

Family AP

The family of William Jephcott, confectioner, of Coleshill.

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Introduction

Our introduction to this family came from Brenda Ansell, the daughter of Charles William Jephcott. Brenda has been one of the society's strongest supporters over the years. The family tree (as it stands) starts with a William Jephcott, whose son James was born around 1806 in Kenilworth. James became a confectioner and this profession appears to have been handed down to his son William and grandson Frederick William.

Brenda started her account of the family with William the confectioner who was born in Coleshill in 1836. Little is known of the first son Fred, other than it was thought he moved to Sheffield and was believed to have been a bookmaker. The second son Mark, Brenda's grandfather, was for a time a soldier in India with the Oxfordshire Light Infantry and then later a groom to a Captain Bellases, followed by becoming a County Council workman.

William (the confectioner) and Priscilla his wife, are shown in the 1881 census for Leamington as living at 3 Park Street. William described himself as a confectioner and his son Frederick William was his apprentice. The 1880 Kelly's directory showed James Jephcott as a confectioner in Park Street and, following his death during that year, his son William appears to have taken over the business.

Claude and Jean's son Leigh was tragically killed in a car crash in 1990.

This is one of those family trees that requires more research to hopefully link it with another.

A Murder

In 2020, as we explored this family in greater detail and created a much larger family tree, we discovered a case of murder of a member of this family, Charles Jeffcott, a soldier. Charles was William's uncle, born 1813, killed in Chatham in 1838.

A newspaper article is shown on the next page.

**THE LATE MILITARY OUTRAGE AT CHATHAM —
INQUEST UPON JEFFCOTT, THE MARINE.**

CHATHAM, FRIDAY MORNING.—Yesterday an inquest was taken before Mr. Richard Hinde and a respectable jury in the operating-room of the Melville Hospital, Chatham, on the body of Charles Jeffcott, another of the marines, who died from the effects of wounds inflicted by a party of the 67th and 74th regiments upon the marines, on Saturday evening, the 27th ult.—Jeffcott, as has been already stated, was bludgeoned in the open streets of the town, after the fatal beating of the unfortunate marine, Ross, in the Navy Arms.—Joseph Allen, a corporal of the 6th regiment of foot, stated that on Saturday, the 27th of October last, about eight o'clock in the evening, he was passing near the Military-road, and saw a party of soldiers belonging to the 67th and 74th regiments coming up the High-street, of Chatham, armed with thick sticks. The deceased, who had nothing in his hand, was walking by himself when he was met by the soldiers. Witness then heard one of the latter say, "Here is another marine," and immediately afterwards the deceased received a blow upon the side of his head, which was followed by another blow upon the top of it. The blows were given by a soldier, who had a stick in his hand, and witness heard him say that he would kill the first marine he met with. Witness attentively observed the features of the soldier; he had light hair, and his right eye was blackened. Soon after witness saw a sergeant of marines about three yards off, and informed him that a private of the marines had been dreadfully beaten, and was bleeding profusely. At the request of the sergeant witness went to the assistance of the deceased. He was then standing on the causeway near the Black Boy, and much blood was issuing from the wounds on his head. Witness supported and led him to the Military-road, but before they had proceeded far he saw the soldiers returning, and he accordingly placed deceased in the house of Mr. Abraham's for safety, and made the best of his way to the barracks, as it was near a quarter-past eight o'clock, and his time was up.—Joseph Nunn, a corporal of the 6th regiment, Surgeon Kist, and Dr. Rae were subsequently examined: the latter as to the wounds inflicted, to which the death of the deceased was attributed.—This being the whole of the evidence, the coroner told Sykes he might make any statement he thought proper.—The prisoner said, "I wish, gentlemen, to state that I am clear of the crime; that is all I have to say."—The coroner then summed up, and remarked that he was of opinion, that if the soldiers had meditated murder, they would have been differently armed, and he did not see that the jury should return a verdict to that effect. The evidence given did not actually fix the guilt on any particular individual, but it was for them to decide how far the prisoner Sykes was guilty, and of what crime.—The jury retired, and after an absence of about half an hour, they re-entered the inquest-room, and found a verdict of "Wilful murder against all the soldiers present in the disturbance on the night of the 27th of October, whose names are at present unknown to the jury, and that Joshua Sykes was present, aiding and abetting." The committal of the prisoner to Maidstone gaol was then made out, and the witnesses bound over to appear at the next assizes. The investigation lasted above five hours.

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JEPHCOTT

