making friends and marrying one by one.

At last, Paris was abandoned and Ashfold sold, so they purchased a house in Holland Street, Kensington, which became their final home. From thence, long yearly visits were paid to their son George and his wife. Full as ever of his hobbies, George Matcham would potter about on his long-tailed pony, with a stream of little grandsons running or riding after him, to whom he was a perpetual delight and playfellow.
His old age passed without infirmity or depression of spirits and ended peacefully in February 1833. A fulsome obituary was published in the Gentleman’s Magazine, dated March 1833. Catherine's widowed years were spent at Kensington with her youngest son. The rest were married and scattered. Her second surviving son Charles emigrated to Australia. She died at Kensington in 1842.

George and Catherine had seven sons and five daughters. Their eldest son and heir was George Nelson Matcham (1789-1877) who married Harriet (Purvis) Eyre, heiress to the Newhouse estate. From 1815, following the death of Emma Hamilton, Nelson's daughter Horatia lived with the Matchams until her marriage in 1822.

Ps.

In 1790 George Matcham built the house called Shepherds Spring, which lay on the heathland south west of Ringwood. He sold the house in 1806 and moved to Ashfold Lodge in Sussex. In 1820 Shepherds Spring was destroyed by fire, but the woods George Matcham planted remained. At first they were known as 'Mr. Matcham's Plantation'; later as 'Matchams Wood'. So it was that when a new house was built on the site of Shepherds Spring in 1870 it was called 'Matchams House'. A large part of the estate that George Matcham created and planted with pine trees is now owned by Dorset County Council, and is open to the public as Avon Heath County Park, the largest country park in Dorset with beautiful scenery consisting of forest, heather and heathland.

George Nelson Matcham (1789-1877)

George Matcham was born 7 Nov 1789 in Norwich, the eldest son of George Matcham (1753-1833) and Catherine Nelson. (See above) Starting in 1808 he was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated LL.B. in 1814, and LL.D. in 1820. He was advocate in Doctors' Commons from 1820 to 1830. In 1849 he was awarded a courtesy degree at Oxford University.

George was a nephew of Admiral Lord Nelson and provided a very graphic description of the family events following the battle of Trafalgar on 21st October 1805 and the news of the death of Nelson. George records that they heard of the death of Nelson on 6th November and the news caused much distress within the family. George and his father attended the funeral of Lord Nelson on 9th January 1806 and wrote a detailed description of the day’s events in his journal.

Although still only in his teens, George was fully in the confidence of his father and mother as to family affairs. In the spring of 1806 they were living in Bath. From his journals, George appears to have spent much of his next few years travelling between home and various places, spending most of the time in various entertainments as well as taking up his studies in Cambridge.

About 1816 the estate of Standlynch, near Salisbury, was bought for William, Earl Nelson, and renamed Trafalgar. The establishment at Trafalgar brought further connections with that part of the country, for there George met a near neighbour of his uncle's, Miss Harriet Eyre. On 20 Feb 1817 in the church at Whiteparish, George Matcham married Harriet, eldest daughter and heiress of William Purvis Eyre of Newhouse, Wilts. So pleased was Lord Nelson at the success of his matchmaking that the young couple spent their first year of married life in his house.

He was a J.P and a Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire. He contributed accounts of the Hundreds of Downton and Frustfield to Hoare's 'Modern History of Wilts,' London, 1825. He was chairman of the Wiltshire
quarter sessions from 1836 to 1867. The 1842 tithe map for Whiteparish shows George Matcham as the owner and occupier of 146 acres of land that constituted the estate surrounding Newhouse. On 6 Nov 1861 he contributed to The Times newspaper 'Notes on the Character of Admiral Lord Nelson'.

George and Harriet had three sons and three daughters. He died on either the 15 or 18 Jan 1877. Two of his sons predeceased him, and he was succeeded by his remaining son William Eyre Matcham (1823-1906).

m. 20 Feb 1817, Harriet (b. 18 Jul 1792), eldest dau and heiress of William Purvis Eyre
s. Horatio Nelson Eyre b. 6 Apr 1819 d. 1 Nov 1845, dsp
d. Catherine Eyre b. 2 Aug 1820 d. Dec 1903
m. 4 May 1848, Henry Blackstone Williams (They had 10 children)

m. 4 May 1848, Henry Blackstone Williams
s. William Eyre Eyre-Matcham (1823-1906) LL.D. of Newhouse, DL & JP
b. 10 Apr 1823 d. 11 Jul 1906 (See below)
Both George and William bap 10 Aug 1823 at Downton

