

## Family AM

### The Family of Arthur Jephcott of Birmingham, Woolwich and Kent

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#### Introduction

Early on in our research in 1981, we spoke with Francis John Jephcott (b 1919) by telephone, when he then lived in Cwmbran. He was able to give us a lot of information regarding his family tree. However, we later lost touch with him. The mystery with him is that he said that his father was Samuel Jephcott, a cousin of his mother, with the same surname. His father was killed in the Great War at the age of 32 years. This would place his birth year at 1886. A check of my BMD register showed no birth for a Samuel Jephcott (all spellings checked), nor a marriage entry between 1900 and 1920 for Bessie Harriet or Samuel.

Arthur shown on the tree born 1880 was possibly illegitimate as it is said that he was adopted by Mary Ann Creed's sister and became Arthur Creed.

There was a story in the family that Mary Ann Creed's father was a wealthy man and held substantial property in or near (possibly Newnham) Faversham. It is said that he was tricked by a solicitor, due to him being unable to read and write and that he died a poor man. The property in question may have been called Doddington House. Francis felt that the Jephcott family might have a claim somewhere along the way. Now here is a piece of family folklore that cries out for some investigation.

Soon after our contact with Francis, his cousin Horace Wilfred replied to one of our letters and these are transcribed below. Later still, we met up with David (b 1943) and Brenda Jephcott, who were very interested in tracing their roots. David was then a traffic policeman, and lived in Willenhall.

David told us that his father Stanley was a vitrious enameller and a superintendent at Parkinson Cowan. His grandfather Joseph was a packer in a gas appliances warehouse. He thought that his great grandfather Arthur was at one time a bricklayer in Faversham and possibly a Grenadier Guardsman stationed at Woolwich around 1889. This latter information would be an easy matter to check at PRO Kew.

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#### John and Caroline Jephcott

Coming back to research this family in 2020, we were able to clarify a lot of the family tree and to take it back another generation to Thomas and Lucy (née Corbett) Jeffcote/Jephcott. The only child that we found of theirs was John, who married Caroline Smith in Nuneaton in 1843 and who later moved to live in Birmingham. They had at least six children, one of them being Arthur, whom we mention above. The spelling of their surname was very pot-luck as we searched the records.

John was a Hand Loom Weaver in 1851, and a Night Watchman in both 1861 and in 1871. Caroline was a widow by 1881. So, between being a weaver in 1851 and being a watchman in 1861, what had John been up to? We suspected that he had joined the police force, as there was an unidentified policeman of that period and the dates seemed to fit. But how to prove that? Well, we tested the theory by applying for the birth certificate of one of their children during the

unidentified John Jephcott's police career. Sure enough, they were one and the same, as the following birth record shows. John's, rather comical, police, record follows after that.

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Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Birmingham</i>										
Registrar's District <i>St Thomas</i>										
1856. BIRTHS in the District of <i>St Thomas, Birmingham</i> in the County of <i>Warwick</i>										
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
424	<i>Twenty third December 1855 Back 62 Holliday Street</i>	<i>Arthur</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>John Jephcott</i>	<i>Caroline Jephcott formerly Smith</i>	<i>Policeman</i>	<i>Thymastie of Caroline Jephcott Mother Back 62 Holliday Street Birmingham</i>	<i>Sixteenth January 1856</i>	<i>J. S. Davis Registrar</i>	

PC176 John Jephcott, joined Birmingham Police on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1854. He was a married man. He was allowed to resign on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1859 after a less than honourable career with the force, details of which follow. His record makes worrying reading, with him recorded as: found under the influence of drink, loitering when on duty, asleep in a stable, absent from quarters all night, ill-treating a child, and numerous other misdemeanours.

