

Transcription of Vicary Bible

Written among the printing on the title page:

Sara Cornish

1779

Rebecca Cornish Vicary Book given her by

her Grandmother the 12 day of Jany. 1783

On the inside of the cover:

1806- Thomas Cornish Vicary (surgeon) (Son of Wm and Grace Vicary formerly Cornish) married Margaret Fry (dr of Thos. and Elenora Fry late Lock) on the sixth day of March, 1806, at Gt. Torrington, Devon.

1807 - Oct. 30th Margaret Grace Daughter to the above was born, privately baptised Nov. 30th & registered - publically baptised Dec. 9th 1807 at Gt. Torrington

1809 - Feb. 23rd Thos. Merril, son to the above was born - privately baptised the 25th (registered this date) publically baptised March 16th, 1809 at Gt. Torrington.

1810 - Dec. 31st William Newell son of the above was born - privately baptized Jan 7th ,1811 and publically baptized March 6th, 1811 at Great Torrington, Devon

1828 - Dec. 31st - the above named Margaret Grace Vicary was married at Great Torrington to Wm Cotton Junr. Wine Merchant at Barnstaple- William Cotton died 13th June 1832 - buried at Pilton.

1830- Feb.2nd Charles Newell Cotton Son of the above Wm, and Margaret Grace was born and baptised 24th, March 1830 at Barnstaple - J K Cottn, T.C. Vicary, Marg Vicary and Maria Hawkins sponsors.

1832 - Oct. 26th Fanny Enenanora Wm Cotton daughter of the above Wm & Marg Grace was born - baptised 21st of Nov. 1832 - G.K. Cotton, K.H. Hawkins, Marg. Vicary and Mrs. I. Cotton sponsors - baptiized at Barnstaple.

1835 - Jan 13th. The above named Margaret Grace Relict of the above named William Cotton was married in the Church of St. Giles in the Wood - Devon - to George Braginton Son of Richard Branginton & Anne his wife.

1835 - Oct. 8th Marg. Anne dau. of the said Geo. Braginton & Marg. Grace was born at the Moor St. Giles in the Wood baptized 25th Nov. at St. Giles - W. R. Braginto and Wife T. M. Vicary and M. Vicary - sponsors

1836 - July 3rd The above T. C. Vicary Died Sunday 5 o'clock in the afternoon at his house in South Street Gt. Torrington aged 68 - and was buried on Friday the 8th of July in G. Torr. churchyard in his Mother's Grave.

1837 - March 16th - The above named Tho. Merrill Vicary was M. at St. Andrews Church, Plymouth to Jane Stones only dau. of Tho. Stones, purser in the Royal Navy - the said Jane Stones was born and baptized at Sanwich in Kent.

1837 - May 7th Clara louisa Dau. of the said G. Braginton & Margaret Grace

was born at the Moor in St. Giles and baptized at St. Giles in the Wood 20th July - sponsors Mr. & Mrs. R. Braginton & Louisa Braginton & Wm Newell Vicary

1837 - Aug. 29th Margaret Vicary (wife of the above Tho. Cornish Vicary) died suddenly Tuesday Morn 9 o'clock & was buried on Sunday ,Sept 3 in the same grave as her husband aged 68.

1840 - Nov. 30th - George Vicary Son of the Above George & Margt. Grace Braginton was born at the Moor & baptised St. Giles in the Wood Jan 13 1841 sponsors Mr. Braginton Mrs. Stone Mr. Merrill vicary & Mr. and Mrs. braginton - died Jan 7, 1842 & buried at St. Giles in the Wood Jan 9th - 1842 aged 14 mos.

1841 - Jan 7th - William Newell Vicar above mentioned was married to Charlotte Caroline 2nd daughter of William Mich. Cooke and his wife of Langley/at Westleigh church in the county of Devon

1843 - Dec 25 Georginna Merrill daughter of the above George and Margaret Grace Braginton was Born at the Moor & baptized at st. Giles in the Wood Feb. 13, 1844 sponsors Mr. W. N. Vicary, Ann Amelia Braginton, W. Braginton & Mr. T. M. Vicary

1845- Dec 22 Alice Jane daugh. of the above George and Marg. Grace Braginton born at the Moor & baptized at St. Giles in the Wood Feb 13th, 1846 sponsors Mrs. Merrill Keary Mr. Hawkins & Chas Newell Cotton.

Sep 13th - Richard George Son of the above George and Marg. Grace Braginton born at the Moor & baptized at ST. Giles in the Wood Oct. 16th - 1849 & died July 16, 1850 & buried at St. Giles July 21st

1855- Charles Newell Cotton son of the above Wm & Margt Grace Cotton died of consumption at the Island of Madeira January 27 age 25 years.