William Eyre Matcham was born on 10 Apr 1823 in Whiteparish, the third son and fourth child of George Matcham (1789-1877) and Harriet Eyre (c.1792-1873). He changed the family surname by Deed Poll (dated 11 Apr 1889) by inserting Eyre in addition to and before that of Matcham. From the 1851 Census he was a magistrate living in East Hays, Wiltshire. He married Mary Elizabeth Long, daughter of Henry Lawes Long, on 3 Jan 1861 by whom he had 3 sons and 2 daughters. Henry Lawes Long (1795-1868) of Hampton Lodge, Surrey, married Lady Catherine Walpole, daughter of Horatio Walpole, 2nd Earl of Orford.

m. 3 Jan 1861, Mary Elizabeth (25 Oct 1827-24 Mar 1902), 4th dau Henry Lawes Long and Catherine Walpole
s. George Henry b. 21 Feb 1862
d. Catherine Rachel b. 20 Sep 1863
s. William, DSO b. 1865
s. Henry Charles b. 3 Mar 1867
d. Mary Harriet b. 2 May 1869

The 1861 Census shows that by then they were living at Newhouse, Redlynch. He still held the position of magistrate and was a Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire. By 1871 they were living in Landford Cottage, Landford. (See separate history of Landford Cottage) His occupation was given as magistrate and landowner. Following the death of his father he succeeded to the Newhouse estate and in the 1881 census he was once more living at Newhouse, Redlynch. His occupation was given as JP for Wiltshire. He was still
there in 1901 and died on 11 Jul 1906. His eldest son George Henry Eyre Eyre-Matcham succeeded to the Newhouse estate.

George Henry Eyre Eyre-Matcham (1862-1939)

George Henry Eyre Eyre-Matcham was born on 21 Feb 1862, the first child and son of William Eyre Matcham (above) and Mary Elizabeth Long (1827-1902). He completed his education at Charterhouse in 1876. The 1881 Census records that he was a Student Army Candidate and boarder at the Abbey Military College, Abingdon, Berks. He was Captain 3rd Battalion Wilts Regiment and a Justice of the Peace for Wilts. On 5 Jun 1889 he married Constance Gertrude Glyn (c.1856-1933), eldest daughter of St Leger Richard Glyn (1825-1873) and Florence Elizabeth Williams (1828-1887). St Leger Richard Glyn was a banker and the son of George Carr Glyn, 1st Baron Wolverton. Before the death of his father, the family leased Bramble Hill Lodge (then a private house) between 1889 and 1903.

m. 5 Jun 1889, Constance Gertrude (c.1856-1933), dau St Leger Richard Glyn
s. John St Leger Eyre-Matcham (1890-1975) (See below)
d. Florence Ellery Mary (1893-1967)
d. Joyce Horatia (1895-1954) Died following an accident
   d. Constance Valentine (See below)

He died on 28 Jun 1939 and was succeeded by his son John St Leger Eyre-Matcham (1890-1975).

The following is an extract from British History Online – Parish of Boscombe, and refers to the manor of East Boscombe, indicating that the Eyre-Matchams held land elsewhere.

… sold it to Robert Eyre in 1733. Robert (d. 1752) devised the manor to his wife Mary (d. 1762), from whom it passed to her husband's cousin Samuel Eyre (d. 1794). Samuel's daughter and heir Susannah (d. 1833), whose husband William Purvis (d. 1810) assumed the surname Eyre in 1795, was succeeded by her daughter Harriet, wife of George Matcham (d. 1877). The manor passed to Harriet's son William Matcham (d. 1906), who assumed the surname Eyre-Matcham in 1889, and to William's son George Eyre-Matcham. In 1919 the War Department occupied the downland of East Boscombe, c. 764 a., and in 1925 bought it; the Ministry of Defence owned it in 1993. Between 1919 and 1922 George Eyre-Matcham sold East farm, c. 276 a., to W. C. Thomas.