West Midlands, England, Police Files and Ledgers, 1850-1950 for John Jephcott

Ledgers > Birmingham City > Record Book Part 1

Dates.	Offences.	Punishments.
Warrant. 2841. John Jephcott. Joined 4 <sup>th</sup> October 1854. 150		
1761 P. 6176	Offences. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	Punishments.
1857 Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	Being under the influence of liquor when off duty at 9.45 pm the 14 <sup>th</sup> instant	7 days of drill
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Loitering on one part of his Beat 30 minutes from 11 to 130 a.m. 25 <sup>th</sup> Ultimo	Exp. 2.11.57
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Absent from the centre of his Beat three hours and a half from 10.50 till 2.15 the 20 <sup>th</sup> instant	Exp. 23. 9. 58
10 <sup>th</sup> July 1858	Asleep in a stable on duty at 2.30 a.m. on the 12 <sup>th</sup> instant	7 days drill
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Letting down cartage on highway which was ready at 2.30 a.m. the 9 <sup>th</sup> instant	Exp. 14. 6. 58
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Absent from quarters all night without leave 12 <sup>th</sup> instant	7 days of drill
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 1859	Mitigating a child, more years of age, on the 9 <sup>th</sup> instant, belonging to Dennis M. Key	Relieve his residence in one month
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Absent from his Beat three hours and a half from 10.50 till 2.15 the 20 <sup>th</sup> instant	Exp. April 4. 1859
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug 1859	Being in the White Swan, Westmoreland Street, at 6.45 a.m. 21 <sup>st</sup> Ult. off duty, Sunday, 14 days' drill	one days' pay and 14 days' drill
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Late for duty 10 minutes at 9.45 a.m. duty 26 <sup>th</sup> Ultimo	Cautioned
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Absent from his Beat three hours from 2.30 to 5.30 a.m. the 15 <sup>th</sup> instant. P. S. Jennings	Fined 2/-
25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Absent from the centre of his Beat one hour from 3.45 till 4.45 a.m. 19 <sup>th</sup> instant. P. S. Jennings	3 days' drill
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Absent from his Beat one hour, 18 <sup>th</sup> inst. Sup. Gibbs	
	Absent from his Beat one hour, 21 <sup>st</sup> inst. P. S. Brough	allowed to Resign

Joseph and Ann Jephcott

Their son Joseph appears to have joined the army around 1879 and there is some reference to desertion in the records, although we have no details. He was stationed in Portsea where he met and married Ann Hone. Their first child Daisy was born in Portsea in 1891, but their second child Violet was born in Cork, Ireland in 1892. Joseph had died by 1894, leaving Violet an orphan. We see her mentioned as such in the 1911 census, living with her aunt Caroline Bagley, as follows. The Irish records show her living as an orphan in 1901, presumably because she was an Irish subject, not English. An unhappy time for her we would think. What had happened to her mother Ann?

Does Emily Bagley match the person in your tree?

1911 England Census Worcestershire > Smethwick > Smethwick > 12

Line No.	Name	Relation	Age of Males	Age of Females	Marital Status	Years Marrie	Live Birth	Child Living	Deceas Child	Occupation	Industry	Employer Status	Works at Home	Birthplace	Nationality	Infirmity
1	Emily Ed. Bagley	Head	46		Widow					Charwoman	120	Worker		Staffs. Wolverhampton	015	
2	Maria Jephcott	Daughter		24	Single					Brass Lacquerer	665	Worker		Staffs. Wolverhampton		
3	Thomas Jack Jephcott	Son	22		Single					Machinist Profiling	716	Worker		Staffs. Smethwick		
4	Violet Maud Jephcott	Niece		18	Single					Brass Lacquerer	665	Worker		Ireland Cork (London)	621	
5	Albert Bennett	Boarder	23		Single					Machinist Turner	716	Worker		Warwick Birmingham	101	

Violet's sister Daisy is shown in the 1911 as a servant, aged 20 and unmarried. This is the record, followed by her probate record for when she died in 1925 in Birmingham.

