


SKARRATT FAMILY OF KINGTON, HEREFORDSHIRE

Site Listings			SKARRATT WEBSITE SKARRATT'S OF WORCESTER MY FAMILY
Introduction			
Family Tree	Kington era		
Shops	Skarratt buisnesses		
Biographies	Individuals		
Aussie Tom	Thomas the Vicar of Kemsing		
Crockfords	Listings		
Family	Listing of members		

Jan 2004

I would like to acknowledge the assistance so generously given to me by Mr Tony Skarratt, who has over many years collected inormation on his family history.

This is a family that has a lot of information available about it and is the subject of some very interesting events.

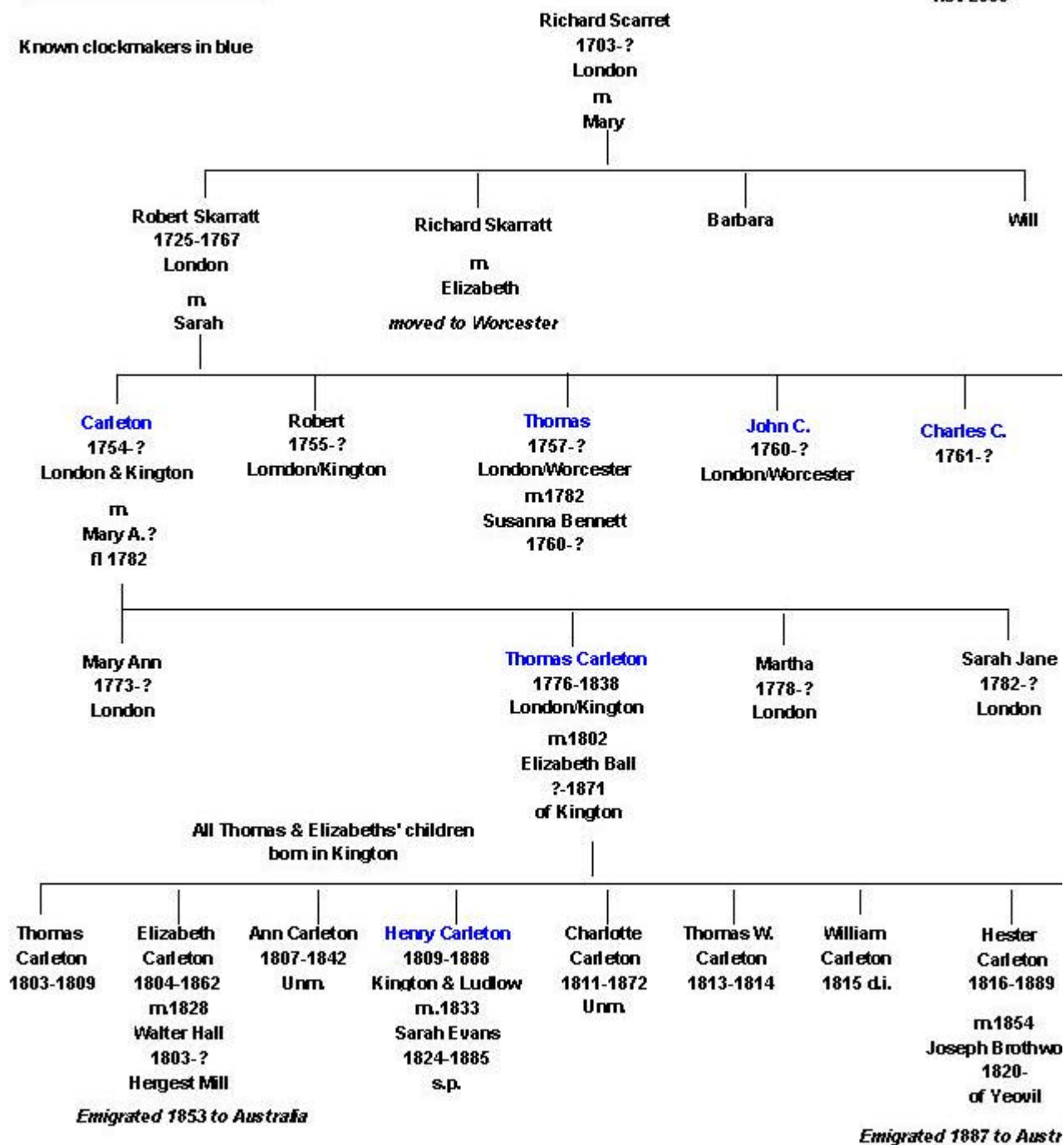
The family lived in London up to 1780's, when they moved to Kington, Hereford with Carelton Skarratt and his family.