William Eyre Eyre Matcham (1865-1938)

William Eyre Eyre Matcham was born on 16 May 1865 in Landford, third child and second son of William Eyre Matcham (above) and Mary Elizabeth Long (1827-1902). According to the 1871 Census he was a school boy living at Landford Cottage and by 1881 the family had moved to Newhouse, Redlynch. The 1891 Census states that he was now a Lieutenant, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment living at 12 Mansion Row in Gillingham, Kent. He attained the rank of Colonel. He married Edith Evelyn Betterton (c.1878-1952) on 23 Jan 1906. By 1911 he had retired with the rank of Captain and was again living in Landford Cottage. There were no children of this marriage and he died on 13 Sep 1938.
John St Leger Eyre-Matcham (1890-1975)

John St Leger Eyre-Matcham was born on 28 Mar 1890 at 20 Lennox Gardens, London, the eldest child of George Henry Eyre Eyre-Matcham and Constance Gertrude Glyn. He was educated at Charterhouse and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He saw military service during WW1.

On 23 Nov 1949 he married Nora Olivia Alice Privett, daughter of Clement Albert Privett of Ascot, Berks, and widow of John Spencer Spear. He died late 1975 without issue and the Newhouse estate passed to his sister Constance Valentine Eyre-Matcham.

Constance Valentine Eyre-Matcham (1897-1984)

Constance Valentine Eyre-Matcham was born on 14 Feb 1897, the youngest child of George Henry Eyre Eyre-Matcham and Constance Gertrude Glyn. On 7 Jul 1923 she married Commander Edmund Valentine Jeffreys, R.N., the son of John Jeffreys of Canterton Manor, Hants. (See below)

The Jeffreys Family

John Jeffreys, Esq (1845-1922)

John Jeffreys was born in Australia on 30 Dec 1845, the eldest son of Arthur Jeffreys and Sarah Campbell. He was also the elder brother of Arthur Frederick Jeffreys who was living in Landford Manor House at the same time in 1881. [Comment – See History of Landford Lodge for a more detailed account of John Jeffreys and History of Landford Manor for details of Arthur Frederick Jeffreys.]

John Jeffreys married Florence Hall Atherton (1847-1893) in 1871, the second daughter of the Rt. Hon. Sir William Atherton, MP, QC and Attorney-General. This marriage produced six sons and four daughters. The youngest son was Edmund Valentine Jeffreys, presumably the last child as his wife died in 1893.


Edmund Valentine Jeffreys was born on 19 Jan 1893, the youngest son of John Jeffreys and Florence Hall Atherton. He was always known as “Val”. He joined the Royal Navy in 1911. He served through WW1 and retired in 1928 with the rank of Commander. Before marriage he lived at Canterton Manor. His mother had been friendly with Mrs. Eyre-Matcham of Bramble Hill and they had both chosen to include the name “Valentine” for their respective children. On 7 Jul 1923 he married Constance Valentine Eyre-Matcham (1897-1984) of Newhouse. There were two children of this marriage, namely George William Eyre Jeffreys (See below) and his sister Catherine Elizabeth Eyre Jeffreys (1933-1992) who married Anthony William Lane in 1953. According to different records, Edmund Valentine Jeffreys died in either 1979 or 1988.

Edmund Valentine Jeffreys (1893-1988)

   m. Constance Valentine Eyre-Matcham (1897-1984)
   s. George William Eyre Jeffreys b. 1931 (See below)
   d. Catherine Elizabeth Eyre Jeffreys b. 1933
      m. 1953, Anthony William Lane, son of Eric William Lane of Midhurst, Sussex
      d. Harriet Elizabeth b. 1954
      m. 1974, David Geoffrey Crusher
d. Caroline Mary  b. 1956
   m. 1986, Gordon Smith

d. Georgina Margret b. 1959
   m. 1981, David Owen Bowe

d. Victoria Anne Michel b. 1962

d. Florence Sophia b. 1967

George William Eyre Jeffreys (1931-Present)

George William Eyre Jeffreys was born on 20 Apr 1931, the son of Edmund Valentine Jeffreys and Constance Valentine Eyre-Matcham. He was educated at Radley. Succeeded to the Newhouse estate on the death of his mother.

   m. 18 Jun 1960, June, dau Alexander Bennet of Fordingbridge
      d. Sarah Kezia
      d. Elizabeth Jemina
      d. Rachel Jane
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Part 10 – Newhouse

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Newhouse website
British History Online – Downton
    History of Redlynch
    History of the Eyre family
    The Nelsons of Burnham
    Various Family Trees