1911 England Census for Daisy Emily Jephcott

Warwickshire > Aston > ALL > 04

No	Name	Relation	Age of Males	Age of Females	Marital Status	Years Married	Live Birth	Child Living	Deceas Child	Occupation	Industry	Employer Status	Works at Home	Birthplace	Nationality	Infirmity
1	Jonathan William Prosser	Head	31		Married					Shopkeeper (Retailer)	260	own account		Worcester (Worcestershire)	250	
2	Margaret Beatrice Prosser	Wife		35	Married	6	2	2	0	Assistant in the business		0		Stafford (Staffordshire)	087	
3	Margaret Ann Prosser	Daughter		5										Worce (Worcester)		
4	Amphibius William Prosser	Son	2											Worce (Worcester)		
5	Daisy Emily Jephcott	Servant		20	Single					General Servant (Domestic)		0		Worce (Worcester)	162	

**JEPHCOTT** Daisy Emily of 37 St. Albans-road Smethwick **Staffordshire** spinster died 8 November 1925 Probate **Lichfield** 3 December to William James Darby coach builder and Alfred Warburton postman. Effects £29 2s.

### Letters Received

Some of our knowledge of this family came from the following extracts of letters received by us. The numbers in brackets refer to the number system that we use in our 'Letters collection and which enables us to cross reference more easily.

(9)

July 1981

Dear Sir

Regarding your research into the name Jephcott, my grandfather was named Arthur who lived in Nuneaton. He married a Mary Creed whom he met while doing guard duty at Buckingham Palace. As far as I know there were 4 children, 2 sisters, Bess and Fan, and a brother Arthur who married and lived in Faversham, Kent. I have no other information on these. Then of course my father Joseph Hector who was born on April 19th 1889 and died in November 1963 or 1964. He was a warehouseman at Parkinson Cowan, Stechford and lived in Lansdowne Street, Winson Green, then at Old Farm Road, Stechford, then moved to Lyburn Road, and finally Adams Hill at Bartley Green. I've no idea of dates of marriage or place of birth, he married a Louisa Styche, who was born on September 28th 1887 and died on May 30th 1981. I am one of five brothers, Stan, Fred, Reg, myself and George, and one sister, Lilian.

This is all I can help you with at the moment, if you wish to know any other information I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Yours faithfully

Horace Wilfred Jephcott

(21)

3rd November 1981

Dear Mr Jephcott

Thank you for your answer to my letter, I haven't much more information for you, so I will try and give you a sort of family tree.

Grandad Arthur married Mary Ann Creed, they both died in December 1932 and grandad was 76, but I don't know where he was born, or what regiment he was in. Joseph Hector was my father, he was married at St Clements Church Nechells, Birmingham, on December 24th 1910, and died in 1963 aged 74. Frances Caroline was his eldest sister who married a Mr Brownlow and they had one daughter May. Bessie Harriet, the other sister, had a son Francis John whom you mentioned and could well be my cousin. The last I heard of him was around 1940, when he left Birmingham to work in Wales during the war.

My eldest brother Stanley Arthur isn't the one your relations knows, as he'd always worked at Parkinson Cowan, Stechford until he retired. He has a son David aged about 40 years. He is in the police force and lives at Willenhall, he is married and has two young sons. Frederick Walter, another brother lives in Nuneaton. He has two daughters, no sons. Reginald William, another brother, is married, with one daughter, no sons. George the youngest brother has three sons, Michael, Kevin and Mark. The family emigrated to Canada 12 years ago.

My name is Horace Wilfred born March 17th 1921. I married Iris Dorothy Postans in Birmingham on January 16th 1943. We have a son Peter Roy aged 33 years and a daughter Patricia May, aged 31 years.

I have just got another bit of information, grandad Arthur had two more children - Arthur, whom I've already mentioned in my last letter and, there was a daughter Annie, of whom I've no recollection at all.

Hope this has been of some help to you in your research.