He set up as a clockmaker in the town, he was apprenticed in London to Jane Saxby in 1768 so he was probably continuing his trade from London.

Skarratt - London & Kington

nov 2003

Known clockmakers in blue

**LISTINGS IN DIRECTORIES***Directory of Herefordshire for 1858 by Edward Casey & Co:*

page 169. Skarratt T.C., High, St Kington. (under Linen & Woolen Drapers)

Littlebury's Postal & Commercial Directory of Kington, 1867:

page 310. Skarratt, Thomas Carleton, Silk Mercer, Clothing. High St

page 311. Skarratt, Mrs Elizabeth, Fancy repositories, Jeweller. High St.

page 307. Skarratt, William Carleton, Draper's Asst. Church St.

page 300. Skarratt. T.C. Kington . Commisioners under local board.

Kellys 1900:

page 116 Private residence, Skarratt T.C. 11 High St.

E.R.Kelly Post Office Directory 1870

page 342. Skarratt. Henry. Watchmaker & Toy Dealer. High St.

page 342. Skarratt. T.C. Draper



10 HIGH STREET, Kington.

Thomas Carleton Skarratt (Author of the Diaries) lived in No.11 and ran his drapers business from No.10 from c1858 to c1876



CARLETON SKARRATT

He had three daughters and one son, his son Thomas Carleton 1776 - 1838, followed his father into the profession in Kington.

Thomas married Elizabeth ball in 1802 and they had 10 children all born in Kington. see family tree. Three of the sons, Henry, Thomas and Charles each persued different careers and made their mark on the society of the time.

Henry 1809 - 1888, continued the family clockmaking tradition in Hay-on-Wye and then Kington.



45 HIGH STREET, Kington

The watch & clock business of Thomas Carleton Skarratt and later in 1859 Elizabeth Skarratt is still here. Also Henry Skarratt her son was listed up to at least 1871

Old Radnor Church in Powys.Wales. about 4 miles from Kington in Herefordshire.England, is famous for its organ case, medieval screen, stained glass, and large font. The church is set in a commanding position looking out over beautiful countryside, if I was to be buried anywhere, this would be the place I would choose...

...

In the foreground is the gravestone of Elizabeth Sarah Skarratt nee Stephens 1824-1885. also buried alongside her here is Alice Ann Ward, nee Skarratt 1862-1904 ..

Thomas 1818 - 1909, was initially a linen draper in Kington, Author of the Diaries..

Charles 1824 - 1890, was a Hotelier, and some say he left to avoid debtors, and emigrated to Australia in 1852.

Henry Carleton 1809 - 1888

Henry was the second son, born in Kington and the only one to become a clockmaker amongst his brothers. He was probably trained by his father and in 1835 he had a premises in Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye. It would appear that when his father died in 1838 he returned to Kington and assisted his mother in the shop at 45 High Street. When his mother died in 1871, Henry who retired in 1870, moved to Ludlow. The business was taken over by T. J. Coleman. Henry lived at Gothic Villa, Gravel Hill, Ludlow, where he died in 1888. One watch has come to light in Australia which would seem to confirm that Henry actually had a business in Ludlow. A mantle clock made in Ludlow and a gold watch made by H.C. Skarratt, Ludlow #55743. Henry also tuned pianos, led the town band and managed the gas works.

