

# Dark Moon over Canewdon

## The Ghosts of the Village's Past

History and Genealogy of some of the interesting individuals of the village



William Wallworth

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# Dark Moon over Canewdon

The Ghosts of the Village's Past

Researched and compiled  
by William Wallworth

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## Comments

Comments for this Edition B

Added are the histories on:

Rev. William Atkinson (ca. 1767 - 1847)

Martha Pickingill (1787-1853) wife of James Scott the Butcher

Comments from Edition A

It is now 2023 !

I started the researches into Witches and Cunning folk people fifteen years ago in 2008. It started with George Pickingill of Canewdon, Essex ....

I am now going back to my old works to update them. Since then more and more records are available online to view since when I originally done those works.

Also the original works were published on my web pages and the ones I am redoing are now in PDF format. I feel that PDF is better in preserving the works than web pages. Web pages can be deleted if there is no one paying the fees for hosting the sites.

Perhaps in the future I can go to the next step of printing them in a real book and Kindle versions to make sure it is preserved forever (except in the case where we nuke ourselves out of existence and the humans are replaced by evolved cockroaches as the new masters of the Earth).

Another reason in doing this Dark Moon of Canewdon work is that there are bits and pieces about the witches and cunning folks scattered about on my separate works. That if they are put together in this work, it will strengthen the overall story about the witches of Canewdon.

## The Downs Family

The Downs family came from Hutton parish in Essex in the beginning of the 19th century.

At some point before his marriage in 1845 at Canewdon, William Downs, whose legal name was Walter Downs, came to Canewdon, Essex. He was a ferryman of the ferry that went between Creeksea and Canewdon on the river Crouch.

William Downs told his son, Arthur Downs, about the witches of Canewdon of the 1840's to early 1860's period.

The Downs family left Canewdon after 1861 and went to Paglesham, Essex. This was before the time when George Pickingill came to Canewdon, he had moved there in the late 1870's to about 1880.

Arthur Downs recollected about the witches in Canewdon that his father told him about to Bea Howe in 1952.

Downs Family  
1st Generation

## William Downs (1820/1821 - 1898)

Husband of Eliza Hales

1. **WALTER DOWNS** (also known as William Downs) was born ca. 1820-1821 in Hutton, Essex and was baptized on 13 May 1821 in All Saints church in Hutton.

Father: Richard Downs

Mother: Martha Barker

### ~ 1821

From the parish register of All Saints, Hutton:

Baptisms 1821 - Page 15. No. 113.

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. /  
By whom the Ceremony performed.*

1821. May 13 / Walter / Richard & Martha / Downes / Hutton / Labourer / R. Black

Image of the record:

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Hutton</u> in the County of <u>Essex</u> in the Year 18 <u>21</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1821 May 13 No. 113.	Walter	Richard & Martha	Downes	Hutton	Labourer	R. Black

Walter Downs went through most of his life as "William Downs". The exceptions are in his baptism, the 1871 census and in the birth certificate of his son Arthur where he is "Walter Downs".

### ~ about his parents

His parents, Richard Downs and Martha Barker, were married on 6 October 1808 in All Saints church in Wickham, St. Paul in Essex.

From the parish register:

Marriages 1808

Richard Downes of this Parish and Martha Barker of this Parish were Married in this Church by Banns this sixth Day of October in the Year One Thousand eight Hundred and Eight by me Charles Andrews Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between Us {

Richard Downs

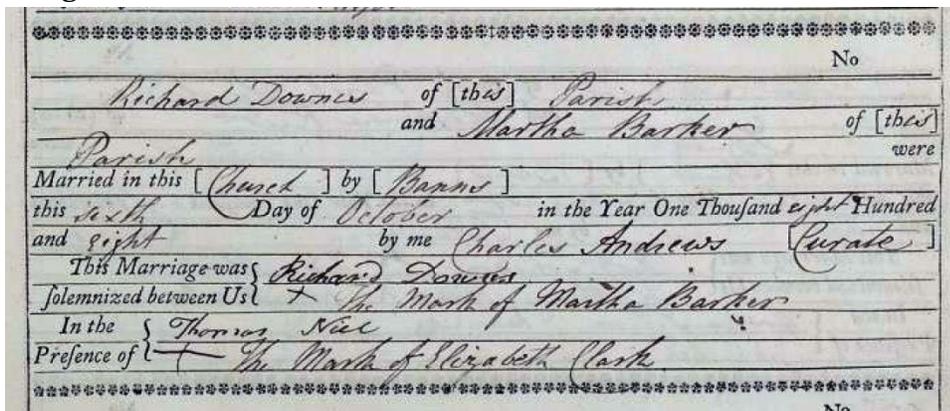
X The Mark of Martha Barker

In the Presence of {

Thomas Niel

X The Mark of Elizabeth Clark

Image of the record:



### ~ 1845

William Downs married **ELIZA HALES** on 7 September 1845 at St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the marriage certificate:

Registration District: Rochford

1845. Marriage solemnized in the Parish of Canewdon in the County of Essex.

No. 44

When Married. Sep: 7. 1845

Name. / Age. / Condition. / Profession. / Residence at the Time of Marriage. / Father's Name. / Father's Profession.

William Downs / of full Age / Bachelor / Ferryman / Canewdon / Richard Downs / Labourer

Eliza Hales / of full Age / Spinster / Servant / Prittlewell / William Hales / Labourer

Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, of England by me, W. Atkinson - Vicar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us,

William Downs X his Mark

Eliza Hales

in the Presence of us,

Sarah Ann Whitwell

Geo: Benton

Image of part of the record:

1845. Marriage solemnized at		in the Parish of C			
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.
	44 Sep: 7.	William Downs	of full Age	Bachelor	Ferryman
		Eliza Hales	of full Age	Spinster	Servant
Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established					
This Marriage was solemnized between us.		William Downs X his Mark Eliza Hales		in the Presence of us, Sarah Ann Whitwell Geo: Benton	

William Downs was a ferryman in 1845.

Eliza Hales was born ca. 1826 in Canewdon, Essex. She was a daughter of William Hales.

~ From the articles, **Witches over the Crouch**, by Bea Howe, 1952 and 1959

The interview where Arthur Downs is recollecting events that happened in his father's lifetime.

"Many a night his father, who had kept the local ferry, had heard the rustle of a silk dress beside him as he walked home through the lanes but "never a step to be heard or a figure seen."

## ~ 1846

William Downes was mentioned as a ferryman at the Cricksea Ferry in a newspaper article.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 22 May 1846:

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

ROBBERY ON BOARD A COAL BRIG. --- The Brig *Ocean*, Capt. Taylor, from Midelsboro, laden with coals, discharging her cargo at Broom Mills, Little Stambridge, was robbed on Thursday night last. *James Clarke*, a seaman belonging to the *Ocean*, went on shore in the evening, and it is supposed, returned to the ship between twelve and one, when he stole a silver watch, guard chain, and pair of boots belonging to T. F. Medley, mate; also a new pair of trowsers and neckerchief from Henry Cook, an apprentice of the same ship. P. C. Way, No. 1, stationed at Rochford and P. C. Riddle, 135, stationed Canewdon, went in pursuit of the thief, and at Cricksea ferry learned he had crossed over to Dengie Hundred early the same morning, having first sold the trowsers to William Downes, the ferryman, for two shillings. The officers took possession of these, and following up their game after a very hard day's work, found Clarke in the tap room of the Lion Inn, Latchingdon wearing the boots and neckerchief. Way apprehended the prisoner, and while in the act of searching him, Riddle saw the watch lying on a table at the further end of the room where three or four persons were sitting, the prisoner having offered for sale to them for 15s. Prisoner was subsequently taken before A. Holt White, Esq., who committed him for trial at the adjourned session.

## ~ 1848

The following newspaper advertisement, probably explains why William Downs was not a ferryman anymore. The owner of the property which also owned the ferry boat put the place to be sold at an auction in London.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 3 March 1848:

ROCHFORD HUNDRED, ESSEX.

Messrs. Shuttleworth & Sons

Are instructed to SELL by AUCTION, at the Mart, in London, Friday, March 10th, at Twelve o'Clock, in One Lot.

A Valuable FREEHOLD ESTATE; comprising The Ferry, Gores Marsh Farm, with the Ferry Boat Public-house, and the Tolls arising from the Ferry over the River Crouch,

situate at Cricksea Ferry, opposite Burnham, about seven miles from Rochford, and 20 from Chelmsford, in the parish of Canewdon, in the county of Essex ; comprising about 216 ACRES

of rich Arable and Pasture Land, with extensive Saltings, lying compactly together, with excellent Agricultural Buildings, Ferryman and Labourer's Cottages, and suitable Appurtenances, in the occupation of Mr. John Allen, on lease, at a rent of £255 per annum.

May be viewed with permission of the tenant, and particulars had at the Ferry House; the White Hart, Burnham; New Ship, Rochford; Saracen's Head, Chelmsford; at the Auction Mart; and of Messrs. Shuttleworth and Sons, No. 28, Poultry, London.

### **~ From the articles, *Witches over the Crouch*, by Bea Howe, 1952 and 1959**

The interview where Arthur Downes is recollecting events that happened in his father's lifetime.

"The two most active witches in his day had been "Parson's wife and old Lady Lodwick" living at Wick Farm.

One afternoon old Lady Lodwick had left her two maids preparing fruit for jam-making in the kitchen, with strict injunctions that they were not to stop work till her return from Rochford. Hardly had the sound of carriage wheels died away than Sarah Jane, the younger maid, was filled with longing to eat the black currants dangling on the bushes outside the kitchen window. Down went her bowl as she cried, "I must go, Martha!" "Doant 'ee be so foolish. Remember what Missus told us," replied her wiser companion.

But Sarah Jane was already out of the window, picking away like mad and stuffing the juicy berries into her mouth. Her appetite appeased, she made to return, throwing her leg over the kitchen window sill. To her horror, she found suddenly that she could not move. She was frozen solid there, half in and half out, till the sound of carriage wheels was again heard on the gravel drive. Now there came footsteps down the passage, and as old Lady Lodwick appeared at the door, crying, "Why, you foolish girl, whatever are you doing there?" Sarah Jane found that she could move and speak again."

"Soon after my talk with Arthur Downes I went over to Canewdon to check the names he had used with such assurance. In the cool, empty church of St. Nicholas I came across the hatchments of the Kerstemans, an old family of Flemish extraction which had settled in Canewdon in 1700. By studying them I soon discovered that Arthur Downes's "old Lady Lodwick" and "Parson's wife, Mary Ann" were sisters. Evidently witch blood ran strong in their family. Eliza Lodwick had died in 1861; Mary Ann, married to the Rev. William Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, earlier.

When I asked Arthur Downes if he had ever heard of James Murrell, the cunning man of Hadleigh Castle, he smiled knowingly and said: "Aye, he had the power to whistle up all the Canewdon witches." During his father's lifetime the village petitioned Vicar Atkinson to let Murrell exercise his whistling powers and make the witches confess themselves by dancing round the churchyard. "But," said old Downes, "Passon 'ee said 'No.' For 'ee didn't want to be ashamed afore all knowing that Mary Ann, his wife, would be among them." "

### ~ 1851

In 1851, William and Elizabeth Downs were living in Canewdon, Essex.

William Downs was listed as an Agricultural Labourer.

From the 1851 census of Canewdon:

William Down<sup>s</sup> / Head / M / 30 M / Ag Lab / Essex Hutton

Elizabeth Do / Wife / M / 25 F / ----- / Do Canewdon

William Do / Son / --- / 5 M / ----- / Do Do

Elizabeth Do / Daur / --- / 2 F / ----- / Do Do

### ~ 1861

In 1861, William and Eliza Downs were living in Loftmans Cottage in Canewdon, Essex.

William Downs was listed as an Agricultural Labourer.

From the 1861 census of Canewdon:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Loftmans Cottage

William Downs / Head / Mar / 42 M / Ag Lab / Essex Hutton

Eliza Downs / Wife / Mar / 37 F / ----- / Do Canewdon

Charlotte Downs / Daur / ---- / 11 F / Serv / Do Do

David Downs / Son / ---- / 7 M / ----- / Do Do

Arthur Downs / Son / ---- / 3 mo M //----- / Do Do

### ~ between 1861 and 1871

The Downs family moved from Canewdon to Paglesham, Essex sometime between the censuses of 1861 and 1871.

### ~ 1871

In 1871, Walter and Eliza Downs were living at Clements in Paglesham, Essex.

Walter Downs was listed as a Shepherd.

From the 1871 Census of Paglesham:

Clements

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born / Whether...*

Walter Downs / Head / Mar / 50 M / Shepherd / Essex Brentwood

Eliza Do / Wife / Mar / 40 F / ----- / Do Canewdon

Walter Do / Son / Unm / 17 M / Ag: Lab: / Do Do

David Do / Son / ---- / 14 M / Do / Do Do

Arthur Do / Son / ---- / 10 M / Do / Do Do

Samuel English / Lodger / Unm / 27 M / Do / Do Paglesham / Deaf

### ~ 1881

In 1881, William and Eliza Downs were living in Clements Marsh in Hockey, Essex.

From the 1881 census of Hockley:

Clements Marsh

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

William Downs / Head / Mar / 61 M / Ag. Lab / Essex Hutton

Eliza D<sup>o</sup> / Wife / Mar / 55 F / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> Canewdon

David D<sup>o</sup> / Son / Unm / 24 M / Ag. Lab / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

Arthur D<sup>o</sup> / Son / Unm / 20 M / D<sup>o</sup> / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

Susannah D<sup>o</sup> / Grand Daur / ---- / 14 F / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> Hockley

Joseph Spring / Lodger / Unm / 70 M / Ag Lab / D<sup>o</sup> Stanaway

### ~ 1891

In 1891, William and Eliza Downes were living at North House in Paglesham, Essex.

William Downes was listed as a Farm Bailiff.

From the 1891 census of Paglesham:

Part of North House

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

William Downes / Head / M / 71 M / Farm Bailiff - Employed / Essex Hutton

Eliza do / Wife / M / 65 F / ----- / do Canewdon

### ~ 1898

William Downs died at the age of 78 years on 2 October 1898 in Paglesham, Essex.

From the death certificate:

Superintendent Registrar's District - Rochford

Registrar's Sub-District - Rochford

1898. DEATHS in the Sub-District of Rochford in the County of Essex.

*No. / When and Where Died. / Name. / Sex. / Age. / Profession. / Cause of Death. / Informant. / When Registered. / Signature of Registrar*

192 / Second October 1898 Paglesham R. D. / William Downs / Male / 78 years / Farm Labour / Senile Decay Certified by L. James MD. / E. Downs Widow present at the death Paglesham / Third October 1898 / L. L. James Registrar

Image of part of the certificate:

1898. DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>Rochford</i>					
Columns:—					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.
<i>192</i>	<i>Second October 1898 Paglesham R. D.</i>	<i>William Downs</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>78 years</i>	<i>Farm Labour</i>

~ 1901

In 1901, Eliza Downes, a widow, was living with her son David Downes' family in Paglesham, Essex.

Eliza Downes was stated as Living on own means.

From the 1901 census of Paglesham:

4 - Number of Rooms occupied if less than five

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

David Downes / Head / M / 43 M / ordinary agricultural labourer - worker / Essex Canewdon

Emily J. Do / wife / M / 35 F / ----- / Do Paglesham

Mercy Do / daur / ---- / 13 F / Nurse - Domestic / Do Do

George Do / son / ---- / 11 M / ----- / Do Do

Eliza Do / Mother / Wid. / 76 F / Living on own means. / Do Canewdon

~ 1911

Eliza Downes, age 86 years was living with her son David Downes' family at East Street in Rochford, Essex.

From the 1911 census of Rochford:

No. of Schedule - 310

Signature - Emily Downes

Postal Address - Mr Downs East Street

David Downes / Head / 52 M / ----- / --- / 2 / 2 / 0 / Nursery Gardener - Worker / Essex Canewdon

Emily Downes / Wife / 48 F / ----- / 24 / --- / --- / --- / ----- / " Paglesham

George Downes / Son / 21 M / Single / --- / --- / --- / --- / Blacksmith - Worker / " Paglesham

Nancy Downes / Daughter / 23 F / ----- / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / " Paglesham

Hatch Pallets / Boarder / 28 M / Single / --- / --- / --- / --- / Boiler Maker - Worker / " Safron Walden

Eliza Downes ----- / Mother / 86 F / Widow / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / " Canewdon

Ivy Chamberlain / Cousin / 19 F / Single / --- / --- / --- / --- / ----- / " Paglesham

## Children of William and Eliza (Hales) Downs

2. WILLIAM DOWNS

3. GEORGE DOWNS

4. CHARLOTTE DOWNS

5. WALTER DOWNS

6. DAVID DOWNS

7. + ARTHUR DOWNS (1860-1956)

Arthur Downs married Sarah Emily Willis

They are treated in the next generation.