Yours sincerely

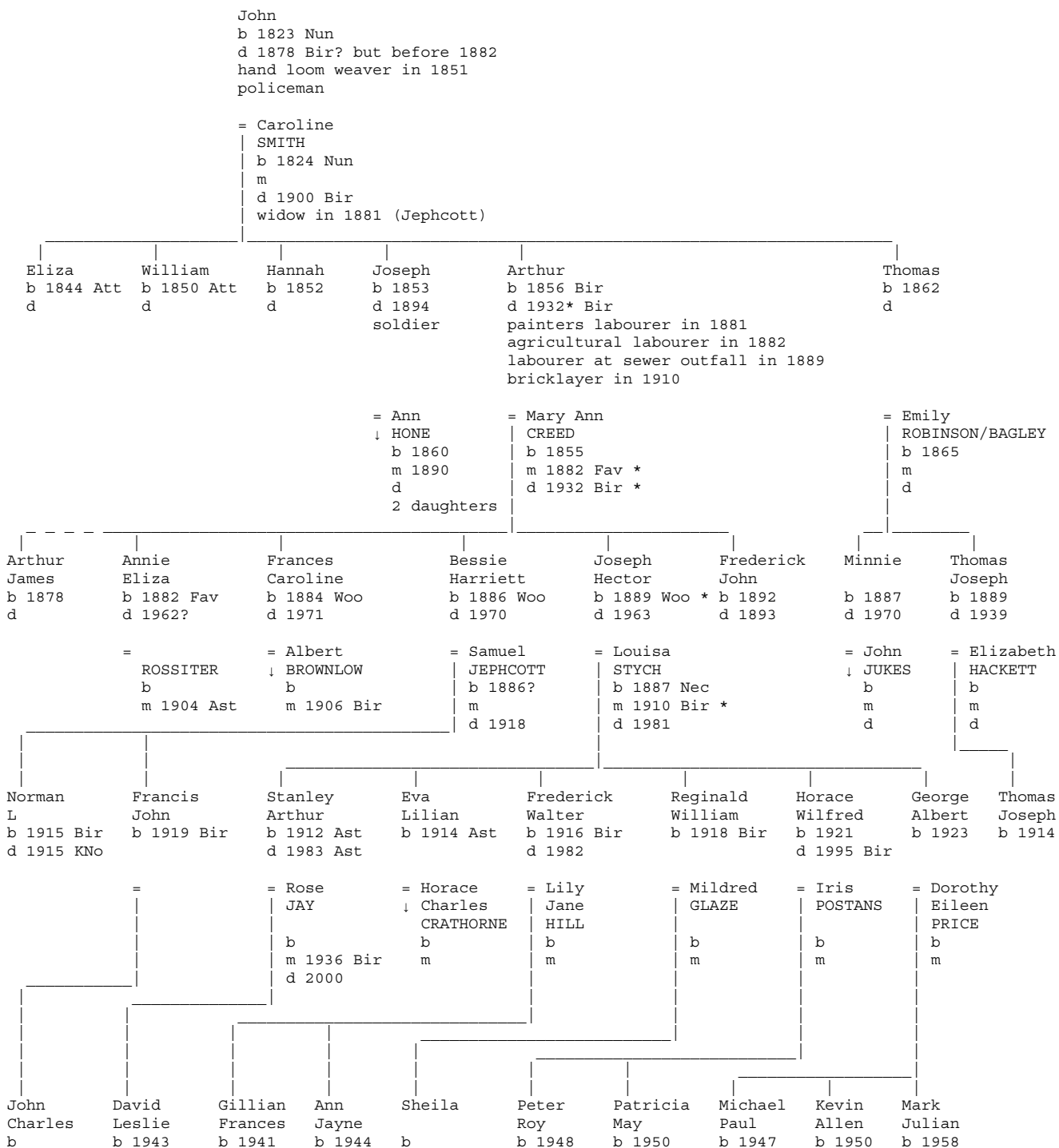
H W Jephcott

also, see letters 9, 21, 147, 183, 961

The Jephcott Family – Chapter 6 – Family AM

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JEPHCOTT



Ast Aston  
 Att Attleborough  
 Bir Birmingham  
 Fav Faversham, Kent  
 KNo Kings Norton  
 Nec Nechelles  
 Woo Woolwich