It was Henry who in January 1841, built what must have been a unique creation for the time, a gas clock. It was mounted on the outside of the shop and displayed the time not only in the daylight, but also at night! What Henry had done was to connect the local town gas supply to a clock mechanism to produce what is undoubtedly the only clock of its type ever built. There would be a pilot light by day, and at night the clock mechanism would turn a cam that operated the gas cock and raised the flame up to illuminate the clockface. How it actually worked in detail is not quite clear, but we have Mr Barnston's idea on the operation. "He knew that a bevelled gear wheel attached to an arbour through the clock plates to the motion wheel on the front of the movement was often used to operate the hands of a second subsidiary dial. He therefore adapted this principle by attaching a rectangular brass plate with a slot cut in each end. Behind this was a gas tap with a round lead counterweight. The clock is in the archives of Hereford museum, and having seen it, I can say it is not in good repair and it is not obvious how it works due to bits missing. The clock itself was in constant use as a public clock at the shop until 1920.

For the technically minded clock enthusiast this is the description of the clock:-

It had a brass chapter ring 6½" Dia., which was used in a single handed 34 hour movement, and fitted with a brass dial centre so that winding hole could be positioned. The movement was a barrel from a long-case movement, wound from the front of the dial to lift up the weight. hour and minute hands were fitted and the anchor escapement released 16 inches long. Henry knew that a bevelled gear wheel attached to an arbour through the clock plates to the motion wheel on the front of the movement was often used to operate the hands of a second subsidiary dial. He therefore adapted the principle by attaching a rectangular brass plate with a slot cut in each end. Behind this he placed a gas tap fitted with a round lead weight on one end and a narrow arm on the other to fit into the slot. The gas jet was placed at about eight o'clock on the bottom LH side of the dial. The case is 17" long, 7½ inches wide and 6 inches deep.



It can be seen how bad the condition is from this RH side view showing barrel and string replacing front view. The front panel has been removed. original cat gut for weight suspension.

Charles

Because of the discovery of gold at places like Ballarat, Charles opened a hostel for the miners, many of whom had come from the failed tin and copper mines in Cornwall. Walter Hall, who came out with Charles, married to Charles's sister Elizabeth, started a store supplying the daily necessities to miners and their families.

It was in Geelong that Charles married Mary "Nell" Ellen Wren from London, in 1854. They moved to Melbourne and then Sydney and by then had 13 children. From Kings Cross, Sydney, Charles moved to Rockhampton to the new goldfields and opened a very superior hotel. There was another whiff of aristocracy about the Royal Hotel when Charles Carleton Skarratt bought it for £25,000 in 1872. Skarratt's wife was reputed to be a Countess in her own right. Skarratt made a pile through his association with the pioneers of the Mount Morgan gold field, and in 1882 he let the hotel to Thomas Asche, father of the celebrated Oscar of "Chu Chin Chow" fame. Asche senior, according to contemporary accounts spent most of his waking hours reclining in a chair beneath the umbrageous foliage of the potted plants in the lobby. Charles became very rich through his connection to his cousin, Walter Hall and the Mount Morgan Mining Company. There is a shady story here, basically the Hall's being the villains and Charles as a comparatively innocent participator. Walter Hall had managed to set up a company with two brothers called Morgan, who had scraped a living by farming until the gold was found. A mountain of gold virtually! Walter Hall astutely purchased any shares being sold in the company and managed to ease control away from the Morgans. Charles was invited to buy a block for around £6000 and from this and the hotel profits he moved back to Sydney and built himself a large house at Summerfield in 1881. He named it Carleton, and today it serves as a children's home.

