

Section 1c : Wilstead Bridges

The information and photographs in this Bridges family history have been kindly shared by Sheila Odell in Canada, Jan Bridges in Australia, Tessa Warren in Bedfordshire and Roger Swainston in New Zealand. All of the information has been combined into this article and has been augmented by other research by the author. This history is an incredible example of how far family members from one small Bedfordshire village can reach and the matters they become involved in. As with all family trees, it is difficult to express the relationships as the numbers increase. To try to help the reader follow the lines of information, a letter system in bold type has been used.

The Bridges surname crops up throughout Wilstead's history. This particular article is concerned with some of the descendants of Thomas (1) Bridges and his wife Phillis nee Hodgson. They married in Houghton Conquest but came to Wilstead around 1795 after the birth of their son **Thomas (2)** [see **(A)** below]. A further 9 children were born to them in Wilstead and included Phillis (1796); Sarah (1805); Mary (1809) and Rachel (1809) [twins]; Ann (1812); William (1814); Hannah (1816); Joseph (1817) and **Maria** (1820) [see **(B)** below].

Thomas (1) is called Thomas the elder ,yeoman in a land dispute at The White Horse public house with the brewery Charles Wells. Brief details of the relevant document are given on page 10 of booklet 10 of this series.

(A) Thomas(2) Bridges

Born in Houghton Conquest on 25 September 1795, Thomas(2) married Edy Bennet, daughter of William and Mary Bennet at All Saint's Wilstead on 5 December 1818. Thomas was a shoemaker and is called Thomas the younger in the Wilstead land dispute with Charles Wells as mentioned above.

They had 8 children in Wilstead and these were Thomas(3) (1819); **George** (1821) [see **(E)** below]; Mary Ann (1823); Elizabeth (1831); Eliza (1832), Sophy (1832) and William (1832)[triplets] and Caroline (1836).

Caroline married Charles Albury and they had 10 children in Wilstead. Two of these, William and Joseph emigrated to Queensland Australia in the early 1890s and a descendant, David Horton in Australia, has researched this particular branch although he was unable to add anything further to Wilstead's history.