Sources:

1. 1808 marriage of Richard Downes/Downs and Martha Barker. Wickham St. Paul, All Saints, D/P 213/1/4, Marriages 1754-1812, 36 images. Essex Archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 32 right side (no page and record numbers filled in). Searched on March 2, 2023 10:28 Thursday PM.
2. 1821 baptism of Walter Downes. Hutton, All Saints, D/P 143/1/4, Baptisms 1813-1876, 54 images. Essex Archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 10 right side, Baptisms 1821, page 15, no. 113. First found on March 23, 2010 Tuesday 9:21 AM and rechecked on March 2, 2023 Thursday 1:52 AM.
3. Civil Registration Index, Marriage of William Downes and Eliza Hale, 3rd Quarter (Jul-Aug-Sep), Year 1845, District Rochford, County Essex, Volume 12, Page 309. Searched December 28, 2008 Sunday 8:30 PM.
4. 1845 Marriage Certificate of William Downs and Eliza Hales. From the General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside, England. Received May 12, 2009 Tuesday Morning.
5. 1846 William Downes, ferryman mentioned in a newspaper article. Chelmsford Chronicle - Friday 22 May 1846, page 4. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched on February 16, 2023 Thursday 12:56 AM.
6. 1848 the property and ferry boat sold at Cricksea Ferry in auction. Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 03 March 1848, page 1. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched on February 17, 2023 Friday 12:57 AM.
7. 1851 Census of England, Essex, Canewdon, ALL, 7, Image No. 31, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference H.O. 107/1777, original page no. 30, stamped page no. 439. No. of Householder's Schedule 117, household of William Downs. First found on December 30, 2008 Tuesday 9:20 PM, rechecked on January 5, 2023 Thursday 9:56 PM.
8. 1861 census of England, Essex, Canewdon, ALL, District 6, image No. 31, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R.G. 9 1085, original page no. 25, stamped page no. 92. No. of Schedule 121, household of William Downs. First found on December 30, 2008 Tuesday 8:54 PM and rechecked on January 5, 2023 Thursday 11:00 PM.
9. 1871 Census of England, Essex, Paglesham, ALL, 7, Image No. 11, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R.G. 10 1669, original page no. 10. No. of Schedule 53, household of Walter Downs. First searched on January 18, 2009 Sunday 7:38 PM and rechecked on February 15, 2023 Wednesday 10:50 PM.
10. 1881 census of England, Essex, Hockley, ALL, District 8, image no. 17, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 11/1768, original page no. 16. No. of Schedule 1, household of William Downs. First searched on December 28, 2008 Sunday 9:09 PM and rechecked on February 15, 2023 Wednesday 11:49 PM.
11. 1891 census of England, Essex, Paglesham, ALL, District 7, image no. 12, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 12/1393, original page no. 11, stamped page no. 85. No. of Schedule 58, household of William Downes. First searched on December 30, 2008 Tuesday 8:34 PM and rechecked on February 22, 2023 11:02 PM.

12. 1898 death of William Downs in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915, online at Ancestry.com. Age: 78; Death Date: Oct-Nov-Dec 1898; Registration District: Rochford; County: Essex; Vol.: 4a; Page: 347. Searched on January 18, 2009 Sunday 7:15 PM and rechecked on February 28, 2023 Tuesday 12:47 AM.
13. 1898 death certificate for William Downs. Digital PDF copy sent by email from the General Register Office in United Kingdom. Received March 9, 2023 Thursday 1:37 AM.
14. 1901 census of England, Essex, Paglesham, ALL, District 6, image no. 14, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 13/1684, original page no. 13, stamped page no. 78. No. of Schedule 95, household of David Downes. First searched on January 18, 2009 Sunday 7:52 PM and rechecked on February 22, 2023 Wednesday 11:46 PM.
15. 1911 census of England, Essex, Rochford, All, 06, image nos. 620 & 621, online at Ancestry.com. No. of Registration District 195, No. of Registration Sub-District 1, No. of Enumeration District 6. No. of Schedule 310, household of David Downes. Searched on March 3, 2023 Friday 1:18 AM.
16. 1952 article Witches over the Crouch by Bea Howe. Transcription of the article from Scott Bisseker. Original from the East Anglian Magazine, November 1952, published by East Anglian Magazine Ltd, Ipswich and printed by The East Anglian Daily Times Co. Ltd., Ipswich. Received this on February 12, 2009 Thursday 2:51 PM.
17. (1952) Article about Witches over the Crouch, where Arthur Downes interview was mentioned. The Times, Tuesday, Jan 27, 1959, page 10, Issue 54369, col F. Searched on February 26, 2010 Friday evening.

Downs Family  
2nd Generation

## Arthur Downs (1860 - 1956)

Husband of Sarah Emily Willis

7. **ARTHUR DOWNS** was born on 24 December 1860 in Canewdon, Essex.  
Father: William Downs (No.1)  
Mother: Eliza Hales

### ~ 1860

From the birth certificate:

Superintendent Registrar's District - Rochford

Registrar's District - Rochford

1861. BIRTHS in the District of Rochford in the County of Essex

*No. / When Born. / Name. / Sex. / Name of Father. / Name and Maiden Name of Mother. / Profession of Father. / Informant. / When Registered. / Signature of Registrar.*

378 / Twenty fourth December 1860 Canewdon / Arthur / Boy / Walter Downs / Eliza Downs formerly Hails / Farm Labourer / Eliza Downs Mother Canewdon / First February 1861 / James Badderly Registrar

Image of part of the record:

No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.
378	Twenty fourth December 1860 Canewdon	Arthur	Boy	Walter Downs	Eliza Downs formerly Hails

~ **1861**

In 1861, Arthur Downs, age 3 months, was living with his parents in Loftmans Cottage in Canewdon, Essex (see above under the parents for census details).

~ **1871**

In 1871, Arthur Downs, age 10, an Agricultural Laborer, was living with his parents in Clements in Paglesham, Essex (see above under the parents for census details).

~ **1881**

In 1881, Arthur Downs, age 20, an Agricultural Laborer, was living with his parents in Clements Marsh in Hockley, Essex. (see above under the parents for census details).

~ **1891**

Arthur Downs was not found in the 1891 census.

~ **1901**

Arthur Downs was not found in the 1901 census.

~ **1903**

Arthur Downs married **SARAH EMILY WILLIS** in the 1st quarter (Jan-Feb-Mar) of 1903 in the Maldon registration district of Essex.

From the England & Wales, Marriage Index:

*Name / Name of Spouse / Marriage Date / Registration District / County / Vol. / Page*  
Arthur Downs / Emily Willis / Jan-Feb-Mar 1903 / Maldon / Essex / 4a / 678

~ **1911**

"Auther" and Sarah Emily Downs were living at Glebe Lane in Dengie, Essex.

Auther Downs was listed as a Horse man on a farm.

From the 1911 census of Dengie:

No. of Schedule - 53

Signature - Auther Downs

Postal Address - Glebe Lane Dengie Essex

No. of Rooms in this Dwelling - 4

*Name / Relationship / Age & Sex / Marital status / Years Married / Children, born alive / ----, living / ----, died / Profession / Where Born*

Auther Downs / Head / 50 M / Married / --- / --- / --- / --- / Horse man on Farm - Worker / Essex Canewdon

Sarah Emily Downs / Wife / 41 F / Married / 8 / --- / --- / --- / ----- / Essex Southminster

**~ 1921**

In 1921, Arthur and Emily Downs were living in Creeksea, Essex.

Arthur Downs was listed as a Ploughman working at Stokes Hall in Althorne.

From the 1921 census of Creeksea:

No. of Schedule - 12

Signature - Arthur Downs

Postal Address - Mr. Downs, Creeksea, Essex

*Name / Relationship / Age, Years - Months / Sex / Marital status / Where Born / Profession*

Arthur Downs / Head / 60 - 6 / M / Married / Canewdon Essex / Ploughman - Captain Jackson - Stokes Hall Althorne

Emily Downs / Wife / 51 - 5 / F / Married / Southminster Essex / Home duties - Wife

Image of part of the record:

	(a)	(b)	(c) years, months	(d)	(e)	(f)
1	Arthur Downs	Head	60 6	M	Married	Canewdon Essex
2	Emily Downs	Wife	51 5	F	Married	Southminster Essex
3						

**~ 1939**

In 1939, Arthur and Sarah E. Downs were living in Ivy Cottage in Creeksea, Essex.

Arthur Downes was listed as a Gardener.

From the 1939 register of Creeksea:

No. of Schedule 136

Ivy Cottage, Creeksea

*Sub No, / Name / Sex / Birth Date / Marital status / Profession*

1 Downes Arthur / M / 21 Dec 60 / M / Gardener

~ **1952**

In 1952, Bea Howe visited Arthur and Emily Downs to ask them questions concerning the witches of Canewdon for her article that first came out in the November 1952 East Anglian Magazine. This article didn't mentioned their names.

A second article came out in the newspaper, The Times, on Tuesday, January 27, 1959. This article mentioned their names and more details about what the Downs said in the 1952 interview. Arthur Downs has been dead since 1956 so Bea Howe probably thought it was safe to mention more details, but she signed it "From a Correspondent" as Emily Downs was still living in 1959.

Both articles in its entirety is in a separate section of this book.

~ **From the articles, Witches over the Crouch, by Bea Howe, 1952 and 1959**

From the newspaper, The Times, Tuesday, Jan 27, 1959:

WITCHES OVER THE CROUCH

RIVERSIDE HUNDREDS IN WHICH THERE WERE STRANGE HAPPENINGS

From a Correspondent

(excerpts of the article)

"RUSTLE OF SILK

Quite recently, it was arranged for me to meet a 94-year-old gardener by the name of Arthur Downes who was born and bred in Canewdon. He was quite prepared to talk to me about "the witches across the water" if I professed to a belief in them --- which of course I did.

Old Downes was a tall, splendidly built man with cornflower blue eyes and silvery hair. He sat erect in a tall wooden chair beside a hobgrate in which a fire crackled, and he wore a seaman's rough, blue jersey. His wife, Emily, a small cheerful 85-year-old lady, sat opposite, in a black shawl and white apron.

Arthur Downes's mind was clear as a bell and he was never at a loss for a descriptive phrase. Indeed, many of his phrases were strongly poetic and reminiscent of the Bible, which he read constantly. He told me that contrary to local opinion there were nine, not six, witches living in Canewdon and "many more in silk than cotton."

Many a night his father, who had kept the local ferry, had heard the rustle of a silk dress beside him as he walked home through the lanes but "never a step to be heard

or a figure seen." The two most active witches in his day had been "Parson's wife and owd Lady Lodwick" living at Wick Farm.

One afternoon old Lady Lodwick had left her two maids preparing fruit for jam-making in the kitchen, with strict injunctions that they were not to stop work till her return from Rochford. Hardly had the sound of carriage wheels died away than Sarah Jane, the younger maid, was filled with longing to eat the black currants dangling on the bushes outside the kitchen window. Down went her bowl as she cried, "I must go, Martha!" "Doant 'ee be so foolish. Remember what Missus told us," replied her wiser companion.

But Sarah Jane was already out of the window, picking away like mad and stuffing the juicy berries into her mouth. Her appetite appeased, she made to return, throwing her leg over the kitchen window sill. To her horror, she found suddenly that she could not move. She was frozen solid there, half in and half out, till the sound of carriage wheels was again heard on the gravel drive. Now there came footsteps down the passage, and as old Lady Lodwick appeared at the door, crying, "Why, you foolish girl, whatever are you doing there?" Sarah Jane found that she could move and speak again.

#### GEESE FELL SICK

At this point in her husband's recital Emily broke in and told her own tale of how one witch had asked her mother for a drink of water one day. Too busy to supply her need, her mother went on with her chores, and "the owd gal went off muttering to herself," said Emily Downes. The following day a pair of plump geese fell sick and were brought inside the cottage and penned in a corner.

Suddenly the witch materialized at the door. "Well ! Whativer be 'cc doin' with them birds indoor!" she cried. "They're sick, I'm going to kill 'em," replied Emily's mother. "Nonsense!" the old gal replied. "They're well enough. Let 'em out." And let out they were, as fine a pair of birds again as any in Canewdon.

Soon after my talk with Arthur Downes I went over to Canewdon to check the names he had used with such assurance. In the cool, empty church of St. Nicholas I came across the hatchments of the Kerstemans, an old family of Flemish extraction which had settled in Canewdon in 1700. By studying them I soon discovered that Arthur Downes's "old Lady Lodwick" and "Parson's wife, Mary Ann" were sisters. Evidently witch blood ran strong in their family. Eliza Lodwick had died in 1861; Mary Ann, married to the Rev. William Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, earlier.

When I asked Arthur Downes if he had ever heard of James Murrell, the cunning man of Hadleigh Castle, he smiled knowingly and said: "Aye, he had the power to whistle up all the Canewdon witches." During his father's lifetime the village petitioned Vicar Atkinson to let Murrell exercise his whistling powers and make the witches confess themselves by dancing round the churchyard. "But," said old Downes, "Passon 'ee said

'No.' For 'ee didn't want to be ashamed afore all knowing that Mary Ann, his wife, would be among them.' "

~ 1956

Arthur Downs died at the age of 95 years on 5 June 1956 at 32A Spital Road in Maldon, Essex.

From the death certificate:

Registration District - Maldon

1956. Deaths in the Sub-District of Maldon in the County of Essex

*No. / When and where died. / Name. / Sex. / Age. / Occupation. / Cause of death. / Informant. / When registered,*

116 / Fifth June 1956 32A Spital Road Maldon / Arthur DOWNS / Male / 95 years / of Ivy Cottage Creeksea Burnham-on-Crouch formerly Gardener in Private Service / 1 (a) Arterio sclerosis Certified by D. Cargill. B.M. / Ruby E. Read Causing the body to be buried Old Cottage Creeksea Burnham-on-Crouch / Sixth June 1956 / G. a. Crisp Registrar

Image of part of the record:

Columns:— 1.		2.	3.	4.	5.
No.	When and where died.	Name and surname.	Sex.	Age.	Occupation.
116	Fifth June 1956 32A Spital Road Maldon	Arthur DOWNS	Male	95 years	Ivy Cottage Creeksea Burnham-on- Crouch formerly Gardener in Private Service

~ 1962

Sarah E. Downes died at the age of 91 years on 4 January of 1962 in St. Peters hospital in Maldon, Essex.

From the England & Wales, Death Index:

*Name / Age / Death Date / Registration District / County / Vol. / Page*

Sarah E Downes / 91 / Jan-Feb-Mar 1962 / Maldon / Essex / 4a / 830

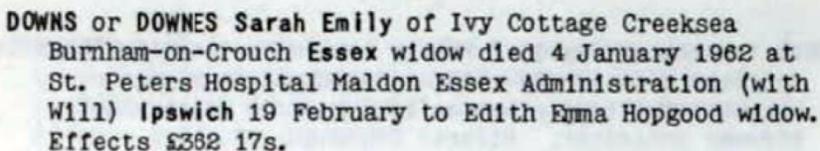
From the England & Wales, National Probate Calendar:

Page 376

1962

Downs or Downes Sarah Emily of Ivy Cottage Creeksea Burnham-on-Crouch Essex widow died 4 January 1962 at St. Peters Hospital Maldon Essex Administration (with Will) Ipswich 19 February to Edith Emma Hopgood widow.  
Effects £362 17s.

Image of the record:



DOWNES or DOWNS Sarah Emily of Ivy Cottage Creeksea  
Burnham-on-Crouch Essex widow died 4 January 1962 at  
St. Peters Hospital Maldon Essex Administration (with  
Will) Ipswich 19 February to Edith Emma Hopgood widow.  
Effects £362 17s.

Arthur and Emily Downs did not have any children.

Sources:

1. 1860 (registered in 1861) birth certificate for Arthur Downs. Digital PDF copy sent by email from the General Register Office in United Kingdom. Received March 9, 2023 Thursday 1:37 AM.
2. 1861 birth of Arthur Downs in the index. England & Wales Births 1837-2006, online at Findmypast.com. Birth Date: Jan-Feb-Mar 1861; Mother's maiden name: Hails; Registration District: Rochford; County: Essex; Vol.: 4A; Page: 175. Searched on February 28, 2023 Tuesday 10:26 PM.
3. 1861 census of England, Essex, Canewdon, ALL, District 6, image No. 31, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R.G. 9 1085, original page no. 25, stamped page no. 92. No. of Schedule 121, household of William Downs. First found on December 30, 2008 Tuesday 8:54 PM and rechecked on January 5, 2023 Thursday 11:00 PM.
4. 1871 Census of England, Essex, Paglesham, ALL, 7, Image No. 11, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R.G. 10 1669, original page no. 10. No. of Schedule 53, household of Walter Downs. First searched on January 18, 2009 Sunday 7:38 PM and rechecked on February 15, 2023 Wednesday 10:50 PM.
5. 1881 census of England, Essex, Hockley, ALL, District 8, image no. 17, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference RG 11/1768, original page no. 16. No. of Schedule 1, household of William Downs. First searched on December 28, 2008 Sunday 9:09 PM and rechecked on February 15, 2023 Wednesday 11:49 PM.
6. 1903 marriage of Arthur Downs and Emily Willis in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915, online at Ancestry.com. Marriage Date: Jan-Feb-Mar 1903; Registration District: Maldon; County: Essex; Vol.: 4a; Page: 678. Searched on March 1, 2023 Wednesday 12:53 AM.
7. 1911 census of England, Essex, Asheldham and Dengie, ALL, 06, image 108 & 109, online at Ancestry.com. No. of Registration District 196, No. of Registration Sub-District 1. No. of Enumeration

District 6 & 6. No. of Schedule 53, household of Auther Downs. Searched on March 1, 2023 Wednesday 10:18 PM.