Walter Hall returned from Australia to Kington and tried to pay off his benefactors from whom he

had borrowed money to emigrate. But because they had all died or moved away, Walter gave Kington the 13 acre Recreation ground in 1888. The gates are dedicated to Walter Hall for his gift to the people of Kington.



The plaque on the gates in kington recreation as described above.

"This Recreation ground was presented to the residents of Kington by Thomas Skarratt Hall 1888".



Charles Carleton Skarratt



Charles returned to England in 1881 and settled in London in style, with eight children..The daughters were sent to finishing schools in England and Paris and Sydney went to Monkton Combe School in Devon. Sydney went up to Cambridge, and in 1890 there was Carleton Fisher Skarratt of Worcester, a cousin of Thomas.



Mary Ellen. mar. John (Jack) Cyprian.E. Bridge
John (Jack) Cyprian Bridge
Lucy Anne (Minnie) mar.Charles Theobald
Violet Hall mar. John Sergeant C. Bridge
Daisy Wren marr. B. Tennant
Charles Sydney marr. Ethel Victoria Hewitt
Ethel Victoria Hewitt

Photographed c1920

Thomas

Thomas Carleton or Carleton to his family returned from Australia and graduated in 1884, ordained in 1885. He was referred to as "Australian Tom" by his namesake Uncle in his diary. He was curate

at Christchurch, Paddington from 1886-1889, and then became vicar of Kemsing on 13th December 1889, presented to the living by Lord Sackville, Lord of the Manor.

Initially he lived in London until the vicarage was ready for him. He enlarged it and added a chapel. It is now a youth hostel on the Pilgrim's Way. Life at the vicarage was gracious and one of his guests has said that in quite a large circle of the literate of the day Kemsing vicarage was noted for the refinements of its hospitality.

In 1896 Mr Skarratt commissioned John Ninian Comper to restore and redecorate the chancel of St Mary's church. And so it is that, thanks to the goldfields of Australia, we have a wealth of beauty and much of it in gold leaf in the church today.

When his parents died they were buried in Kemsing, as were three of his sisters. Thomas died in 1908, the group of tombstones are in the north-east corner of the churchyard with the grave of Thomas. There is a monumental brass in the middle of the church floor put there in memory of "Australian Tom".



Thomas Carleton Skarratt, Vicar of Kemsing





Monumental brass to Thomas in St Mary's Church, Kemsing

Inscription reads:-

Thomas Carleton Skarratt vicar of Kemsing from 21st December 1889 who died 3rd September 1908 and is buried in the churchyard. during his vicariate the North Aisle was built and the church and screen restored. He adorned the Chancel. Lord I have loved the habitation of thy house and place where thine honour dwellith



Grave of Thomas in Kemsing, St Mary's Church grounds

Listing of Skarratt in Crockfords

SKARRATT, CARLETON FISHER. Adm. pens at Emmanuel, Apr. 17, 1890. S of John Martin Esq., of Vernon House, Lower Wick, near Worcester. B. 27 July 1871. Schools, Blundell's, Tiverton, Worcester and Oakham. Migrated to Downing. Oct. 8, 1890. Matric. Michs. 1890. Went to America. (*Blundell's Sch. Reg.*; *Oakham Sch. Reg.*)

SKARRATT, CHARLES SYDNEY. Adm. at Trinity Hall, 1889. S of Charles Carleton, of Summer

Hill, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia, Matric. Michs. 1889. Brother of the next.

SKARRATT, THOMAS CARLETON. Adm. pens. (age 22) at Pembroke, Oct 1. 1870 {Eldest} s. of Charles Carleton, Esq. of Sydney, Australia. B in Victoria. Matric. Michs. 1879. Migrated to Downing. Oct 19, 1882; B.A. 1884; M.A. 1889. Ord deacon (London 1886; priest, 1887; C. of Christ Church, Paddington, 1886-9. V. of Kemsing, Kent, 1889-1908. Died Sept 3. 1908, aged 50. Brother of the above. (*Crockford; The Times, Sept 4, 1908.*)



KEMSING church, Kent. St Mary the Virgin.