On a separate enclosed paper:

Margaret Ann Braginton daughter of G & M G B was born at Moor St. Giels in the Wood Devon Oct 8th/35

Clara Louisa Braginton daughter of G & M G B born at Moor May 7th - 1837

T. P. Vicary . Surgeon died at Great Torrington July 3rd - 1837

Margaret Vicary wife of the abovedied suddenly Aug. 29 1838

George Vicary Braginton son of G. & M G Braginton born at Moor Nov 30-1840 died Jany 2nd-1842

Georginna Merrill Braginton born Dec 25th= 1843

Alice Jane Braginton born Dec 22nd - 1845

Richard George Braginton born Sept 11th-1849 died 1850

??? Cotton married to John Blackwell Helm, solicitor of Derby Oct. 3rd 1855 & died at Torrington May 8th ,1859 buried at St. Giles in the Wood Devonshire

John Blackwell Helm son of the above born March 10th 185? died Dec. 22nd

1858 buried at Derby in the cemetery

John Blackwell Helom son of the above born at Derby June 10th 1858

Clara Louisa Braginton married to Edwin QAllen Johns 4th son of Nickan & Mary Johns of Treewince in the County of ???

Ellen Macormick Johns daughter of the above born at Torrington March 11th 1859- christened at Torrington

Margaret Anne Braginton married at St. Giels to Michael Bin???? of Wynaad ???

Nov. 3 1858 their daughter born at Torrington Oct. 5th 1859

The History of the Vicary Bible

David Henry (Red) Grey was a person who went his own way. Having retired at 40, he lived the remaining 32 years of his life as he wished. He drove an old car, bought old clothes and threw them away instead of doing laundry, and never wore a watch because he didn't want to be kept to a schedule. He was a historian and knew much of the family history of anyone in the vicinity.

His passion was to go to sales and auctions and buy old items. He bought old books, rifles, primitive tools, junk, historical matter, and anything else that attracted his attention. He would then just store the items. Once he got carried away and bought a grist mill that had to be disassembled and relocated. He then had to buy a warehouse to store it.

In the spring of 1988 he was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. During his illness, Miller Taylor a cousin by marriage was looking through the books Red had stored. He came across an old leather-bound bible that was the Vicary Bible. It was by no means the oldest or the most valuable of his books but it was particularly interesting. It was owned by a family in Great Torrington, Devon, England and the family events were recorded in the Bible from 1806 with the marriage of Thomas Cornish Vicary until the middle of the century.

Miller took the book to where Red was staying during his illness and discussed the bible with him. Red did not know exactly when he bought it. He thought he probably got it at an estate sale with a box of books. It was probably bought in southeast Tennessee near Chattanooga, Miller said. "Wouldn't it be fantastic to track down the descendants of these people and give them the most wonderful gift possible?" Red thought a minute and handed the book to Miller and said "You do it".

Miller for years had been an Anglophile and wanted to go to England badly. His thoughts were to go to Great Torrington research there, and locate a descendant. For 8 years he kept the plan in his thoughts, Miller and his wife were raising 6 adopted children, some of whom were troubled, making the trip less and less likely from a financial or time standpoint.

On the evening of Friday, January 5, 1996, Miller had been researching his family using the newsgroups on the Internet. After having quite a bit of success that evening he thought to himself, "Why don't I take a shot at locating the descendants of Thomas Cornish Vicary using the Internet?"

First he started looking in and posting messages on a newsgroup for genealogy of the United Kingdom, keeping his exact purpose vague to prevent someone claiming kinship just to get the bible. On Saturday he continued his quest, looking on newsgroups, searching web pages, and sending E-mail. He was not working solidly, but was periodically checking E-mail and responding. He followed leads in England, San Francisco, and New York.

Finally , on Sunday, through Roger Cornish in Plymouth,England, the head of the Cornish one-name society, he contacted the head of the one-name Vicary society. Miller asked for the name of someone who was descended from these Vicarys, was interested enough to value the bible, was under 85 (didn't want it back in an estate sale right away) and lived in the United States. The society head said that Thomas Cornish Vicary of Erie, Penn. was the most prominent researcher of that line in the US. Using a computer phonedisk, Miller ofund the phone number and called Thomas Vicary who was thrilled , but not surprisingly, somewhat confused and skeptical.

At the end of May, 1996, Tom and his wife traveled to Oak Ridge,TN where Miller lived. Miller and his swife Virginia met them for breakfast. There Miller presented Tom with the bible, completing the charge given him 8 years earlier.

Note: Brian Davies , while visiting the Vicarys in 1994, stopped in Morgantown, NY. He wanted to look for Vicarys and Cookes in the cemetery. He mentioned the names and asked for an old cemetery. He was told that there were Vicarys still living in the town. They knocked on the door of the house they were directed to. The Vicarys did not know of the PEenn. Vicarys. They went next door and met the eldest Vicary. he said he remembered going to Erie, PEenn. to visit cousins many years ago.He said that the family used to have an old bible with family names and info in it but it had been stolen from the house while it was un-occupied. Was this the bible that Tom Vicary ended up with in 1996?