8. 1921 census of England & Wales, Essex, Creeksea, online at Findmypast.com. Registration District Maldon, Registration Sub-District Southminster, Enumeration District 8. No. of Schedule 12, household of Arthur Downs. Searched on March 1, 2023 Wednesday 1:16 AM.

9. 1939 England and Wales Register, England, Essex, Burnham-On-Crouch Ud, Dbnb, image 11, online at Ancestry.com. No. of Schedule 136, household of Arther Downes. E.D. Letter Code DBNB, U.D. Burnham-on-Crouch, Registration District and Sub-district Burnham-on-Crouch. Searched on March 1, 2023 Wednesday 11:45 PM.

10. 1952 article Witches over the Crouch by Bea Howe. Transcription of the article from Scott Bisseker. Original from the East Anglian Magazine, November 1952, published by East Anglian Magazine Ltd, Ipswich and printed by The East Anglian Daily Times Co. Ltd., Ipswich. Received this on February 12, 2009 Thursday 2:51 PM.

11. (1952) Article about Witches over the Crouch, where Arthur Downes interview was mentioned. The Times, Tuesday, Jan 27, 1959, page 10, Issue 54369, col F. Online at <http://infotrac.galegroup.com>. Searched February 26, 2010 Friday evening.

12. 1956 death of Arthur Downs in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Age: 95; Death Date: Apr-May-Jun 1956; Registration District: Maldon; County: Essex; Vol.: 4a; Page: 567. Searched on March 2, 2023 Thursday 12:49 AM.

13. 1956 death certificate for Arthur Downs. Digital PDF copy sent by email from the General Register Office in United Kingdom. Received March 10, 2023 Friday 9:15 PM.

14. 1962 death of Sarah E Downes in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Age: 91; Death Date: Jan-Feb-Mar 1962; Registration District: Maldon; County: Essex; Vol.: 4a; Page: 830. Searched on March 3, 2023 Friday 9:08 PM.

15. 1962 death and probate record in the index. England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995, online at Ancestry.com. 1962, Dabas-Dzugan, image 189. Page 376 1962. Searched on March 3, 2023 Friday 9:26 PM.

Old web page last updated July 15, 2009 Wednesday 2:19 PM.

This new updated PDF version - done on March 12, 2023 Sunday 9:18 PM.

Eliza Frost Kersteman (1783-1861) was a daughter of Jeremiah Kersteman of Loftmans in Canewdon, Essex.

According to the History of Rochford Hundred by Philip Benton, 1867:

"the Kerstemans of Loftmans trace their descent from Geslien Kersteman, of Ipres, Flanders, who emigrated about 1564, and married Joanna Platwick. Their second son Nicholas was buried at Corringham in 1660, and had issue Jeremiah, buried at the same place in 1665, who left a son Jeremiah, baptized at Corringham, in 1659, who married Judith Bishop. Their issue was Jeremiah, who was buried at Canewdon in 1726. The latter by his first wife, Abigale Gibson (who died at "Lamburn-hall," June 20th, 1717, where the family then resided), ....."

From that family, the Kerstemans arrived at Canewdon at the beginning of the 1700's. The family were successful large farmers and some of them went into the British military.

Eliza married a cousin, Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick but he died like 15 months later and Eliza Lodwick remained a widow for the rest of her life. She managed several large properties in and around Canewdon.

Her sister, Mary Ann Kersteman, married the Rev. William Atkinson.

Series of events made the villagers of Canewdon suspect that Widow Lodwick and other family members were witches.....

Widow Lodwick of Lambourne Hall and Wick Farm in Canewdon, Essex, England

## Eliza Frost Kersteman (1783 - 1861)

Wife of Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick

1. **ELIZA FROST KERSTEMAN** was born in Prittlewell, Essex, England and was baptized 20 June 1783 in St. Mary the Virgin church in Prittlewell.

Father: Jeremiah Kersteman

Mother: Elizabeth Frost

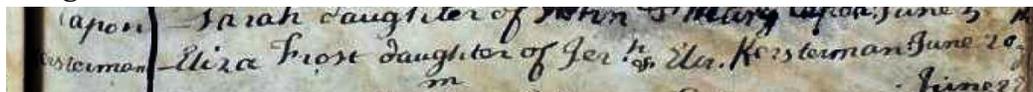
~ **1783**

From the parish register of Prittlewell:

Baptisms 1783

Kersteman - Eliza Frost daughter of Jer<sup>h</sup>. & Eliz. Kersteman: June 20<sup>th</sup>

Image of the record



~ **1825**

Eliza Frost Kersteman married **JEREMIAH KERSTEMAN LODWICK** on 5 July 1825 at St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the parish register of St. Nicholas, Canewdon:

Marriages 1825 - Page 31. No. 92.

Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick Esq<sup>r</sup> of this Parish a Widower and Eliza Frost Kersteman of this Parish a Spinster were married in this Church by Licence this fifth Day of July in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty five By me W. Atkinson - Vicar.

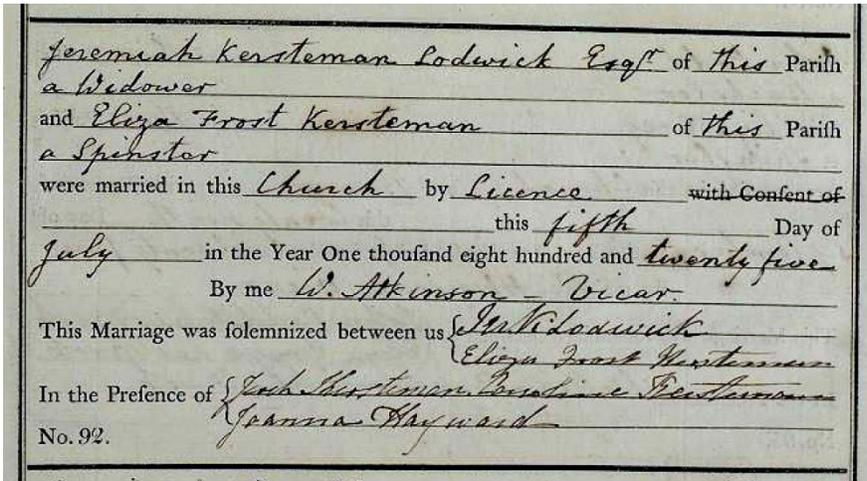
This marriage was solemnized between us

Jer. K. Lodwick

Eliza Frost Kersteman

In the Presence of  
[Jerh?] Kersteman Caroline Kersteman  
Joanna Hayward

Image of the record

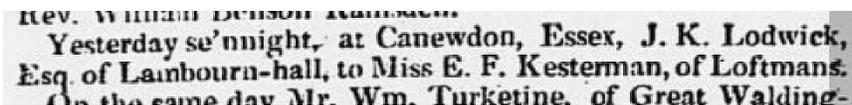


From the newspaper, The Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 13 July 1825:

Married.

Yesterday se'nnight, at Canewdon, Essex, J. K. Lodwick, Esq of Lambourn-hall, to Miss E. F. Kesterman, of Loftmans.

Image of the newspaper article:



Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick (1786-1826) was a cousin of Eliza Frost Kersteman. He was a widower when he married Eliza.

The death of his earlier wife was recorded in the newspaper.

From the newspaper, National Register (London), Sunday 10 December 1815:

Died, --- Nov. 30, aged 27, Eleanor, the wife of J. K. Lodwick, Esq. of North Shoebury, Essex.

Image of the newspaper article:

—Nov. 30, aged 27, Eleanor, the wife of J. K. Lodwick, Esq. of North Shoebury, Essex.—Dec. 4, at Walworth, Mary, wife of Mr.

~ 1826

Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick died at the age of 40 in October 1826 at Lambourne Hall, Canewdon, Essex and was buried 18 October 1826 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas on Canewdon.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Burials 1826 - Page 31. No. 243.

Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick Esq<sup>r</sup> / Lambourn Hall Canewdon / Oct: 18. / 40. / W. Atkinson Vicar.

Image of the record:

NO. 242.				
Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick Esq <sup>r</sup>	Lambourn Hall Canewdon	Oct: 18.	40.	W. Atkinson Vicar.
No. 243.				

From the newspaper, Oxford Journal, Saturday 28 October 1826:

Died.

- At Lambourne Hall, Essex, Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick, Esq. aged 40.

Image of the newspaper article:

105th year, Mr. Peter Bate, of Dugsworth, Leicestershire, which business he followed till his 94th year.—At Lambourne Hall, Essex, Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick, Esq. aged 40.—

Eliza Lodwick became a widow only 15 months after they were married.

She remained a widow until her death.

For about 35 years Widow Lodwick managed several properties from 1826 to 1861.

~ Lambourne Hall in Canewdon



~ **1828**

Eliza Lodwick's sister, Mary Ann Kersteman, married Rev. William Atkinson on Monday 3 March 1828.

From the newspaper, Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 12 March 1828:

**MARRIED.**

On Monday se'nnight the Rev. W. Atkinson, A. M. Vicar of Canewdon, Essex to Miss Kersteman, of Loftmans.

Image of newspaper article:

On Monday se'nnight the Rev. W. Atkinson, A. M. Vicar of Canewdon, Essex, to Miss Kersteman, of Loftmans.

~ **1835**

At the Essex Quarter Sessions, Stephen Catchpole, John Stags, and William Crow were convicted in the stealing and killing of a sheep from Mrs. E. F. Lodwick of Canewdon, Essex in 1835. William Crow was actually convicted of receiving mutton from Catchpole and Stags while knowing that it was stolen.

From the newspaper, The Essex Standard, Friday, 10 April 1835:

Essex Quarter Sessions.

Criminal Court.

“Stephen Catchpole, 22, and John Stags, laborers, committed 13th March, by J. Lodwick, Clerk, charged with killing, with intent to steal, a wether sheep, the property of Mrs. Kersterman Lodwick, at Canewdon.

William Crow, 43, laborer, committed 12th March, charged with having received a quantity of the mutton knowing it to have been stolen. It appeared from the evidence that Mrs. E. F. Lodwick has a farm at Canewdon, where, on the night of the 9th, were several sheep. The next morning it was discovered that one was missing, and the skin, entrails, head and feet were found in one of Mrs. L.'s fields, there was a quantity of blood upon the ground, which appeared as if a sheep had been killed there.

The footsteps of two persons were discovered in which a peculiarity was noticed. In the heel of one of the pairs the half of a tip was off, and a few nails were missing from the other pair of footsteps.

The marks were traced four miles, by Wm. Willingham, a servant of Mrs. L.'s, to the prisoner (Crow's) cottage, at Hawkwell; it had rained the preceding night, and froze in the morning, which had hardened the footsteps. On entering Crow's cottage, Willingham examined the shoes of the prisoners, and observed that they corresponded with the marks which they had traced.

Catchpole and Stags, who were in the cottage, acknowledged that they belonged to them. The shoes were afterwards found to correspond with the marks exactly. Crow's house was searched on the 10th, and upon his being questioned respecting the robbery, he at first denied having any knowledge of it; he, however, afterwards told the constable he would show him where the mutton was, and proceeded to a wood near his house, where part of the mutton was found.

The frock of Stags and the trowsers of Catchpole were found spotted with blood, which had apparently been washed for the purpose of removing the spots. It was found that Crow's wife gave a portion of the mutton to a woman named Grey, and requested that she would throw it into the wood as she passed, which she did.

Crow also, whilst they were searching the house, said, "d - d if we a'nt done."

- Guilty. Catchpole and Stags transported for life. Crow fourteen years transportation.

These people of course were guilty of what they did. But the sentencing was very harsh. Probably the labourers for miles around would know of this incident and it probably brought on more intense dislike or hatred of Widow Lodwick.

## ~ 1839

George Warner, age 16, was killed in an accident at Lambourne Hall farm in January 1839. An inquest was held to investigate the case.

From the newspaper, The Essex Standard, Friday 25 January 1839:

Chelmsford.

Fatal Accident at Canewdon. - On Wednesday, the 9th inst. an inquest was held before W. Codd, Esq. one of the county coroners, at the Crown and Anchor, in Canewdon, to enquire as to the cause of the death of George Warner, aged 16 years.

It appeared in evidence that the deceased and William Green were employed in cutting chaff in a shed at Lambourne Hall Farm, in that parish. The deceased, who was engaged in driving the horse to turn the wheel of the machine, imprudently got upon the draughts to ride, and was struck against the beam with so much violence, as to cause his immediate death.

- Verdict - Accidental death; deodand on the wheel is.

## ~ 1841

In 1841, Eliza Lodwick, age 50, was at Terrace, Southend in Prittlewell, Essex.

Eliza's occupation was listed as independent (living on independent means)

Her sister, Caroline Kersteman, was living with her.

From the 1841 census of Prittlewell:

Terrace Southend

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether born in same county*

Eliza Lodwick / 50 F / Ind: / Y

Caroline Kersteman / 50 F / Ind: / Y

Ann Hales / 18 F / F. S. / Y

Ann Rice / 35 F / F. S. / Y

## ~ 1842

Eliza Lodwick's sister, Miss Caroline Kersteman, died at the age of 55 years on 17 September 1842 at Lambourne Hall, Canewdon, Essex and was buried 24 September 1842 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Canewdon.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 23 September 1842:

DIED.

17th inst. At Lamborn-hall, Canewdon, Miss Kersteman, youngest daughter of the late Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq. of Loftmans.

Image of the newspaper article:

17th inst. at Lamborn-hall, Canewdon, Miss Kersteman, youngest daughter of the late Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq. of Loftmans.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Burials 1842 - Page 67. No. 529.

Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.

Miss Caroline Kersteman / Canewdon / Sep: 24. / 55. / W. Atkinson Vicar.

Image of the record:

Page 67.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Canewdon</i>				
in the County of _____			in the Year 1842.	
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Miss Caroline Kersteman</i>	<i>Canewdon</i>	<i>Sep: 24.</i>	<i>55.</i>	<i>W. Atkinson</i>
No. 529.				<i>Vicar.</i>

## ~ From the articles, *Witches over the Crouch*, by Bea Howe, 1952 and 1959

The interview where Arthur Downs is recollecting events that happened in his father's lifetime.

"The two most active witches in his day had been "Parson's wife and owd Lady Lodwick" living at Wick Farm.

One afternoon old Lady Lodwick had left her two maids preparing fruit for jam-making in the kitchen, with strict injunctions that they were not to stop work till her return from Rochford. Hardly had the sound of carriage wheels died away than Sarah Jane, the younger maid, was filled with longing to eat the black currants dangling on the bushes outside the kitchen window. Down went her bowl as she cried, "I must go, Martha!" "Doant 'ee be so foolish. Remember what Missus told us," replied her wiser companion.

But Sarah Jane was already out of the window, picking away like mad and stuffing the juicy berries into her mouth. Her appetite appeased, she made to return, throwing her leg over the kitchen window sill. To her horror, she found suddenly that she could not move. She was frozen solid there, half in and half out, till the sound of carriage wheels was again heard on the gravel drive. Now there came footsteps down the passage, and as old Lady Lodwick appeared at the door, crying, "Why, you foolish girl, whatever are you doing there?" Sarah Jane found that she could move and speak again."

"Soon after my talk with Arthur Downes I went over to Canewdon to check the names he had used with such assurance. In the cool, empty church of St. Nicholas I came across the hatchments of the Kerstemans, an old family of Flemish extraction which had settled in Canewdon in 1700. By studying them I soon discovered that Arthur Downes's "old Lady Lodwick" and "Parson's wife, Mary Ann" were sisters. Evidently witch blood ran strong in their family. Eliza Lodwick had died in 1861; Mary Ann, married to the Rev. William Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, earlier.

When I asked Arthur Downes if he had ever heard of James Murrell, the cunning man of Hadleigh Castle, he smiled knowingly and said: "Aye, he had the power to whistle up all the Canewdon witches." During his father's lifetime the village petitioned Vicar Atkinson to let Murrell exercise his whistling powers and make the witches confess themselves by dancing round the churchyard. "But," said old Downes, "Passon 'ee said 'No.' For 'ee didn't want to be ashamed afore all knowing that Mary Ann, his wife, would be among them." "

The fear of the Witches in Canewdon, prompted the people of the village to enlist James Murrell's assistance to expose the Witches.