Located in Kent just north of Sevenoaks is the small village of Kemsing and its village church. The church was the parish of Rev. T.C. Skarratt from 1889 -1908 and he was responsible for improving the fabric of the church including the following windows:

- ✂ East window: 3 lights. Christ in Majesty by Comper. 1902. Rev T.C. Skarratt in memory of his mother.
- ✂ Sanctuary North Wall: 2 lights in frame inserted 1891. The visitation, by Comper about 1902. In memory of Elizabeth hall.
- ✂ West window: 2 lights. The Annunciation, by Comper. 1911. In memory of Rev T.C. Skarratt from his sisters.
- ✂ North Aisle: 2 lights. ss. Thomas & Richard, by Comper. 1911. in memory of Rev. T.C. Skarratt, from his friends

Buried at Kemsing are:-

T.C.Skarratt 1857-1908, Amy Carleton Skarratt 1866-1927, Charles Carleton Skarratt 1824-1900, Daisy Wren Skarratt 1877-1942, Emily Carleton Skarratt 1862-1923, Lucy Anne (Minnie) Skarratt 1863-1934, Violet Hall Skarratt 1877-1953.

from "Sydney'S Highways of History" by Geoffrey Scott

W.R. Hall managed operations in New South Wales for several years; and his career, as described in Percival Serle's Dictionary of Australian Biography, was spectacular. Hall was born in Kington,

Herefordshire, England, in 1831, and arrived in Sydney on 14 February 1852. After a spell on the Victorian goldfields, he became connected with Cobb & Co., first as an agent and later as a partner in Rutherford's syndicate. When gold was discovered at Mount Morgan in Queensland, Hall invested heavily in the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company and made a fortune of several millions. He retired from Cobb & Co. in 1885, and for some years before his death on 13 October 1911, he was a director of the Mount Morgan Company. His widow (*Elizabeth R. Kirk*) founded the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust with a gift of £1,000,000.

from The Lights of Cobb & Co. by K.A.Austin

"Australian Tom"

Since writing the article "An Australian Connection" for the summer issue of 'The Well', more information about the Skarratt family has come to light. We now know that there was once a linen draper who lived in the small market town of Kington in Herefordshire. Being a draper he was one of the first to hear of any deaths that occurred in the town, for he supplied black crepe for hat bands and black ribbon for arm bands, or even bolts of suitably dark material for making up mourning clothes. These deaths were all recorded in his diary, often with comments on the manner of death and the nature of the lost one. His diaries also reveal a lively interest in everything that went on in the town. Very keen on all manner of sporting activities, he commented on the football and cricket matches between the boys of Kington and the neighbouring towns and villages. He described fishing trips made with his friends; skating outings with his daughter when the severe winters of the 1880's froze the local ponds; and otter hunting up and down the local rivers and brooks. His comments on musical events are somewhat pithy, being inclined to describe the effects of the town band or the church choir as producing plenty of noise but not much music. The annual horticultural shows are dealt with lovingly, giving full lists of prizes won by himself-and they were considerable in number. Agricultural shows were always attended and market trends noted. It is interesting to find the misdemeanours of the young were much the same as they are today, such pranks as taking gates of hinges and leaving them in other people's gardens being mentioned.

