

WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH (LEE) HOLLINGSWORTH FOUND IN ENGLAND!

by

Harry Hollingsworth, C. G., R. G.

"What Took You So Long?" or "It Took a Long Time!" were other choices for a title to this article. Ticked by the entry (p. 57) in the Doniphan Co., Kansas 1870 Census, of Joseph and Athalia Hollingsworth, I consulted the Genealogical Society's IGI (International Genealogical Index) for Nottinghamshire, England and found the following:

Hollingsworth, William & Elizabeth Lee, (married) 26 May 1817, at (Parish of) Winthorpe, Nottinghamshire (England).

That was easy. Twenty years ago it was impossible to use microfiche - or any facility - to solve a genealogical problem that quickly. On the inside back cover of our July 1965 issue (long since omitted in reprints), in our erstwhile query section, we published a request by then subscriber Algar H. Dole (1501 N. 5th, Arkansas City, Kansas 67005) for information about **William Hollingsworth "from Mottram, England, to Quebec, Canada."** Later it was found that he came from Nottinghamshire. In our first issues, we published all printed marriages from W. P. W. Phillimore's series for that shire. Phillimore usually cut off his extracts at the end of 1812. Hence the above entry from Winthorpe was not printed. The IGI ignores such arbitrary cutoff dates.

The original or filmed registers should be checked, to guard against copy errors (there are PLENTY in IGI) and to gather maximum data, such as ages of parties, sometimes parentage, and whether the wedding was by banns or licence. A licence or bond may yield more data. (The Nottinghamshire Marriage Licences recently published here did not cover 1817 though the Peculiar of Southwell did. Winthorpe lies just outside the Peculiar - tough luck.)

I suggested to Mr. Dole in 1966 various Nottinghamshire parishes to search. Attenborough was among them. I never heard if he had any success. The clue which I used in examining the IGI for double confirmation of this find is in Mr. Dole's communication of 3 Mar 1966. There he states that **John Hollingsworth's tombstone in the Protestant Cemetery at West Brome, Province of Quebec, Canada, (a son of William and Elizabeth (Lee) Hollingsworth)** gives 22 Sept 1818 as birthdate. (If you know what I know about 'attitudes' in Quebec, you would marvel wonderously that there could even BE a Protestant, let alone a Protestant Cemetery, in all of that Gaullist stronghold! It is also astonishing to know the inscription is allowed to be in English! 'Vive la France!' - Poooh! May: God Save Our Gracious Queen! England FOREVER!) The IGI gives this data:

"John Hollingsworth, son of William & Elizabeth, baptised 29 Sept 1819, at North Muskham Parish Church (Established - H.H.)."

Algar Dole believed the tombstone might be off a year. A manuscript sent by his cousin, Nellie Armstrong, to a correspondent of mine, stated unequivocally that the year was 1819.

The oldest child, Sarah, was baptised 20 Mar 1818 at North Muskham. This parish adjoins Winthorpe on the northwest, and is in the Peculiar of Southwell. One other, Ann, was baptised there 15 Sep 1823.

South Muskham is a companion parish. A curious thing happened. Your editor was reading the some 43 page file dating between 1964 and 1966, and discovered news of an estate and will of a testator who had lived at "South Markham, Notts., England," who left a bequest to Joseph Hollingsworth at Ashton, Kansas. The date of this letter is Nov.

epi Hollingsworth at Ashton, Kansas. The case of this letter was Nov. 8, 1965. The date this letter was re-read was Nov. 8, 1985! But although a search for this place revealed that there is no "South Markham" in Nottinghamshire, we did not realize that this probably is an error for "South Muskham."

Mr. Dole enclosed typed copies of two letters, one dated Mar 21, 1901, from the editor of the Severance, Kansas News to Joseph Hollingsworth of Ashton, Kansas, advising him of his good fortune. The 2nd letter is interesting:

Alabaster, Stray & Hawkin,  
Chartered Accountants,  
Tele. No. 9009,  
London, Wall

107 Wool Exchange,  
Coleman St., London  
July 6th, 1902

Dear Sir;

In reply to yours of the 28th of June I received a letter from you in March 1901 respecting the claim of Joseph Hollingsworth to which I replied on April 26th, and though full instructions were given as to what he was to do to establish his identity to receive the small legacy due to him I have received no reply. I wrote Mr. Hollingsworth on the 2nd of this month requesting him if he claimed the amount to send me a certificate of his birth and a written declaration signed by two persons who had known him for many years that he was the person named in such certificate also to furnish me with the name of a bank to whom I could remit the money. When these are to hand I will deal with the matter.

May I request that your clerk puts the proper amount of postage on, this is the second time I have had to pay upon your letters.

A. H. Denton Esq.  
The Farmers State Bank,  
Arkansas City, Kansas  
U. S. A.

Yours faithfully,  
Bob Stray

Unfortunately there is no further of this matter. In a later issue of HR we'll report on our 20-year-late followup. William and Elizabeth (Lee) Hollingsworth came to Canada in the mid 1820s and lived at Laprairie, P.Q. near Montreal, but supposedly later went to Brome Co. in the same Province. The descendants listed seven children. We have apparently found one more - the above Ann - who probably died before the parents left Nottingham. In order, the list is Sarah, m. John Jones; John, m. Sarah Stowe; William, m. Avis Kingsley (he was the stage driver at Beloit, Wisconsin in 1850); Henry Lee, m. Ann Maria Carson; Elizabeth, m. Peter Wells; Joseph, m. Lucy Athalia Vickery and Robert S., who m. Emily McCracken. We intend to make up for lost time and give you some further history of the family. (The name of Dole in Kansas, by the way, is a hot item these days.)