James Murrell was the famous Cunning man and Witch Doctor of Hadleigh, Essex. He was a frequent visitor to Canewdon. His sister, Hannah, the wife of Daniel Whitwell, was living in Canewdon since 1820. Also James and Hannah's parent were married in Canewdon in 1783.

## ~ Wick Farm

This was another property that Widow Lodwick owned.

From the book, "The History of Rochford Hundred" by Philip Benton, 1867:

Page 107

"The "Wick Farm" at one time was the property of Thomas Laver, of Prittlewell Temple, and was purchased by Eliza Frost, widow of Jeremiah Kersteman Lodwick, at whose death in 1861, it was sold to Richard Catlow Bowden, who bequeathed it to his widow."

## ~ **March 1847**

The Rev. William Atkinson died at the age of 80 years on 24 March 1847 in Canewdon, Essex and was buried 31 March 1847 in the churchyard of Canewdon.

When the Vicar Atkinson died, the widow Mary Atkinson moved to live with Widow Lodwick at Lambourne Hall. Widow Atkinson remained a widow for the next 12 years until her death.

## ~ **October 1847**

There was a funds drive to collect donations for the orphaned nine children of late Rev. J. T. Hewett started on 5 February 1847. Rev. W. Atkinson, Mrs. Atkinson, and Mrs. Lodwick each donated. A list of the donations appeared in the newspaper for Friday 29 October 1847 (the Atkinsons donated before the death of Rev. Atkinson).

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle of Friday 29 October 1847:

### THE HEWLETT FUND.

The Friends of the late Rev. J. T. Hewlett, who called the Public Meeting at Rochford, on the 5th of February last, for the purpose of setting on foot a Subscription last, for the purpose of setting foot a Subscription in aid of his nine destitute orphans.

(among many others listed is)

Rev. W. Atkinson, Canewdon .... £ 5 - 0 - 0

Mrs. Atkinson, ditto..... £ 1 - 0 - 0

(further down the list)

Mrs. Lodwick..... £ 1 - 0 - 0

## ~ **1851**

In 1851, Eliza Lodwick was living at Lambourne Hall in Canewdon, Essex. Her sister, Mary Atkinson, the widow of Rev. Atkinson, was also living with her.

Eliza Lodwick is listed as a Farmer of 500 acres and was employing 25 labourers. And she had 4 house servants and a shepherd living in the household.

From the 1851 census for Canewdon:

Lambourne Hall

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Eliza Lodwick / Head / W / 66 F / Farmer of 500 Acres employ 25 labourers / Essex Prittlewell

Mary Atkinson / Sister / W / 70 F / Annuitant / Do Do

Mary Bragg / Serv / U / 25 F / House Servant / Do Do

Eliza Tylor / Do / U / 25 F / Do / Do Rettenden

Edward Mead / Do / U / 23 M / Do / Do Chipping Ongar  
George Love / Do / M / 37 M / Shepherd / Do Great [Burshen]  
Sarah Do / Do / M / 38 F / House Servant / Do Runwell

### ~ **January 1859**

George Lee and David Ellcock were charged on 7 January 1859 and fined of trespassing in search of conies on lands in the occupation of Eliza F. Lodwick at Canewdon, Essex.

From the newspaper, The Essex Standard, Friday, 14 January 1859:

At the Rochford Petty Session, on Thursday (before the Revds. T. S. Scratton and J. C. White, J. Tabor and A. Tawke, Esqrs.), John Perry and Samuel Clark, labourers, of Prittlewell, were charged with trespassing in search of conies, upon land in the occupation of Mrs. Jane Simmons, on the 22nd of December last. The offenders, being known characters, were fined £2 and costs 12s. 6d., in default to be committed for two months.

- George Lee and David Ellcock were charged with the same offence, upon land in the occupation of Mrs. E. F. Lodwick, at Canewdon, on the 7th Jan. Fined £2 each and costs 8s. 6d., in default committed for two months.

- Lee and Ellcock were also apprehended by Inspector Ackers on suspicion of stealing five tame rabbits, the property of some person at present unknown; and on the Inspector searching the offenders, independent of the suspected stolen property, he found upon them 25 snares, 4 poaching nets, 1 ferret, and bag. - Remanded for further examination until next Monday.

### ~ **May 1859**

Eliza Lodwick's sister, Mary Ann Atkinson, died at the age of 79 years on 17 May 1859 at 8 Royal Terrace in Southend, Essex and was buried on 24 May 1859 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Canewdon, Essex.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 20 May 1859:

DIED.

17th inst. at No, 8, Royal Terrace, Southend, in this county, Mary Ann, relict of the Rev. Wm. Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, and eldest daughter of the late Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq., of Loftmans, in the 80th year of her age, tenderly beloved and deeply regretted.

Image of the newspaper article:

17th inst. at No. 8, Royal Terrace, Southend, in this county, Mary Ann, relict of the Rev. Wm. Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, and eldest daughter of the late Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq., of Loftmans, in the 80th year of her age, tenderly beloved and deeply regretted.

From the Parish registers of Canewdon:

Burials 1859 - Page 100. No. 793.

Name. / Abode. / When Buried. / Age. / By whom the ceremony was performed.

Mary Ann Atkinson / Southend / May 24th / yrs 79 / George Heath Vicar

Image of the record:

Page 100.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Canewdon</i> in the County of <i>Essex</i> in the Year 1859				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Mary Ann Atkinson</i>	<i>Southend</i>	<i>May 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>79</i>	<i>George Heath Vicar</i>

No. 793.

### ~ **March 1861**

Eliza Frost Lodwick died at the age of 77 years on 20 March 1861 at 8 Royal Terrace, Southend, Essex and was buried 26 March 1861 at the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Canewdon, Essex.

From the newspaper, The Essex Standard, Friday, March 22, 1861:

#### DEATHS.

March 20th, at her residence, 8, Royal Terrace, Southend, in her 78th year, much respected, Eliza Frost, relict of Kersteman Lodwick, Esq., of Lambourne Hall, Canewdon, and last surviving daughter of Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq., of Loftmans, in this county.

Image of the newspaper article:

March 20th, at her residence, 8, Royal Terrace, Southend, in her 78th year, much respected, Eliza Frost, relict of Kersteman Lodwick, Esq., of Lambourne Hall, Canewdon, and last surviving daughter of Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq., of Loftmans, in this county.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Burials 1861 - Page 4 No. 26

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Eliza Frost Lodwick / Southend / March 26<sup>th</sup> / Yrs 77 / George Heath Vicar

Image of the record:



### ~ **May 1861**

Eliza Lodwick's will was proved 10 May 1861 at the Principal Registry by the oath of her niece and sole executrix of the will, Joanna Burleigh of Rochford, Essex.

From the National Probate Calendar:

Page 143 Wills. 1861.

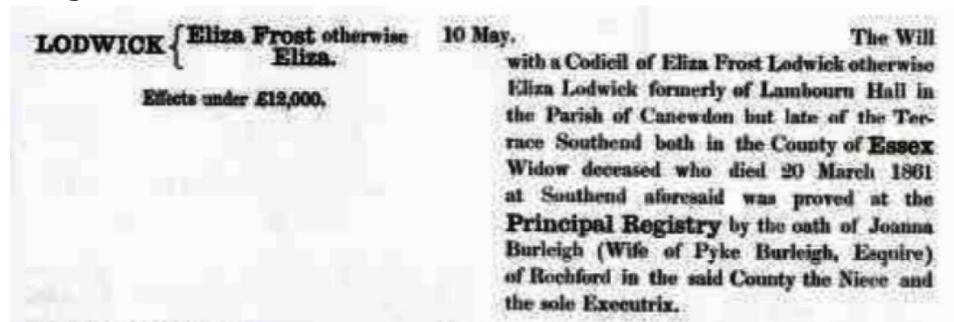
Lodwick Eliza Frost otherwise Lodwick Eliza.

Effects under £12,000.

10 May.

The Will with a Codicil of Eliza Frost Lodwick otherwise Eliza Lodwick formerly of Lambourn Hall in the Parish of Canewdon but late of the Terrace Southend both in the County of Essex Widow deceased who died 20 March 1861 at Southend aforesaid was proved at the Principal Registry by the oath of Joanna Burleigh (Wife of Pyke Burliegh, Esquire) of Rochford in the said County the Niece and the sole Executrix.

Image of the record:



### ~ August and September 1861

Newspaper notices about the late Mrs. Lodwick's livestock and furniture of Lambourne Hall and Wick farm going to be sold off by auctions.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, of Friday 30 August 1861:

IMPORTANT AND UNRESERVED SALE.

LAMBOURNE HALL & WICK FARMS.

CANEWDON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

By W. H. Jackson.

By direction of the Executrix of the late Mrs. Lodwick, on Monday and Wednesday, September 16 and 18, 1861, upon the Premises at Lambourne Hall, at Eleven o'clock precisely each day, on account of the number of lots.

The whole of the superior LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK, including

The FLOCK of 540 Sheep and Lambs.

17 Bullocks (fresh).

18 Cart Horses and Colts, 2 Ponies.

32 head of Swine, Poultry.

A 2-horse power threshing machine by Barrett and Co., and the Implements requisite for 500 acres of land.

Also the FURNITURE, brewing utensils, casks, and effects in the residence of Lambourne Hall.

The farming stock on the first day, Monday, the 16th.

Image of the newspaper advertisement:

IMPORTANT AND UNRESERVED SALE.

**LAMBOURNE HALL & WICK FARMS,  
CANEWDON.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
**By W. H. Jackson,**

By direction of the Executrix of the late Mrs. Lodwick, on Monday and Wednesday, September 16 and 18, 1861, upon the Premises at Lambourne Hall, at Eleven o'clock precisely each day, on account of the number of lots,

**T**HE whole of the superior LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK, including  
The FLOCK of 540 Sheep and Lambs,  
17 Bullocks (fresh),  
18 Cart Horses and Colts, 2 Ponies,  
32 head of Swine, Poultry,

A 2-horse power threshing machine by Barrett and Co., and the Implements requisite for 500 acres of land.

Also the FURNITURE, brewing utensils, casks, and effects in the residence of Lambourne Hall.

The FARMING STOCK on the first day, Monday, the 16th.

~ **September 1861**

Further newspaper notices were published that the contents of the late Mrs. Lodwick's household furniture at her home 8, Royal Terrace in Southend, Essex being auctioned off.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle of Friday 20 September 1861:

UNRESERVED SALE.

EXCELLENT FURNITURE, PIANOFORTE, &c.,

SOUTHEND.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By W. H. Jackson.

By direction of the Executrix of the late Mrs. Lodwick, on Monday next, September 23, 1861, upon the Premises, at Eleven o'clock precisely.

All the excellent FURNITURE, comprising drawing and dining-room suite, in rosewood and mahogany: 6 1/2 - octave cottage Pianoforte, &c.

*In the Dining Room* - A set of Spanish mahogany dining tables with five shifting leaves, set of eight and two elbow superior mahogany chairs, mahogany pedestal sideboard,

mahogany sofa in damask, lounge chairs. Brussels carpet nearly new - 28 by 14 feet, Turkey ditto - 16 by 15 feet damask curtains, &c.

*In the Drawing Room* - Set of rosewood chairs and couch in damask, sofa, well-made rosewood loo table, lounge chairs, Brussels carpet (new) 20 by 14 feet, rug, damask curtains, handsome five feet bright steel fender, &c.

*The Chamber items* include mahogany four-post and other bedsteads, wool and hair mattresses, five excellent beds, bedding, mahogany chests of drawers, Brussels carpets, wash stands, and other usual requisites.

Entrance - The floor cloth as planned, about 70 yards of Brussels and other stair carpeting, capital eight-day clock, about 120 *Vols. Of Books*, dinner service, cut glass, plated articles, kitchen requisites, &c.

At No. 8, Royal Terrace.

Catalogues may be had at the Hotels, Southend; Spread Eagle, Prittlewell; Lion Inn, Wakering; at the Inns, and of Mr. Rod, Rayleigh; at the Printing Office, and of the Auctioneer, Rochford.

On view on Saturday previous to sale Eleven tiil [sic] Four o'clock.

Eliza Frost (Kersteman) Lodwick did not have any children.

#### Sources:

1. 1783 baptism of Eliza Frost Kersterman. Prittlewell, St. Mary the Virgin, Essex, D/P 183/1/37, 1727-1808 Baptism Marriages Burials, 97 images. Essex Archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 60 right side, Baptisms 1783. Searched on January 19, 2014 Sunday 4:25 PM.
2. 1815 death notice of Eleanor Lodwick in the newspaper. National Register (London), Sunday 10 December 1815, page 6. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. First found a similar one on June 12, 2010 Sunday and this one found on March 10, 2023 Friday 12:12 AM.
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6. 1828 marriage of Rev. W. Atkinson to Miss Kersteman. Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 12 March 1828, page 2. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. First found a similar one at <http://find.galegroup.com> on June 14, 2010 Monday 9:26 PM and this one on March 9, 2023 Thursday 11:35 PM.
7. 1835 three men convicted for stealing and killing a sheep from the property of Mrs. E. F. Lodwick. Essex Standard, Friday 10 April 1835, page 3. Originally found at 19th Century British Library Newspapers: Part II online at <http://find.galegroup.com> on March 10, 2011 Thursday 7:28 PM and now at British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) on March 6, 2023 Monday 9:38 PM.
8. 1839 accidental death at Lambourne Hall farm and inquest. Essex Standard, Friday 25 January 1839, page 2. Originally found at 19th Century British Library Newspapers: Part II online at <http://find.galegroup.com> on March 10, 2011 Thursday 8:00 PM and now at British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) on March 6, 2023 Monday 9:57 PM.
9. 1841 census of England, Essex, Prittlewell, ALL, District 2, Image Nos. 6 & 7, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference HO 107/337/14, original page nos. 10 & 11, stamped page no. 32. Household of Eliza Lodwick. First found on December 31, 2008 Wednesday 5:49 PM and rechecked on March 6, 2023 Monday 11:19 PM.
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11. 1842 the burial of Miss Caroline Kersteman. Canewdon, St Nicholas, D/P 219/1/5, Burials 1813-1859, 53 Images. Essex Archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 35 right side, Burials 1842, page 67, no. 529. First found on January 7, 2014 Tuesday 6:45 PM and rechecked on March 6, 2023 Monday 11:41 PM.
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15. 1847 list of donations for the orphans of the late Rev. J. T. Hewett. Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 29 October 1847, page 4. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on December 19, 2013 Thursday 4:23 PM.
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20. 1859 burial of Mary Ann Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/5, Burials 1813-1859, 53 images. Essex Archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 52 left side, Burials 1859, page 100, no. 793. Searched on March 7, 2023 Tuesday 1:31 AM.
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28. Picture of Lambourne Hall in Canewdon. Found on Ebay.com on December 13, 2014 Saturday 4:17 PM.

1st version published on old website page - March 12, 2011 Saturday 3:06 PM

The last version updated on old website page - January 19, 2014 Sunday 5:01 PM

This new updated PDF version - done on March 11, 2023 Saturday 1:36 AM.

## Reverend William Atkinson (ca. 1767 - 1847)

He was first the Curate and then the Vicar of Canewdon St. Nicholas church in Essex for many years from the end of the 18th century to the first half of the 19th century.

Rev. William Atkinson's 2nd wife was Mary Ann Kersteman the sister of Widow Lodwick and was also thought of being a witch like her sister.

Reverend William Atkinson and his family of Canewdon, Essex, England

## William Atkinson (ca. 1767 - 1847)

Husband of 1st Martha Ann ---?--- and 2nd Mary Ann Kersteman

**WILLIAM ATKINSON** was born ca. 1767 in Settle, Yorkshire, England.

Father: unknown

Mother: unknown

### ~ 1782 to 1791

William Atkinson was formerly a Fellow of St. Catharine's Hall, Cambridge according to his death notice and in ....

From the book, Alumni Cantabrigienses, 2011:

Page 96

ATKINSON, WILLIAM. Adm. sizar at ST CATHARINE'S, Dec. 11, 1782. B. at Horton, Yorks. Matric. Michs. 1783; B. A. 1787; M. A. 1790. Fellow. Ord. deacon (Ely) Dec. 21, 1788; priest, June 19, 1791. V. of Canewdon, Essex, 1809-47. Died Mar. 24, 1847, aged 80. (G. Mag., 1847, II. 103.)

Image of the record:

**ATKINSON, WILLIAM. Adm. sizar at St CATHARINE'S, Dec. 11, 1782. B. at Horton, Yorks. Matric. Michs. 1783; B.A. 1787; M.A. 1790. Fellow. Ord. deacon (Ely) Dec. 21, 1788; priest, June 19, 1791. V. of Canewdon, Essex, 1809-47. Died Mar. 24, 1847, aged 80. (G. Mag., 1847, II. 103.)**

### ~ ca. 1797

Rev. William Atkinson arrived at St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex to begin as a Curate under Rev. H. Randolph who was the Vicar of Canewdon.

At the time Rev. Atkinson started at Canewdon, one of the other persons he first met after Rev. H. Randolph would be Thomas Pickingill.