He was named Thomas Carleton Skarratt, after his father, and the main purpose of the diaries was to keep the scattered members of his family in touch with each other and with the events in their home town of Kington, by posting copies of the diaries from one family to the next, from Kington to Ludlow; to Wigan; Sydney or Melbourne, etc. Two of his younger brothers were William and Charles. William was at first in partnership with him in the draper's business, but later decided to emigrate to Australia to join Charles, who had already gone there. With a neighbour Walter Hall, who had borrowed money from his friends to enable him to get to Australia. Charles had settled in Geelong by 1853, near the goldfields in Victoria. Here he set up a "hotel" for miners and their families, while Walter opened a "store". Both did well and in 1854 Charles married a London born girl called Mary Ellen Wren. This couple (Charlie and Nell in the diaries) raised a large family in Geelong, Melbourne and Sydney, thirteen in all, of whom nine survived. Walter Hall married the diarist's elder sister, Elizabeth (Liz), and both families prospered in the new country, moving from Geelong to Melbourne and from there to Sydney, where eventually in 1881 a large house was built for Charles, called "Carleton". (It is still there and is now a large children's hospital at Summer Hill.) In 1878 Charles and Walter had become shareholders in the Mount Morgan Mining Company in New South Wales, and they were rich enough to make visits to England. The diary entry for the 12th. of February, 1878 reads "A letter to hand to Henry (another brother) and self in which he mentions the all-but decision to send Tom to England". The "all-but" soon became definite, because on the 23rd April came a letter from Tom (who was the eldest son of Charles and Mary Ellen and was called Thomas Carleton Skarratt after his grandfather and his uncle the diarist) to announce that he was in New York and would leave for England on 18th April. On arrival Tom went to stay with his uncle Henry in Ludlow on 5th May, and visited Kington a day or two later. A series of visits to old friends and members of the family followed during the next month or two, and on one occasion the diary records "24th October, Australian Tom came by the 5.00pm. train to spend the night with us". The

next year Tom spent at Ludlow before going up to Cambridge. On 6th April, 1880 his uncle wrote "Australian Tom paid us a visit, just for the day, prior to his resuming his studies at Cambridge". In 1881 Charles decided to bring the rest of his family to England, and they all, except for one daughter, duly arrived in Ludlow in June of that year. The elder girls evidently went away to school, but the two youngest, twins Violet and Daisy, stayed in Ludlow. In December 1881 it was recorded that "Tom had passed his exam" in Cambridge. That was the last mention of Tom until 1885 when he was said to be going to Australia for his health. How long he stayed there is not known, but in 1886 he was a curate at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, and in 1889 Lord Sackville presented him to the Living of Kemsing, where he died in 1908.

So the next time you walk through the chancel of St Mary's Church, trying as always not to walk on the monumental brass that lies in the middle of the floor, you will know that it was put there in memory of "Australian Tom".

V.E. Bowden

The descendants of the above family members still live in Australia

My thanks to Mr Victor Bowden, Kemsing.

FAMILY LISTING

NAME	GG	Rel	Status	ERA	Mar	LOCATION(S)	Em	Bur
Richard	K1			1703-?		London		
Mary		K1	W					
Robert	L1	K1	S	1725-1767		London		
Sarah		L1	W	1729				
Richard	L2	K1	S	1734-?		London-Worcester		?
Elizabeth		L2	W	?				
Barbara	L51	K1	D	1738-?		London		?
Will	L3	K1	S	1742		London		?
Carleton	M1	L1	S	1754-?	?	London/Kington		?
Mary A		M1	W	fl.1782				?
Robert	M2	L1	S	1755-?		London		?
Thomas	M3	L1	S	1757-?	1782	London/Worcester		?
Susanna Bennett		M3	W	1760-?	"			
John Carleton	M4	L1	S	1760-?	?	London		?
Charles Carleton	M5	L1	S	1761-?	?	London		?
Sarah	M52	L1	D	1765-?d.i.?	n/a	London		?
Mary Ann	N51	M1	D	1773-?				
Thomas Carleton	N1	M1	S	1778-1838	1802	London/Kington		K
Elizabeth Ball		N1	W	?-1871	"	Kington		K
Martha	N52	M1	D	1778-?		London		
Sarah Jane	N53	M1	D	1782-?		London		
Thomas Carleton	O1	N1	S	1803-1809	n/a	Kington		K
Elizabeth Carleton	O51	N1	D	1804-1862	1828	Kington	E	A
Walter Hall		O51	H	1803-?	"	Hergest Mill	E	A
Ann Carleton	O52	N1	D	1807-1842	unm	Kington		K
Henry Carleton	O2	N1	S	1809-1888	1833	Kington/Ludlow		L
Sarah Evans		O2	W	1824-1897?	"			?
Charlotte Carleton	O53	N1	D	1811-1872	unm	Kington		K
Thomas W Carleton	O3	N1	S	1813-1814	n/a	Kington		K
William Carleton	O4	N1	S	1815	n/a	Kington		K
Hester Carleton	O54	N1	D	1816-1889	1854	Kington	E	A
Joseph Brothwood		O54	H	1820-?	"	Yeovil		