Thomas Pickingill did a lot of work for the church and was present as a witness for many of the marriages performed in that church in the 1780's to 1790's. And probably was one of the church wardens from time to time. He was the grave digger for the church for many years. It is not known when he was officially selected church sexton but that was Thomas Pickingill's occupation at the time of his death.

Since Rev. Atkinson was new at the church and at times the Vicar Rev. H. Randolph would be busy doing his own work, Thomas Pickingill, probably helped Rev. Atkinson to get used to the routines at the church and to familiarize him on the members of the congregation.

Rev. Atkinson and Thomas Pickingill probably became friends.

### **~ 1800**

William and Martha Ann Atkinson's daughter, Ellen, was baptized in Canewdon in 1800.

### **~ 1802**

William and Martha Ann Atkinson's son, Thomas, was baptized in Canewdon in 1802.

### **~ 1804**

William and Martha Ann Atkinson's daughter, Anna Maria, was baptized in Canewdon in 1804.

### **~ 1807**

William and Martha Ann Atkinson's daughter, Martha Ann, was baptized in Canewdon in 1807.

### **~ 1809**

In 1809, Rev. Randolph, the vicar of the church in Canewdon, resigned his post and Rev. William Atkinson, the Curate of the church was promoted to the Vicar post.

From The Gentleman's Magazine, 1809:

Page 1231 - 1809. Ecclesiastical Preferments.

Rev. William Atkinson, curate of Canewdon, Essex, to the vicarage thereof, vice Randolph, resigned.

Image of the record:

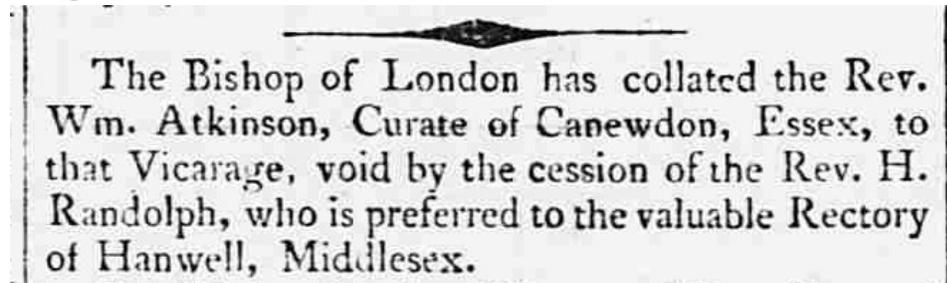
**Rev. William Atkinson, curate of Canewdon, Essex, to the vicarage thereof, vice Randolph, resigned.**

**~ 29 November 1809**

From the newspaper, Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 29 November 1809:

The Bishop of London has collated the Rev. Wm. Atkinson, Curate of Canewdon, Essex, to the Vicarage, void by the cession of the Rev. H. Randolph, who is preferred to the valuable Rectory of Hanwell, Middlesex.

Image of the article:



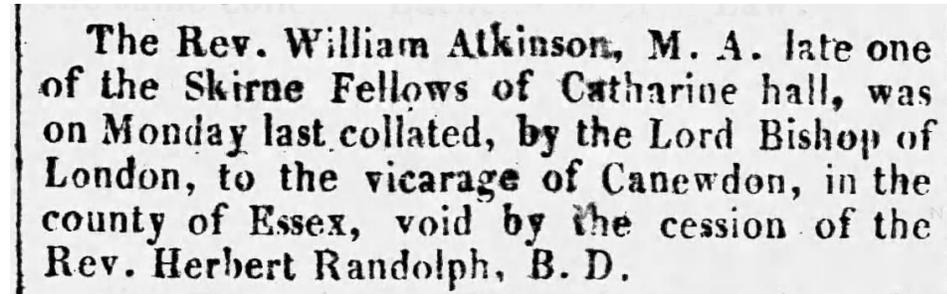
The Bishop of London has collated the Rev. Wm. Atkinson, Curate of Canewdon, Essex, to that Vicarage, void by the cession of the Rev. H. Randolph, who is preferred to the valuable Rectory of Hanwell, Middlesex.

**~ 2 December 1809**

From the newspaper, Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, etc., Saturday, December 2, 1809:

The Rev. William Atkinson, M. A. late one of the Skirne Fellows of Catharine hall, was on Monday last collated by the Lord Bishop of London, to the vicarage of Canewdon, in the county of Essex, void by the cession of the Rev. Herbert Randolph, B. D.

Image of the article:



The Rev. William Atkinson, M. A. late one of the Skirne Fellows of Catharine hall, was on Monday last collated, by the Lord Bishop of London, to the vicarage of Canewdon, in the county of Essex, void by the cession of the Rev. Herbert Randolph, B. D.

~ **also in 1809**

William and Martha Ann Atkinson's daughter, Sarah, was baptized in Canewdon in 1809.

~ **1817**

William and Martha Ann Atkinson's daughter, Jane, was baptized in Canewdon in 1817.

~ **1824**

Martha Ann Atkinson died at the age of 52 years on 27 May 1824 in Canewdon, Essex and was buried on 3 June 1824 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Canewdon.

From the newspaper, The Ipswich Journal, 12 June 1824:

COLCHESTER, June 11.

On the 27th ult. died, at Canewdon, aged 52, Martha Ann, wife of the Rev. Wm. Atkinson, vicar. She was an amiable and pious woman.

Image of the newspaper article:

On the 27th ult. died, at Canewdon, aged 52,  
Martha Ann, wife of the Rev. Wm. Atkinson,  
vicar. She was an amiable and pious woman.  
On the 1st inst. died, at an advanced age. Mrs.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Burials 1824 - Page 27. No. 211.

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Martha Ann Atkinson / Vicarage Canewdon / June 3. / 52. / J. M. Sumner Rector of Sutton.

The 1st burial to take place after the one for his wife occurred on 19 July 1824 and Rev. William Atkinson performed the ceremony. The event probably was hard on him because he probably was still remembering his wife, who was buried the previous month.

This burial was for Martha Pickingill, the widow of Thomas Pickingill, the church sexton, who died about 20 years earlier.

And this probably brought back memories for Rev. William Atkinson, of the time when he first arrived to Canewdon 27 years before and met and became friends with Thomas Pickingill, who was already working for the church for years, and his wife, Martha.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Burials 1824 - Page 27. No. 212.

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Martha Pickingill / Canewdon / July 19 / 77. / W. Atkinson Vicar.

Image of the records:

Martha Ann Atkinson No. 211.	Vicarage Canewdon	June 3.	52.	J. M. Sumner Rector of Sutton.
Martha Pickingill No. 212.	Canewdon	July 19	77.	W. Atkinson Vicar.

~ **1828**

Rev. William Atkinson married **MARY ANN KERSTEMAN** on Monday 3 March 1828 at St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the newspaper, Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 12 March 1828:

**MARRIED.**

On Monday se'nnight the Rev. W. Atkinson, A. M. Vicar of Canewdon, Essex to Miss Kersteman, of Loftmans.

Image of newspaper article:

**On Monday se'nnight the Rev. W. Atkinson, A. M. Vicar of Canewdon, Essex, to Miss Kersteman, of Loftmans.**

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Marriages 1828 - Page 35. No. 104.

William Atkinson Clk, Vicar of this Parish a Widower and Mary Ann Kersteman of this Parish a Spinster were married in this Church by Licence this Third Day of March in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty Eight By me W. C. R. Ray, Curate of North Shoebury.

This Marriage was solemnized by us {

W. Atkinson

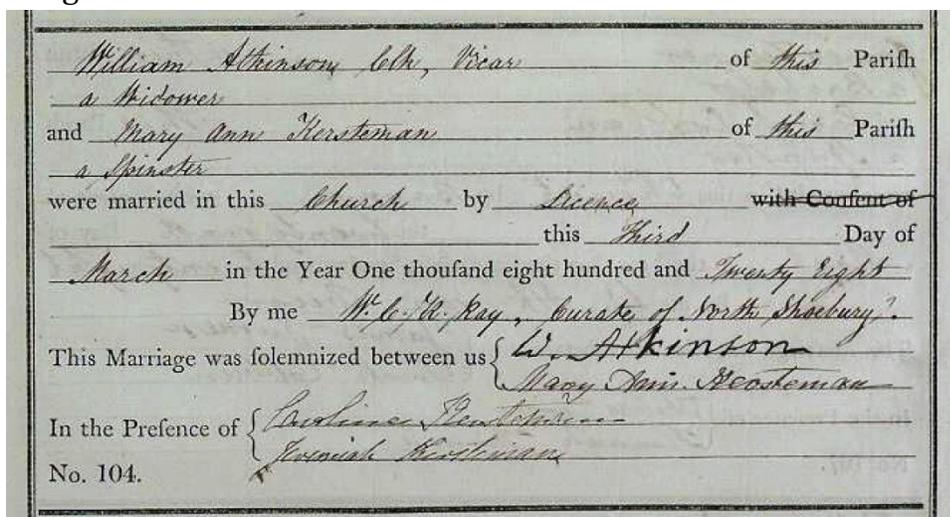
Mary Ann Kersteman

In the Presence of {

Caroline Kerteman

Jeremiah Kersteman

Image of the record:



### ~ 13 February 1830

From the newspaper, Northampton Mercury, Saturday 13 February 1830:

#### MARRIAGES.

On the 4th instant, John Baron Howes, Esq. of Irthlingborough Grange, in this county, to Anna-Maria, second daughter of Rev. William Atkinson, of Canewdon, Essex.

### ~ 5 May 1831

William Atkinson, Vicar, was one of many that signed a Declaration against the Reform Bill.

From the newspaper, Albion and the Star, Thursday 5 May 1831:

TO THE ELECTORS OF ESSEX.

We think it right to publish the Essex Declaration against the Reform bill: ---

DECLARATION.

The Undersigned, residents and proprietors of the county of Essex contentemplating with increasing dissatisfaction and alarm the Bill for the Reform of the House of Commons, now under the consideration of the legislature, think it necessary to make this public declaration of their sentiments: ---

(long article not transcribed here)

(among many names listed)

“Jeremiah Kersteman, Loftmans, Canewdon”

“William Atkinson, Vicar, Canewdon”

### ~ **24 December 1831**

W. Atkinson, clerk, of Canewdon, among many others signed a letter to the King. That would be King William IV.

From the newspaper, Essex Standard, Saturday 24 December 1831:

#### **Address to the King.**

May it please your Majesty,

A MEETING of the FREEHOLDERS and INHABITANTS of ESSEX having been summoned for the purpose of addressing the Throne, We, the undersigned Freeholders and Residents in the said County, differing from the general views of the Requisitionists by whom that Meeting has been called, and to avoid a collision of parties in the present excited state of public feeling, adopt this mode of expressing to your Majesty our unabated attachment to your Majesty's Royal Person and Family:

(long article not transcribed here)

(among many names listed)

“ATKINSON W, Canewdon, Ditto (previous line has - Clerk)”

### ~ **1836**

Rev. Atkinson's youngest daughter, Jane Atkinson, died at the age of 19 in Canewdon in 1836.

### ~ **11 February 1837**

From the newspaper, Norwich Mercury, Saturday 11 February 1837:

DIED.

On the 28th ult...

Same day, in her 30th year, Martha Ann, wife of the Rev. William Ray, Curate of South Bemfleet, and third daughter of the Rev. William Atkinson of Canewdon.

### ~ 1841

In 1841, William and Mary Ann Atkinson were living in the Vickerage in Canewdon, Essex.

William Atkinson was listed as a "Clk"

From the 1841 census of Canewdon:

Vickerage

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in the same County*

William Atkinson / 75 M / Clk / No

Mary Ann do / 60 F / ----- / Yes

Philip Chapman / 20 M / M. S / No

Mary Marshall / 20 F / F. S / Yes

( M. S. = Male Servant and F. S. = Female Servant )

Image of part of the record:

Vickerage	William Atkinson	75	Clk
	Mary Ann do	60	
	Philip Chapman	20	M. S
	Mary Marshall	20	F. S

### ~ about early 1840's to 1846

From the articles, Witches over the Crouch, by Bea Howe, 1952 and 1959

The interview where Arthur Downs is recollecting events that happened in his father's lifetime.

"The two most active witches in his day had been "Parson's wife and owd Lady Lodwick" living at Wick Farm."

"Soon after my talk with Arthur Downes I went over to Canewdon to check the names he had used with such assurance. In the cool, empty church of St. Nicholas I came across the hatchments of the Kerstemans, an old family of Flemish extraction which had settled in Canewdon in 1700. By studying them I soon discovered that Arthur Downes's "old Lady Lodwick" and "Parson's wife, Mary Ann" were sisters. Evidently witch blood ran strong in their family. Eliza Lodwick had died in 1861; Mary Ann, married to the Rev. William Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, earlier.

When I asked Arthur Downes if he had ever heard of James Murrell, the cunning man of Hadleigh Castle, he smiled knowingly and said: "Aye, he had the power to whistle up all the Canewdon witches." During his father's lifetime the village petitioned Vicar Atkinson to let Murrell exercise his whistling powers and make the witches confess themselves by dancing round the churchyard. "But," said old Downes, "Passon 'ee said 'No.' For 'ee didn't want to be ashamed afore all knowing that Mary Ann, his wife, would be among them." "

**~ 24 March 1847**

Rev. William Atkinson died at the age of 80 years on 24 March 1847 in Canewdon, Essex and was buried 31 March 1847 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Canewdon.

**~ 31 March 1847**

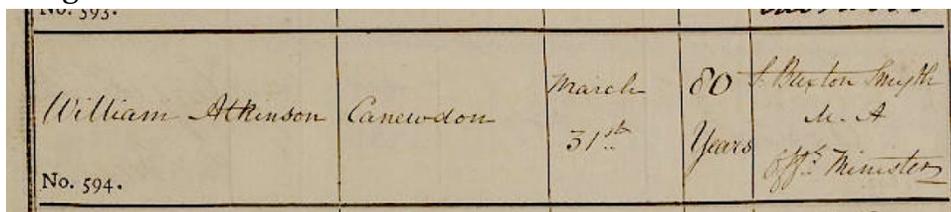
From the parish register of Canewdon:

Burials 1847 - Page 75. No. 594.

Name. / Abode./ When Buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.

William Atkinson / Canewdon / March 31<sup>st</sup>. / 80 Years / [J] Buxton Smyth M A Offg. Minister

Image of the record:



**~ 2 April 1847**

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 2 April 1847:  
DIED.

24th ult. At Canewdon vicarage, in his 81st year, deservedly respected and lamented, the Rev. William Atkinson, M. A. for upwards of fifty years officiating minister of that parish, during thirty-six of which he was the vicar.

**~ 6 April 1847**

From the newspaper, Essex Herald, Tuesday 6 April 1847:

The vicarage of Canewdon, near Rochford, in this county, diocese of Rochester, is rendered vacant by the death of Rev. William Atkinson, M. A. value £585 per annum, with residence: in the gift of the Lord Bishop of London.

**~ 27 April 1847**

From the newspaper, Essex Herald, Tuesday 27 April 1847:

**CANEWDON VICARAGE.**

To Be Sold By Auction, By Wm. Quay

On Monday, the 10th May, 1847, and following Day, upon the Premises, by Order of the Executor of the late Rev. William Atkinson,

ALL the Genteel Household Furniture, about 300 volumes of books, a quarter pipe of fine old port in the wood, 18 dozen ditto in bottles, 9 dozen of old hock, about nine hogsheads of ale, beer casks, brewing and dairy utensils, two prime cows and a calf, part of stack of meadow hay, 9-stone stack frame, road wagon, two dung carts, ploughs, harrows, roller, barn and stable utensils, cart and other harness, phaeton, light cart and other effects.

Catalogues will be printed in due time, and may be had at the principal Inns in the Neighbourhood; the Place of Sale; and of the Auctioneer, Rochford.

Sale to begin at Eleven o'clock each Day. The Farming Stock, Wines, Beer, and Brewing Utensils, will be sold the first day.

Image of the advertisement:

**CANEWDON VICARAGE.**  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
**By Wm. Quay,**  
On Monday, the 10th May, 1847, and following  
Day, upon the Premises, by Order of the Execu-  
tor of the late Rev. William Atkinson,  
**A**LL the Genteel **HOUSEHOLD FURNI-**  
**TURE**, about 300 volumes of books, a quar-  
ter pipe of fine old port in the wood, 18 dozen ditto  
in bottles, 9 dozen of old hock, about nine hogs-  
heads of ale, beer casks, brewing and dairy uten-  
sils, two prime cows and a calf, part of a stack of  
meadow hay, a 9-stone stack frame, road wagon,  
two dung carts, ploughs, harrows, roller, barn and  
stable utensils, cart and other harness, phaeton,  
light cart and other effects.  
Catalogues will be printed in due time, and may  
be had at the principal Inns in the Neighbour-  
hood ; the Place of Sale ; and of the Auctioneer,  
Rochford.  
Sale to begin at Eleven o'Clock each Day.  
The Farming Stock, Wines, Beer, and Brewing  
Utensils, will be sold the first day.

When the Vicar Atkinson died, the widow Mary Atkinson moved to live with Widow Lodwick at Lambourne Hall. Widow Atkinson remained a widow for the next 12 years until her death.

### ~ July 1847

From The Gentleman's Magazine, July, 1847:

Page 103 1847. Clergy Deceased.

March 24. At Canewdon, Essex, aged 80, the Rev. William Atkinson, M.A. Vicar of that parish. He was formerly Fellow of St. Catharine's hall, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1787, M. A. 1790, and was collated to Canewdon in 1809 by Dr. Porteus, then Bishop of London.

Image of the record:

*March 24. At Canewdon, Essex, aged 80, the Rev. William Atkinson, M.A. Vicar of that parish. He was formerly Fellow of St. Catharine's hall, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. 1787, M.A. 1790, and was collated to Canewdon in 1809 by Dr. Porteus, then Bishop of London.*

### ~ 29 October 1847

There was a funds drive to collect donations for the orphaned nine children of late Rev. J. T. Hewett started on 5 February 1847. Rev. W. Atkinson, Mrs. Atkinson, and Mrs. Lodwick each donated. A list of the donations appeared in the newspaper for Friday 29 October 1847 (the Atkinsons donated before the death of Rev. Atkinson).

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle of Friday 29 October 1847:

#### THE HEWLETT FUND.

The Friends of the late Rev. J. T. Hewlett, who called the Public Meeting at Rochford, on the 5th of February last, for the purpose of setting on foot a Subscription last, for the purpose of setting foot a Subscription in aid of his nine destitute orphans.

(among many others listed is)

Rev. W. Atkinson, Canewdon .... £ 5 - 0 - 0

Mrs. Atkinson, ditto..... £ 1 - 0 - 0

(further down the list)

Mrs. Lodwick..... £ 1 - 0 - 0

### ~ 1851

In 1851, Mary Atkinson, a widow age 70 years, was living at her sister, widow Lodwick's place in Lambourne Hall in Canewdon, Essex.

Eliza Lodwick is listed as a Farmer of 500 acres and was employing 25 labourers. And she had 4 house servants and a shepherd living in the household.

From the 1851 census for Canewdon:

Lambourne Hall

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Eliza Lodwick / Head / W / 66 F / Farmer of 500 Acres employ 25 labourers / Essex  
Prittlewell

Mary Atkinson / Sister / W / 70 F / Annuitant / Do Do

Mary Bragg / Serv / U / 25 F / House Servant / Do Do

Eliza Tylor / Do / U / 25 F / Do / Do Rettenden

Edward Mead / Do / U / 23 M / Do / Do Chipping Ongar

George Love / Do / M / 37 M / Shepherd / Do Great [Burshen]

Sarah Do / Do / M / 38 F / House Servant / Do Runwell

### ~ **May 1859**

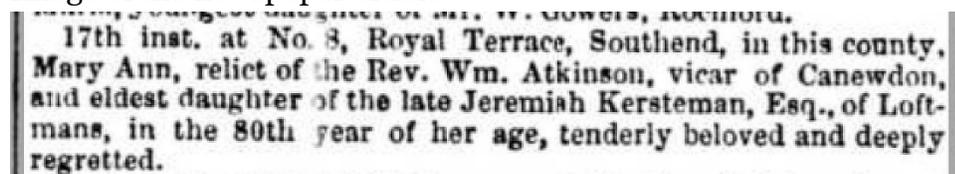
Mary Ann Atkinson, died at the age of 79 years on 17 May 1859 at 8 Royal Terrace in Southend, Essex and was buried on 24 May 1859 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Canewdon, Essex.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 20 May 1859:

DIED.

17th inst. at No, 8, Royal Terrace, Southend, in this county, Mary Ann, relict of the Rev. Wm. Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, and eldest daughter of the late Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq., of Loftmans, in the 80th year of her age, tenderly beloved and deeply regretted.

Image of the newspaper article:



17th inst. at No. 8, Royal Terrace, Southend, in this county,  
Mary Ann, relict of the Rev. Wm. Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon,  
and eldest daughter of the late Jeremiah Kersteman, Esq., of Loft-  
mans, in the 80th year of her age, tenderly beloved and deeply  
regretted.

From the Parish registers of Canewdon:

Burials 1859 - Page 100. No. 793.

*Name. / Abode. / When Buried. / Age. / By whom the ceremony was performed.*

Mary Ann Atkinson / Southend / May 24th / yrs 79 / George Heath Vicar

Image of the record:

Page 100.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Canewdon</i> in the County of <i>Essex</i> in the Year 1859				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Mary Ann Atkinson</i>	<i>Southend</i>	<i>May 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>70<sup>ys</sup> 79</i>	<i>George Beath Vicar</i>
No. 793.				

~ 1867

Philip Benton had a book of his published called "The History of Rochford Hundred" and in the section about Canewdon, Essex, he mentioned some details about Rev. William Atkinson character:

Page 121

"Atkinson was a man of Herculean build and size; his hand was something tremendous to grasp. He was by birth a Yorkshireman (a native of Settle), and he was much liked for his quiet and unostentatious manners, and his desire to be at peace with everyone. He had seen the time when pluralities were in full vogue; when curates were ill-paid and over-worked; and he passed through the times of transition from immoderate and compulsory drinking, to that period when everyone is allowed to imbibe the quantity his constitution requires. An anecdote is told of him, that in his youth, he once served a curacy for, £40 per annum; and upon appealing to a high dignitary, that worthy, who enjoyed his thousands, took occasion in an assembly of divines, in a pompous and drawling tone, to address him thus, "Mr. Atkinson, I have considered your case, and have decided your stipend shall in future be 40 guineas per annum instead of ,£40:" adding "that he hoped he would now be perfectly satisfied." "

Page 122

"He once had a difficulty with a tithe payer about his composition, and considering his demand reasonable, he said, "Well, friend, if it is not worth so and so, I will not take anything." No further cavil was made, and the payment agreed upon. Living in a Hundred, thought to require it, he was a believer in the virtues and necessities of red port, and owing to his muscular and constitutional development, he could imbibe as much as most men, without injurious effects. He always preferred it new and full

bodied, and drawn from the cask, which office he generally performed himself. As age and infirmities grew upon him, a near relative thinking less stimulant would be better, executed a stratagem, by seizing an opportunity when descending the cellar stairs for the same purpose, to slip, and shatter the old cherished jug, which had done duty for years. With commendable zeal she furnished him with another, but a shade smaller. The vicar kept his own counsel, but in a short time he likewise had a slip, and another breakage ensued, but this time he replaced it with a vessel, that was more capacious than the original. A cask of this wine of excellent quality, was sold at his sale, but required many years to bring it to perfection. It was introduced to guests as "old Atkinson." His memory is still fondly cherished in the village for several estimable qualities, including succour to the needy.

The day that his mortal remains were consigned to the tomb, was marked by a brutal murder committed in Doggetts-lane, near Hyde wood, by a youth, who subsequently died in prison. The victim was an old man, and the weapon a hoe stick. The price of blood was a watch and a shilling".

Page 121

"The remains of Rev. W. Atkinson. and his family rest in the church-yard at the north end of the chancel, where there are inscriptions upon numerous stones, surrounded by an iron railing..... A mural tablet is erected to his memory on the north wall of the chancel, and another to his only son Thomas, a Russian merchant, born at Canewdon, April 6th, 1802, who died in London in 1867."

## Children of William and Martha Ann ( ---?--- ) Atkinson

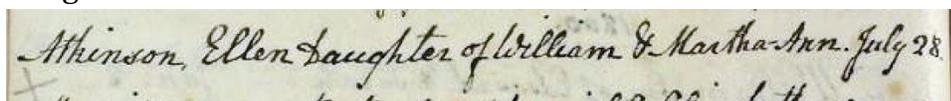
1. **ELLEN ATKINSON** was baptized 28 July 1800 in St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Baptisms 1800

Atkinson, Ellen Daughter of William & Martha Ann. July 28.

Image from the record:



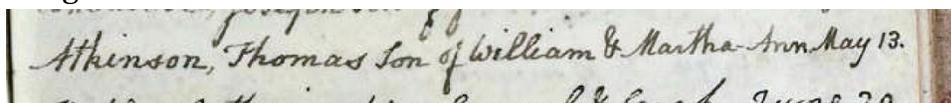
2. **THOMAS ATKINSON** was baptized 13 May 1802 in St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Baptisms 1802

Atkinson, Thomas Son of William & Martha Ann. May 13.

Image from the record:



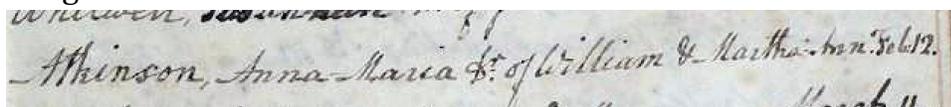
3. **ANNA MARIA ATKINSON** was baptized on 12 February 1804 in St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Baptism 1804

Atkinson, Anna Maria D<sup>r</sup>. of William & Martha Ann. Feb 12.

Image of the record:



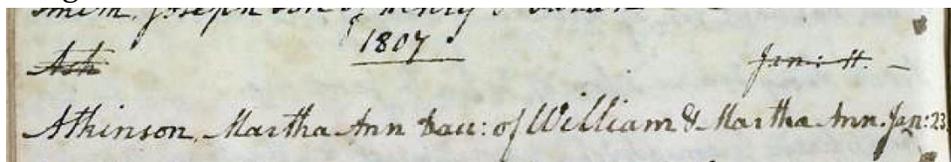
4. **MARTHA ANN ATKINSON** was baptized 23 January 1807 in St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Baptisms 1807

Atkinson, Martha Ann Dau: of William & Martha Ann. Jan: 23.

Image of the record:



5. **SARAH ATKINSON** was baptized 23 January 1809 in St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the parish register of Canewdon:

Baptisms 1809

Atkinson, Sarah Dau: of William & Martha Ann / born January 23<sup>rd</sup>. / Recd. May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Image of the record:



6. **JANE ATKINSON** was baptized 11 March 1817 in St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

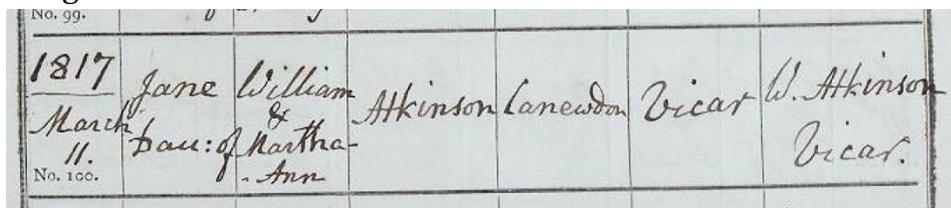
From the parish register of Canewdon:

Baptisms 1817 - Page 13. No. 100.

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parents' Names. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1817 March 11. / Jane Dau: of / William & Martha Ann / Atkinson / Canewdon / Vicar / W. Atkinson Vicar.

Image of the record:



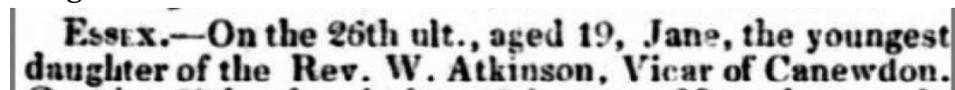
Jane Atkinson, died at the age of 19 on 26 June 1836 at Canewdon, Essex and was buried 4 July 1836 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas in Canewdon.

From the newspaper, The Bury & Norwich Post, Wednesday, July 6, 1836:

Died.

Essex. - On the 26th ult., aged 19, Jane, the youngest daughter of the Rev. W. Atkinson, Vicar of Canewdon.

Image of the record:



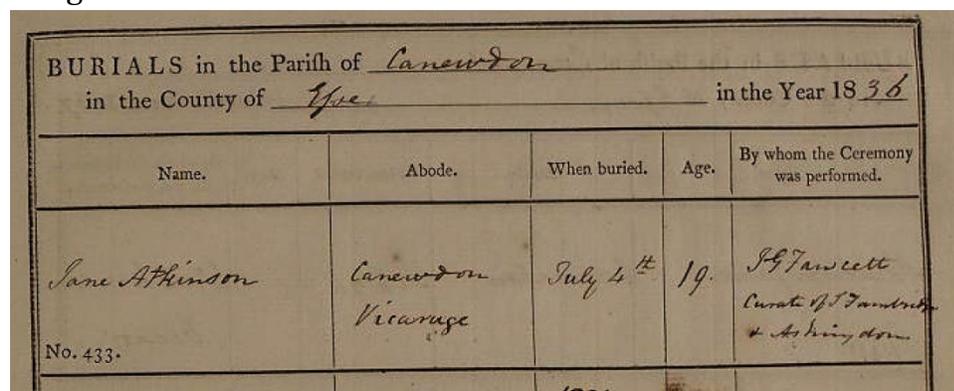
From the parish register of Canewdon:

Burials 1836 - Page 55. No. 433.

*Name. / Abode. / When Buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Jane Atkinson / Canewdon Vicarage / July 4<sup>th</sup> / 19 / J G Fawcett Curate of S Fambridge & Ashingdon

Image of the record:



Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Jane Atkinson No. 433.	Canewdon Vicarage	July 4 <sup>th</sup>	19.	J G Fawcett Curate of S Fambridge & Ashingdon

Sources:

- 1782-1791 About William Atkinson's education. From the book, Alumni Cantabrigienses, A Biographical List of All Known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge, from the Earliest Times to 1900. Publisher: Cambridge University Press. Editor: John Venn, 2011. Online at Google Books. Page 96. Searched on March 26, 2023 Sunday 11:40 PM.
- 1800 baptism of Ellen Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/2, Baptisms & Burials 1773-1812, 36 images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image no. 29 left side, Baptisms 1800. First found on January 7, 2013 Tuesday 5:58 PM and rechecked on March 23, 2023 Thursday 1:05 AM.
- 1802 baptism of Thomas Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/2, Baptisms & Burials 1773-1812, 36 images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image no. 29 right side, Baptism 1802. First found on January 7, 2013 Tuesday 5:58 PM and rechecked on March 23, 2023 Thursday 1:26 AM.

4. 1804 baptism of Anna Maria Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/2, Baptisms & Burials, 1773-1812, 36 images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image no. 30 right side, Baptisms 1804. First found on January 7, 2013 Tuesday 5:58 PM and rechecked March 24, 2023 Friday 11:29 PM.
5. 1807 baptism of Martha Ann Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/2, Baptisms & Burials, 1773-1812, 36 images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image no. 32 left side, Baptisms 1807. Searched on January 7, 2013 Tuesday 5:58 PM.
6. 1809 Rev. William Atkinson promoted to Vicar of Canewdon. The Gentleman's Magazine, 1809, online at Google Books. Page 1231 - 1809. Ecclesiastical Preferments. Searched on March 26, 2023 Sunday 1:38 AM.
7. 1809 Rev. William Atkinson promoted to Vicar. Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 29 November 1809, page 2. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 7:59 PM.
8. 1809 Rev. William Atkinson promoted to Vicar. Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, etc., Sat, Dec 02, 1809, Page 3, Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 8:30 PM.
9. 1809 baptism of Sarah Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/2, Baptisms & Burials, 1773-1812, 36 images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image No. 33 right side, Baptisms 1809. First found on January 7, 2013 Tuesday 5:58 PM and rechecked on March 25, 2023 Saturday 12:20 PM.
10. 1817 baptism of Jane Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/4, 1813-1850 Baptisms, 54 Images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image no. 9 right side, Baptisms 1817, page 13, no. 100. First found on February 3, 2014 Monday 1:54 PM, and rechecked on March 25, 2023 Saturday 1:30 AM.
11. 1824 death notice of Martha Ann Atkinson in the newspaper. The Ipswich Journal, Ipswich, Suffolk, England, 12 Jun 1824, Sat, page 3. Online at Newspapers.com. Searched on March 18, 2023 12:13 AM.
12. 1824 burials of Martha Ann Atkinson and Martha Pickingill. Parish registers for St. Nicholas church, Canewdon, Essex, England. Page 27, Nos. 211 & 212. Microfiche ordered from Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT, United Kingdom. Received October 27, 2008 Monday Morning.
13. 1824 burials of Martha Ann Atkinson and Martha Pickingill. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/5, Burials 1813-1859, 53 Images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 15 right side, Burials 1824, page 27, nos. 211 & 212. Rechecked on March 22, 2023 Wednesday 1:17 AM.
14. 1828 marriage of Rev. W. Atkinson to Miss Kersteman. Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 12 March 1828, page 2. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. First found a similar one at <http://find.galegroup.com> on June 14, 2010 Monday 9:26 PM and this one on March 9, 2023 Thursday 11:35 PM.
15. 1828 marriage of William Atkinson and Mary Ann Kersteman. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/6, Marriages 1813-1837, 29 images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 19 right side, Marriages 1828, page 35, no. 104. Searched on March 22, 2023 Wednesday 11:04 PM.
16. 1830 marriage of Anna Maria Atkinson to John Baron Howes. Northampton Mercury, Saturday 13 February 1830, page 3. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 3:59 PM.
17. 1831 William Atkinson signed a Declaration against the Reform Bill. Albion and the Star, Thursday 05 May 1831, page 5. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 5:03 PM.