Thomas W. Carleton	O5	N1	S	1818-1909	1857	Kington		K
<i>Elizabeth Stephens</i>		O5	W	1824-1885	"	Old Radnor		OR
William Carleton	O6	N1	S	1821-1896	1853	Kington	E	?
<i>Francis Mary Weale</i>		O6	W	1832-1911	"	Liverpool	E	AUS
Charles Carleton	O7	N1	S	1824-1900	1854	Kington	E	KM
<i>Mary Ellen Wren</i>		O7	W	1836-1901	"	London		KM
Thomas Carleton	P1	O5	S	1858-9	n/a	K		K
Jane Elizabeth	Q51	O5	D	1860-1	n/a	K		K
Alice Ann	Q52	O5	D	1862-1904	1888	Kington		OR
John Whittick Ward		Q52	H	1864-1909	"	K		
Charles John	Q1	O5	S	1865-6	n/a	Kington		OR
Francis Elizabeth	P51	O6	D	1854-1935	1882	Kington	E	A
<i>David Thomas</i>		O6	H	1855-1911	1882	IRL	E	A
Thomas Carleton	P1	O6	S	1857-1929	1907	K	E	A
<i>Esther Caroline Page</i>		O6	W	?-1938	"	?		A
William Carleton Henry	P2	O6	S	1858-1916	unm	K	E	A
Henry Charles	Q1	O6	S	1862-1942	1891	K	E	A
<i>Gertrude Francis Seymour</i>	Q1	Q1	w	1870-1949	"	A		A
Albert Joseph	Q2	O6	S	1865-1915	unm	K	E	A
Carleton Walter	Q3	O6	S	1868-1943	1898	K	E	A
Charlotte Eleanor	Q51	O6	D	1870-1938	1901	K	E	A
Phillip Wesley	Q4	O6	S	1871	n/a	K		K
Donald Frederic	Q5	O6	S	1873-1948	1914	K	E	A
Charles Carleton	P1	O7	S	1855	na	Aus		A
Henry carleton	P2	O7	S	1856-1857	na	Aus		A
Thomas Carleton	P3	O7	S	1857-1908		Aus		KM
Marv Ellen	P51	O7	D	1859	1881	Aus		?
Lizzie Francis	Q51	O7	D	1861	na	Aus		Aus
Emily Carleton	Q52	O7	D	1862-1923	1887	Aus		KM
Lucy Anne	Q53	O7	D	1863-1934		Aus		KM
a son	Q1	O7	S	1864	na	Aus		Aus
Amy Carleton	Q54	O7	D	1866-1927	c1886	Aus		KM
a son	Q2	O7	S	1867	na	K		K
Charles Sydney	Q3	O7	S	1870-1942	1901	Aus		Aus
Violet Hall	Q55	O7	D	1877-1953	1904	Aus		KM
Daisy Wren	Q56	O7	D	1877-1942	?	Aus		KM

Spouses in Italic

GG=Generation grid

E = Emigrated to Australia

Clockmakers in Blue type

Buried @ A=Australia, K=Kington, OR= Old Radnor, L= Ludlow, KM= Kemsing

Names in Bold type = photos of

©This page is copyright of C.Pike