18. 1831 W. Atkinson, clerk, of Canewdon, signed a letter to the King. Essex Standard, Saturday 24 December 1831, page 1. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 5:21 PM.
19. 1836 death notice of Jane Atkinson. The Bury & Norwich Post (Bury Saint Edmunds, England), Wednesday, July 06, 1836; Issue 2819. Online at 19th Century British Library Newspapers: Part II at <http://find.galegroup.com>. Searched March 8, 2011 Tuesday 7:33 PM.
20. 1836 death notice of Jane Atkinson. Bury and Norwich Post, Wednesday 06 July 1836, page 2. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Rechecked on April 3, 2023 Monday 11:58 PM.
21. 1836 burial of Jane Atkinson. Canewdon, St Nicholas, D/P 219/1/5, Burial, 1813-1859, 53 Images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 29 right side, Burials 1836, page 55, no. 433. First found on January 7, 2014 Tuesday 6:45 PM and rechecked on April 4, 2023 Tuesday 12:20 PM.
22. 1837 death notice for Martha Ann Ray. Norwich Mercury, Saturday 11 February 1837, page 3. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 4:12 PM.
23. 1841 census of England, Essex, Canewdon, ALL, District 4, Image No. 12, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference HO 107/337/3, original Page No. 21, household of William Atkinson. First found on December 28, 2008 Sunday 8:06 PM and rechecked on March 23, 2023 Thursday 12:24 AM.
24. (for the early 1840's to 1846 in the timeline) 1952 article Witches over the Crouch by Bea Howe. Transcription of the article from Scott Bisseker. Original from the East Anglian Magazine, November 1952, published by East Anglian Magazine Ltd, Ipswich and printed by The East Anglian Daily Times Co. Ltd., Ipswich. Received this on February 12, 2009 Thursday 2:51 PM.
25. (for the early 1840's to 1846 in the timeline) (1952) Article about Witches over the Crouch, where Arthur Downes interview was mentioned. The Times, Tuesday, Jan 27, 1959, page 10, Issue 54369, col F. Online at <http://infotrac.galegroup.com>. Searched February 26, 2010 Friday evening.
26. 1847 burial of William Atkinson. Parish registers for St. Nicholas church, Canewdon, Essex, England. Page 75, No. 594. Microfiche ordered from Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT, United Kingdom. Received October 27, 2008 Monday Morning.
27. 1847 burial of William Atkinson. Canewdon, St Nicholas, D/P 219/1/5, Burials 1813-1859, 53 Images. Essex Record Office archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 39 right side, Burials 1847, page 75, No. 594. Rechecked on January 7, 2014 Tuesday 6:45 PM.
28. 1847 death notice of Rev. William Atkinson in the newspaper. Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 02 April 1847, page 3. The British Newspaper Archive online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Searched January 19, 2014 Sunday 7:32 PM.
29. 1847 Rev. William Atkinson death mentioned. Essex Herald, Tuesday 06 April 1847, page 3. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 7:36 PM.
30. 1847 estate sale for Rev. William Atkinson's possessions. Essex Herald, Tuesday 27 April 1847, page 1. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on February 16, 2025 Sunday 4:25 PM.
31. 1847 death notice of Rev. William Atkinson. The Gentleman's Magazine. July 1847. By Silvanus Urban, Gent. Page 103, 1847. Clergy Deceased, William Atkinson mentioned. Google Books, First found on January 4, 2009 Sunday 7:09 PM and rechecked on March 26, 2023 Sunday 1:14 AM.

32. 1847 list of donations for the orphans of the late Rev. J. T. Hewett. Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 29 October 1847, page 4. British Newspaper Archive online at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>. Searched on December 19, 2013 Thursday 4:23 PM.
33. 1851 census of England, Essex, Canewdon, ALL, 7, Image No. 32, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference H.O. 107 / 1777, original page no. 31. No. of Householder's Schedule 123, household of Eliza Lodwick. First found on December 28, 2008 Sunday 7:47 PM and rechecked on March 8, 2023 Wednesday 11:32 PM.
34. 1859 death notice of Mary Ann Atkinson in the newspaper. Chelmsford Chronicle - Friday 20 May 1859, page 3. British Newspaper Archive, online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) on March 7, 2023 Tuesday 1:06 AM.
35. 1859 burial of Mary Ann Atkinson. Parish registers for St. Nicholas church, Canewdon, Essex, England. Page 100, No. 793. Microfiche ordered from Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT, United Kingdom. Received October 27, 2008 Monday Morning.
36. 1859 burial of Mary Ann Atkinson. Canewdon, St. Nicholas, D/P 219/1/5, Burials 1813-1859, 53 images. Essex Archives online at [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk). Image 52 left side, Burials 1859, page 100, no. 793. Searched on March 7, 2023 Tuesday 1:31 AM.
37. 1867, "The History of Rochford Hundred by Philip Benton. Published 1867 by A. Harrington. Pages: 121-122 about Rev. William Atkinson. Google Books, Original from The New York Library, Digitized March 20, 2007. Searched August 24, 2009 Monday 9:03 PM.

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History on Martha Pickingill who married James Scott, the  
butcher of Canewdon

Martha Pickingill

## Martha Pickingill ( 1784 – 1853 )

The wife of James Scott the butcher

*"When Eric Maple investigated the folk traditions of Canewdon in the winter of 1959-1960 he found stories about the witches living in and around the village in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had survived among the local farming community.*

*One tradition that had survived into the 1950s was that if ever the tower of the village church, St. Nicholas, fell down, then the last witch would die. As long as the tower stood there would always be at least six witches living in the village. One would be the minister's wife, another the baker's wife, **and a third would be the butcher's wife.**"*

From Modern Wicca, by Michael Howard, 2009

**MARTHA PICKINGILL** was born in Canewdon, Essex and baptized 23 June 1784 at St. Nicholas church in Canewdon.

Father: Thomas Pickingill  
Mother: Martha Chilver

~ **1784**

From the parish register of St. Nicholas church in Canewdon:

Baptisms 1784

Pickengill Martha D<sup>r</sup> of Tho<sup>s</sup> & Martha June 23<sup>d</sup>

~ **1805**

Martha Pickingill married **JAMES SCOTT** on 7 May 1805 at St. Nicholas church in Canewdon, Essex.

From the parish register of St. Nicholas church in Canewdon:

Marriages 1805

James Scott, a Bachelor, & Martha Pickengill a Spinster both of this Parish were married in this Church by Banns this Seventh Day of May 1805. by me W. Atkinson Curate

This marriage was solemnized between us

James Scott X his mark

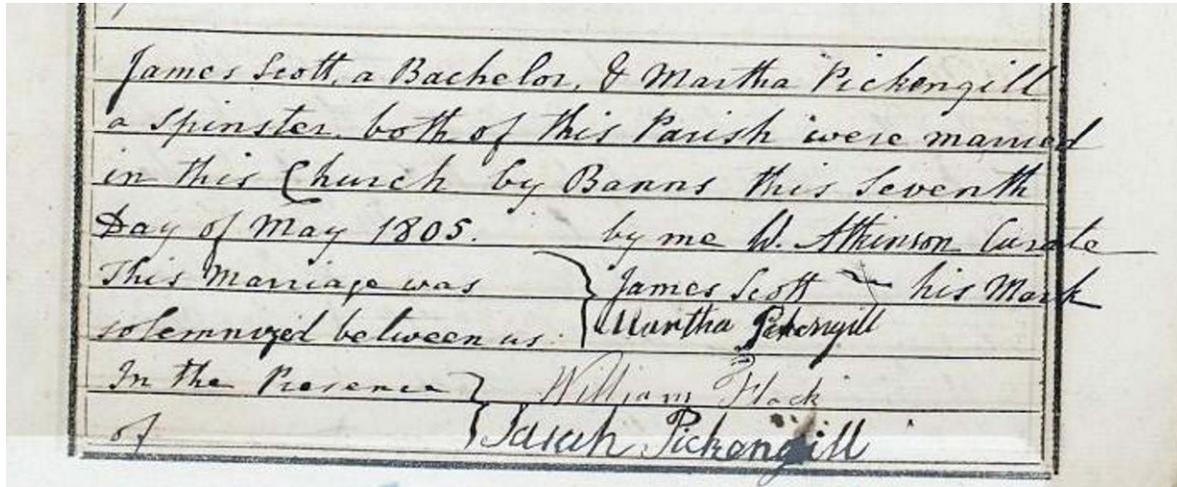
Martha Pickingill

In the Presence of

William Fleck

Sarah Pickengill

Image of the marriage record:



James made a mark while his wife Martha signed her name.

The witness Sarah Pickengill was Martha's older sister.

He was a Butcher and they lived in Canewdon.

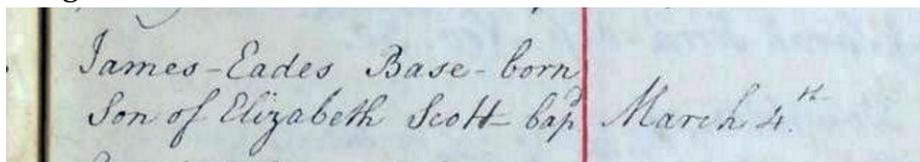
James Scott was born James Eades an illegitimate son of Elizabeth Scott. His father was one of the sons of the Eades family in Rayleigh, Essex. They were butchers in Rayleigh and other locations.

From the parish register of Holy Trinity church in Rayleigh:

Baptisms 1781

James Eades Base born Son of Elizabeth Scott - bap<sup>d</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Image of the record:



**~ 1805**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Martha was baptized in Canewdon in 1805.

**~ 1806**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Mary was baptized in Canewdon in 1806.

**~ 1808**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Elizabeth was baptized in Canewdon in 1808 and also died at the age of 6 months and buried in Canewdon in 1808.

**~ 1809**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Sarah Ann was baptized in Canewdon in 1809.

**~ 1811**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Elizabeth was baptized in Canewdon in 1811.

**~ 1813**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Catherine was baptized in Canewdon in 1813.

**~ 1815**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Susannah was baptized in Canewdon in 1815.

**~ also in 1815**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Martha died at the age of 9 years and was buried in Canewdon in 1815.

**~ also in 1815**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Catherine died at the age of 2 years and was buried in Canewdon in 1815.

**~ also in 1815**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Elizabeth died at the age of 3 years and was buried in Canewdon in 1815.

~ **1816**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Martha was baptized in Canewdon in 1816.

~ **1818**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Elizabeth was baptized in Canewdon in 1818.

~ **1837**

James Scott voted in the election held for south Essex in 1837.

From the newspaper, Essex Herald, Tuesday 29 August 1837:

SOUTH ESSEX ELECTION. (Concluded from out last.)

THE POLL for the Southern Division of the County of Essex, for the year 1837.

Candidates:

Thomas William Bramston, Esq. of Skreens:

George Palmer, Esq. of Nazing Park:

Champion Edward Branfill, Esq. of Upminster Hall.

Sheriff - Jonathan Bullock, Esq. Faulkbourne Hall:

Under Sheriff - Thomas Wiglesworth, Esq. 5, Grays Inn Square.

Polling commenced August 2, terminated August 3.

N. B. The names of the Voters are arranged under the parishes wherein the property for which they voted is situated, and which [g]enerally will be found their place of residence.

Canewdon.

(among others)

Scott, James            / X / X / [blank] /

(he voted for Bramston and Palmer)

~ **1841**

In 1841, James and Martha Scott were living in Canewdon, Essex. James Scott was listed as a Butcher.

From the 1841 Census of Canewdon:

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in same County*

James Scott / 55 M / Butcher / Y

Martha Scott / 55 F / ----- / Y

Susan do / 24 F / ----- / Y

Elizabeth do / 20 F / ----- / Y

Image of the record:

James Scott	55	Burton	4
Martha Scott	53		4
Susan do.	21		4
Elizabeth do.	20		4
	169		12

~ **1847**

James Scott voted in the election held for south Essex in 1847.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 03 September 1847:

SOUTH ESSEX ELECTION.

THE POLL for the Southern Division of the County of Essex, 1847. (Continued from out last.)

Candidates:

Thomas William Bramston, Esq. of Skreens, Roxwell;

William Bowyer Smijth, Esq. of Hill Hall, Epping.

Sir Edward North Buxton, Bart. Of Leytonstone.

Sheriff - William Coxhead Marsh, Esq. of Epping;

Under-Sheriff - Richard Bullock Andrews, Esq. of Epping.

Polling commenced August 6, terminated August 7.

N. B. The names of the Voters are arranged under the parishes wherein the property for which they voted is situated, and which generally will be found their places of residence.

CANEWDON.

(among others)

Scott, James / X / X / [blank] /

(he voted for Bramston and Smijth)

~ **1849**

James and Martha Scott's daughter Susannah Scott died at the age of 34 years and was buried in Canewdon in 1849.

~ **1851**

In 1851, James and Martha Scott were living in Canewdon, Essex. James was listed as a Butcher.

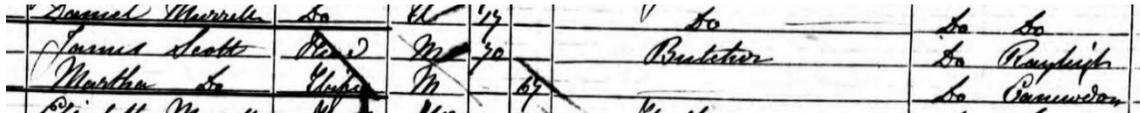
From the 1851 Census of Canewdon:

*Name / Relationship / Condition / Age & Sex / Profession / Birthplace*

James Scott / Head / M / 70 M / Butcher / Essex Rayleigh

Martha Do / Wife / M / 67 F / ----- / Do Canewdon

Image of the record:



~ **1852**

James Scott voted in the election held for south Essex in 1852.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 06 August 1852:

SOUTH ESSEX ELECTION.

THE POLL for the Southern Division of the County of Essex, 1852.

Candidates:

Thomas Wm. Bramston, Esq. of Skreens, Roxwell;

Sir Wm. Bowyer Smijth, Bart. of Hill Hall, Epping;

Sir Edward North Buxton, Bart. Of Leytonstone.

Sheriff - Sir Charles Cuncliffe Smith, Bart. of Suttons, Romford.

Under-Sheriff - Thomas Morgan Gepp, Esq. of Chelmsford.

Polling commenced July 15, terminated July 16.

N. B. The Names of the Voters are arranged under the parishes wherein the property for which they voted is situated, and which generally will be found their places of residence.

CANEWDON.

(among others)

Scott, James / X / X / [blank] /

(he voted for Bramston and Smijth)

~ **March 1853**

In 1853, James Scott died at the age of 71 years on 15 March 1853 in Canewdon, Essex and was buried 22 March 1853 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas church in Canewdon.

From the newspaper, Essex Standard, 25 March 1853:

DEATHS.

March 15th, aged 72, Mr. James Scott, butcher, Canewdon.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, 25 March 1853:

DIED.

15th inst. aged 72, Mr. James Scott, upwards of 50 years butcher, at Canewdon, much respected.

From the parish register of St. Nicholas church in Canewdon:

Burials 1853 - Page 88. No. 704.

*Name. / Abode. / When Buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

James Scott / Canewdon / March 22<sup>nd</sup> / Yrs 71 / Geo Heath Vicar

### ~ **August 1853**

Martha Scott, the widow, died five months later at the age of 68 years in Canewdon, Essex and was buried 26 August 1853 in the churchyard of St. Nicholas church in Canewdon.

From the parish register of St. Nicholas church in Canewdon:

Burials 1853 - Page 89. No. 710.

*Name. / Abode. / When Buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Martha Scott / Canewdon / August 26<sup>th</sup> / Yrs 68 / Geo Heath Vicar

### ~ **September 1853**

The estate of James Scott of Canewdon was listed in the newspapers of September 1853 announcing the date of October 6 for the sale of the properties and October 7 for sale of the furniture, etc.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 23 September:

The following Estates,

On Thursday, October 6th, at the King's Head Inn, Rochford, at Three for Four o'Clock.

PAGLESHAM, NEAR ROCHFORD.

The Freehold Dwelling House with Shop, now let to Mr. Robinson, and the range of Four Cottages adjoining, with Garden Ground, producing a rental of £36 a-year.

CANEWDON.

The Brick-built residence of the late Mr. James Scott, butcher, the proprietor, with

Butcher's Shop, Slaughter House, Garden, Stable, Barn, and other Buildings; also, Two Messuages, with Bake Office, in the occupation of Mr. John Hart and W. Sampson, situate in the Street, near the Anchor Inn.

GREAT WAKERING.

A Range of Three Cottages and a substantial timber-built Messuage adjoining, occupied by W. Orpen and J. Millbank, with a large piece of Garden Ground in the rear, situate near the Lion Inn.

CANEWDON.

Friday, October 7.

The neat Household Furniture and Effects of the late Mr. James Scott, deceased. Catalogues and particulars in due time at the usual Inns, and at the Auctioneer's Offices, Rayleigh and Rochford.

From the newspaper, Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 30 September 1853:

Eligible Estates,

CANEWDON, NEAR ROCHFORD,

To be Sold by Auction,

By W. H. Jackson,

By the direction of the Administratrix, and with consent of the Mortgagee of Lot One, on Thursday next, Oct. 6, 1853, at Three for Four o'Clock, at the King's Head Inn, Rochford.

Lot 1.

The substantial Brick-Built Residence of the late Mr. James Scott, Butcher, the proprietor, with good Garden, and in a range with the front are a Butcher's Shop, Slaughter-house, Stable, and Cattle Pound; and in the yard in the rear are several Out-buildings, and a well-built Barn and Granary, erected not many years since.

This lot is Copyhold of the Manor of Canewdon Hall.

Lot 2. Two Messuages, situate near the Anchor Inn, with a Bake Office, let to Mr. Hart, Carpenter, and Mr. Harris, Baker, at a rental of £15 per annum, with a Yard, Carpenter's Shop, Stable, and Shed.

This lot is equal to Freehold, being held under lease for 1,000 years, at a peppercorn rent.

Particulars to be had at the Inns, Canewdon; the usual Inns in the neighbourhood; of G. Wood, Esq. Solicitor, Rochford; at the Auctioneer's Office, at Mr. Rod's, Rayleigh, and at his Office, Rochford.

CANEWDON.

To Be Sold By Auction,

By W. H. Jackson,

By Direction of the Administratrix, on the Premises, on Friday, October 7, 1853, at Twelve o'Clock,

The whole of the neat Household Furniture, utensils of trade, pony cart, dressing machine, and other effects of the late Mr. James Scott, butcher, deceased.

Catalogues to be had at the Anchor and Chequers Inn, Canewdon; the usual Inns; at the Auctioneer's Office, at Mr. J. Rod's, Rayleigh, and his Office, Rochford.

### ~ **One of the witchcraft folklore of Canewdon**

From the book, *Modern Wicca*, by Michael Howard, 2009:

"When Eric Maple investigated the folk traditions of Canewdon in the winter of 1959-1960 he found stories about the witches living in and around the village in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had survived among the local farming community.

One tradition that had survived into the 1950s was that if ever the tower of the village church, St. Nicholas, fell down, then the last witch would die. As long as the tower stood there would always be at least six witches living in the village. One would be the minister's wife, another the baker's wife, **and a third would be the butcher's wife.**"

James Scott was the butcher in Canewdon from ca. 1805 until his death in 1853. So his wife, Martha Pickingill, was the butcher's wife, one of the witches of Canewdon.

The period of the 1830s to 1860s was the era of the alleged witches. The wife of Rev. William Atkinson being accused of being a witch, and her sister widow Lodwick another witch and then there is the Pickingills. Also there was the infamous cunning man James Murrell who had connections in Canewdon, his sister lived there.

When I mentioned to my friend Sara Star that Martha Pickingill's husband was a butcher, she then mentioned "the butcher shop would be a source of blood and animal bones that witches would use for rituals".

### Children of James and Martha (Pickingill) Scott

(for details on them and their families, see my history on the Pickingill Family)

1. **MARTHA SCOTT** (died young)

2. + **MARY SCOTT**

Mary Scott married John Hart.

3. **ELIZABETH SCOTT** (died young)

4. + **SARAH ANN SCOTT**

Sarah Ann Scott married James George Rice Allerton.

5. **ELIZABETH SCOTT** (died young)

6. **CATHERINE SCOTT** (died young)

7. **SUSANNAH SCOTT** (died at age of 34 years, single person)

8. **MARTHA SCOTT** (died at the age of 77 years, single person)

9. + **ELIZABETH SCOTT**

Elizabeth Scott married Golden Allen.

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Researched and compiled  
by William Wallworth

First worked on in December 18, 2008

This Edition done on February 17, 2025 Monday 10:25 PM.

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# Articles

From the newspaper, The Times, Tuesday, Jan 27, 1959:

## WITCHES OVER THE CROUCH

### RIVERSIDE HUNDREDS IN WHICH THERE WERE STRANGE HAPPENINGS

From a Correspondent

From the windows of my Essex cottage, which overlook the valley of the Crouch, I can see the great fifteenth-century tower of St. Nicholas Church, Canewdon standing on high ground on the opposite bank. Like a giant finger up-pointed to the sky the tower stands, and so long as it stands, goes a local saying, six witches --- three in silk and three in cotton --- will be found living in Canewdon village. Moreover, when one of these witches dies a stone will hurtle down from the top of the church tower and another witch will then be known to have taken her place.

Both the Rochford Hundred of Essex, in which lies the remote little village of Canewdon, and the Dengie Hundred, where I live, have long been known as "witch country." But, oddly enough, our brand of local witches do not ride upon broomsticks.

Being witches of the marsh and saltings, they cross over the Crouch on visits to one another in "killers," an old Essex name for wash-tubs. Or they use a stout wooden hurdle. When the corn boys and barges were regularly sailing up the Crouch to Battlesbridge, where there still stands the huge eighteenth-century mill, the sailors saw many "an owd gal," particularly old Witch Hart or Mother Redcap, who lived on Wallasea, "floating on the rough waves of the Crouch by moonlight" in their wash-tubs or on hurdles.

Mother Redcap, a fierce lady, was hand-in-glove with one of our Dengie witches, who also bore the name of Hart and was quite a local celebrity. It was she who stole the bell from tiny and now derelict St. Michael's Church, Snoreham, a hamlet lying a couple miles away along the road from me. For this sacrilegious deed, though, she was drowned in her "killer" while on her way to Mother Redcap.

### RUSTLE OF SILK

Quite recently, it was arranged for me to meet a 94-year-old gardener by the name of Arthur Downes who was born and bred in Canewdon. He was quite prepared to talk to me about "the witches across the water" if I professed to a belief in them --- which of course I did.

Old Downes was a tall, splendidly built man with cornflower blue eyes and silvery hair. He sat erect in a tall wooden chair beside a hobgrate in which a fire crackled, and he wore a seaman's rough, blue jersey. His wife, Emily, a small cheerful 85-year-old lady, sat opposite, in a black shawl and white apron.

Arthur Downes's mind was clear as a bell and he was never at a loss for a descriptive phrase. Indeed, many of his phrases were strongly poetic and reminiscent of

the Bible, which he read constantly. He told me that contrary to local opinion there were nine, not six, witches living in Canewdon and "many more in silk than cotton."

Many a night his father, who had kept the local ferry, had heard the rustle of a silk dress beside him as he walked home through the lanes but "never a step to be heard or a figure seen." The two most active witches in his day had been "Parson's wife and owd Lady Lodwick" living at Wick Farm.

One afternoon old Lady Lodwick had left her two maids preparing fruit for jam-making in the kitchen, with strict injunctions that they were not to stop work till her return from Rochford. Hardly had the sound of carriage wheels died away than Sarah Jane, the younger maid, was filled with longing to eat the black currants dangling on the bushes outside the kitchen window. Down went her bowl as she cried, "I must go, Martha!" "Doant 'ee be so foolish. Remember what Missus told us," replied her wiser companion.

But Sarah Jane was already out of the window, picking away like mad and stuffing the juicy berries into her mouth. Her appetite appeased, she made to return, throwing her leg over the kitchen window sill. To her horror, she found suddenly that she could not move. She was frozen solid there, half in and half out, till the sound of carriage wheels was again heard on the gravel drive. Now there came footsteps down the passage, and as old Lady Lodwick appeared at the door, crying, "Why, you foolish girl, whatever are you doing there?" Sarah Jane found that she could move and speak again.

#### GEESE FELL SICK

At this point in her husband's recital Emily broke in and told her own tale of how one witch had asked her mother for a drink of water one day. Too busy to supply her need, her mother went on with her chores, and "the owd gal went off muttering to herself," said Emily Downes. The following day a pair of plump geese fell sick and were brought inside the cottage and penned in a corner.

Suddenly the witch materialized at the door. "Well ! Whativer be 'cc doin' with them birds indoor!" she cried. "They're sick, I'm going to kill 'em," replied Emily's mother. "Nonsense!" the old gal replied. "They're well enough. Let 'em out." And let out they were, as fine a pair of birds again as any in Canewdon.

Soon after my talk with Arthur Downes I went over to Canewdon to check the names he had used with such assurance. In the cool, empty church of St. Nicholas I came across the hatchments of the Kerstemans, an old family of Flemish extraction which had settled in Canewdon in 1700. By studying them I soon discovered that Arthur Downes's "old Lady Lodwick" and "Parson's wife, Mary Ann" were sisters. Evidently witch blood ran strong in their family. Eliza Lodwick had died in 1861; Mary Ann, married to the Rev. William Atkinson, vicar of Canewdon, earlier.

When I asked Arthur Downes if he had ever heard of James Murrell, the cunning man of Hadleigh Castle, he smiled knowingly and said: "Aye, he had the power to whistle up all the Canewdon witches." During his father's lifetime the village petitioned Vicar Atkinson to let Murrell exercise his whistling powers and make the witches confess themselves by dancing round the churchyard. "But," said old Downes, "Passon 'ee said 'No.' For 'ee didn't want to be ashamed afore all knowing that Mary Ann, his wife, would be among them."

#### THE DISAPPEARING POST

In the years before the First World War my own village had its resident witch, an old woman called Sue Pudney who lived all alone in a tumbledown hovel; no one know how, for she never worked except at picking up sticks. One day, as she went by the Old Forge where I live now, Sam Kettle, the blacksmith, came out of his door and seeing a long, heavy post lying on the grass verge opposite (it had been left lying there by some road-men) he called out for a joke as he saw old Sue stand looking at it intently. "It's yours, Sue --- if ye want it."

All he got from Sue was a dark mutter and "Nay, Mr. Kettle, that's too heavy for me." But when Sam Kettle looked out of his door again, the following morning, the old post had gone, spirited away by someone, he swore.

Sue Pudney is dead, and so is Sam Kettle, and there is no one left to tell me whether we have a resident witch or not.

#### Sources:

1. (1952) Article about Witches over the Crouch, where Arthur Downes interview was mentioned. The Times, Tuesday, Jan 27, 1959, page 10, Issue 54369, col F. Online at <http://infotrac.galegroup.com>. Searched on February 26, 2010 Friday evening.

From a transcription of an article in the East Anglian Magazine, November 1952:

Witches over the Crouch By Bea Howe

When the Moon is high on a winter's night  
And the storm-clouds hang o'er Canewdon Hill.  
Six witches they say are visible still  
Riding the wind with the gale at its height.

Harold Adshead: The Essex Review, April, 1949.

ESSEX has long been a county of 'mysterious happenings. For instance, in 1402, the devil is supposed to have appeared at Danbury, near Chelmsford, on the feast of Corpus Christi in the garb of 'a greere friar.'

He stole a bell from the church tower. Two years, later, in 1409, as if in the spirit of competition, a dragon, vast in size with a tufted head and small, saw-like teeth materialised suddenly in the tiny hamlet of Bures near the Suffolk-Essex border. It killed many sheep and the bow-men of Sir Richard de Waldegrave, the local squire, rode out to shoot at the great reptile. But their arrows did not penetrate his crusty scales and only 'sprang back' with a curious clang, it was said, as if from plated armour. The dragon took fright, hid among the reeds of a mere and was seen no more.

Apart from dragons and devils, there have been many witches and wizards or, as they are more often called, 'cunning men' in Essex. One of the first cases of witchcraft recorded in Essex was during the 16th century when Jane Willis of Stebbins was accused of 'witchcrafts, enchantments, charmes and sorceries.'

Earlier, in 1579, Elleine Smith was accused of keeping three attendant spirits or 'familiars.' They were called Great Dick, who was housed in a wicker bottle. Little Dick, kept in a leather bottle, and Willet, kept in 'a woole packe.'

The great age of witchcraft in England was between 1568 and 1684 when Essex provided far more witch indictments and hangings than any other of the home counties. During this period there were 473 indictments in Essex, 82 of the people involved being hanged.

I HAVE a cottage overlooking the estuary of the Crouch and from my bedroom window I can see over the green saltings and rust-brown marshes to where, on the south bank of the river, on a gentle, undulating, low ridge, there stands up, like a giant finger pointed to the sky, the great, massive, 74-foot Norman Tower of St. Nicholas' church, Canewdon. I see it bathed in the soft, clear, warm sunlight of a lovely summer's morning. I see it when the moon shines down on it, black and eerie, surrounded by a clump of shadowy elm trees, I see it again wreathed in the damp mists and fogs creeping up from the river.

And as I look at this dramatic old church tower, which dominates the whole landscape, I think of the Canewdon witches connected with it. For an old story goes that there are six witches always living in Canewdon. three dressed in silk and three in cotton. When one of them dies, a stone falls off the church-tower to mark her passing and another "owd girl" takes her place. As long as Canewdon church stands with its tower there will be a witch in the village!

The other day I was talking to an old retired gardener of 92 who was born at Canewdon and whose father kept the ferry that plied between Crick-sea and Canewdon for many years during the middle of the 19th century. Both this old man and his wife, a sprightly woman of 84, believed firmly in witches, particularly in their own Canewdon witches. Oh, yes, they told me, they had often seen them in the '60s and '70s, talking together. They knew them all right, only they couldn't tell me how they knew or why. But there had been more than six. There had been nine actually. 'And many more in silks and satins than in cotton,' muttered the old man. Parson's wife for instance, had been a witch and when there had been talk of calling them all up (the witches) and making them dance round the churchyard. Parson had put his foot down. He didn't want to be ashamed before the parish as his missus would have been there along with the others. There had been a wizard or 'cunning man,' too, full of power at Canewdon, I gathered. Power passed from father to son and mother to daughter.

Up river from my village, at Fambridge Ferry, there lived quite a well-known witch by the name of Hart, who had been 'swum' in the Crouch with her husband, reputed to be a wizard. But old man Hart was proved innocent as he very nearly drowned. His wife, though, being tied to a line behind a boat, floated and so was a witch after all. This ordeal by water was considered to be supremely efficacious. Witches were tied with 'their thumbes and great toes across' and steadied by 'a rope tyed about their middles.' Then they were let down into the water of a running stream or village pond. If a witch 'swam' her guilt was proved, for as she had rejected the sacramental laver of Baptism so now the water refused to receive her into its bosom.

As late as 1865, at Castle Hedingham, two persons, a man and a woman, were charged with having assaulted a poor old French half-wit, known as Dummy, whom they suspected of sorcery, by throwing him into a brook while the rabble urged them on, yelling: 'Swim him! Swim him on the mill-head!' The poor old man died within 24 hours of exposure and shock and his assaulters were committed to the Chelmsford assizes.

But to return to old Witch Hart of Fambridge. She grew all kinds of strange herbs and plants in her cottage garden particularly 'the large white-headed poppy, the juice of which, it was said, she preserved to treat her imps with every full moon.' All true witches had attendant imps in the shape of little dogs or cats or moles or just 'black things' called by queer names like those of Elleine Smith.

Another local witch, called, Hart too (or was she the same one I wonder?), stole the bell from tiny St. Michael's church, Latchingdon, which is one of the most ancient churches

in our district, and tried to sail over the Crouch to Wallasea Island with it in her 'killer' or wash-tub. But she was drowned on her way to see her old friend, Mother Redcap (or Mrs. Smith), another Crouch witch, Evidently her magic wasn't powerful enough to save her from a watery grave.

Stealing church bells seems to have been a favourite witch-practice for I have come across several cases. Did they think people would not go to church on Sundays if they heard no bell calling them or did they steal them just for fun? In the house of a friend of mine at Cricksea, a very old house dating from 1520, which was originally built to control the ferry, there was found buried in the doorstep a pair of opened scissors. This was supposed to avert the evil eye in olden days and to keep witches from passing into your house. By the same token, a knife or witch-jug filled with horse-shoe nails could be buried, too, to prevent their entry. If a witch came into a house where bread was being baked, the bread would be spoilt. This is another old wives' tale of the Crouch valley.

Little over 40 years ago, in 1908, an old crone living at Tiptree was accused at the police court at Witham of being a witch by her own husband, who said she had assaulted him. The case, so far as I can remember, was dismissed. This Essex gammer was not 'swum' in the nearest horse-pond like poor old Mrs. Hart was 'swum' in the crouch at Fambridge!

Sources:

1. 1952 article Witches over the Crouch by Bea Howe. Transcription of the article from Scott Bisseker. Original from the East Anglian Magazine, November 1952, published by East Anglian Magazine Ltd, Ipswich and printed by The East Anglian Daily Times Co. Ltd., Ipswich. Received this on February 12, 2009 Thursday 2:51 PM.